

Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monthly Meeting of Directors
October 23, 2024
6:00 PM.
2400 Meads Hill Road Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Attending:

Jim Howell – Vice Chair
Gary Gaige - Member
Rick Reisinger-Treasurer
Gary Gray – Legislative Member

Jerry Verrigni – District Manager
Jessica Verrigni – Stormwater Program Technician

1. **Meeting called to order** by Jim Howell @ 6:00 PM
2. **Pledge**
3. **Minutes of September 25th Meeting:** *Gary Gray motioned to approve the September 25th minutes as mailed. Seconded by Rick Reisinger. All in favor. Motion carried.*
4. **Treasurer's Report September:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion carried.*
5. **Vouchers September:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the list of bills as presented. Seconded by Gary Gray. All in favor. Motion carried.*
6. **Old Business:**
 - A. **F150 Repair Work** – Jerry stated the repair work is being done by John's Autobody. Jerry stated the truck is near completion and we will have it back next week. Jessica handled all conversations with the insurance company. They had to do an amendment to the cost as requested by John's Autobody. All went very smoothly. Jerry stated that when the mini-excavator was moved back from the Ort farm it jackknifed. James Barrett was driving and brought it right to Jerry's attention. Jerry is going to get a quote for repairs at John's Auto Body but we won't turn it into insurance because the damage wasn't bad and we don't want too many claims.
 - B. **Two Truck Bids** – *Jerry stated he sent bids out for both a new half ton and ¾ ton trucks. The bid was sent to nearly a dozen dealerships. Jerry stated the reason we turn over our vehicles every three years or so is because we can keep new vehicles for little expense. We buy them at state rate, so reduced that when we sell them to the open market three years later they hold their value well. However, after the 2020 COVID issue and issue of getting chips vehicle costs have soared. The same ¾ ton truck we purchased for \$34,000 is now \$15,000 higher. Because of the added cost of having a year round equipment operator, I think we need to be conservative and buy used. Jerry stated he found a Chevy 3500 2016 with just 57,000 miles. It has four wheel drive and a special body on it with compartments to organize tools on the job site. Jerry stated this Knapeihied body costs over \$20,000 new. Jerry stated he could purchase the truck and body for \$25,000. Saving the District nearly half the cost on a vehicle for the new operator.*
A motion was made by Gary Gray to purchase the used vehicle as presented. The motion was seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion Carried.
 - C. **Anthony Specchio Sign Progress** – Jerry stated the sign was complete and installed.

7. New Business:

A. CRF Grant Award -

Jessica stated that we were awarded 1.9 million dollars in funding for the CRF grant she wrote. Jerry stated it was the largest amount awarded for a single grant in the soil and waters history since 1940.

B. CAFO Enhanced Nutrient Mgt Grant –

Jessica explained that she would like to write a grant application for Silage Leachate Collection on the Gaige Farms. (gary gaige is no longer any owner or affiliate of the Gaige Farms). Jessica stated the farm had a high flow low flow collection that has reached its life span. Jessica stated this is the first year of this grant source.

A motion was made by Gary Gray to apply for the grant as presented. Seconded by Rick Reisinger. All in favor. Motion Carried.

C. Annual Plan of Work –

Jerry stated the annual plan of work was sent in the board packet. This is a fluid document that is used to show who is responsible for what and the timeline in which it is expected to be done. It's a good way to see where we are at each year at any given time. It is sent to AGMKTS.

A motion was made by Rick Reisinger to submit the Annual POW to the AGMKTS as presented to the board. Motion was seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Executive Session –

At 6:55 pm Jim Howell made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion carried.

At 7:10

pm Jim Howell made a motion to exit executive session, seconded by Gary Gray. All in Favor Motion Carried.

Gary Gray made a motion to hire Murray Kelley for the Field Equipment Specialist Position as discussed. Seconded by Rick Reisinger. All in Favor Motion Carried.

8. **Stormwater Technician Report – Jessica V.** –Her report is in the packet and will be on file with the book of minutes. Jessica reviewed her reports highlights and showcased the busy time of year.
9. **District Manager Report -Jerry V.** – Jerry's Report was sent out with the packet and will be on file with the Book of Minutes.
10. **Adjournment** -Motion to adjourn at 7:45 by Gary Gaige and seconded by Jim Howell

Respectfully submitted by:

James Howell, Vice Chair

Jerry Verrigni – District Manager