

Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monthly Meeting of Directors
October 26th, 2022
6:00 PM.
2400 Meads Hill Road
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Attending: Tony Specchio-Chairperson
Jim Howell-Legislator
Rick Reisinger-Treasurer
Gary Gaige-Member
Jerry Verrigni-District Manager

1. **Meeting called to order** by T. Specchio @ 6:00 PM
2. **Pledge**
3. **Minutes of July Meeting:** Gary Gaige motioned to approve the July minutes as mailed. Seconded by Rick Reisinger. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. **Treasurer's Report July, August, September:** Rick Reisinger noticed the September expenses minus the incomes didn't correlate to the same deduction in the bank accts. Jerry stated it was a check that had cleared from another time but he would check with Karen. Karen emailed the answer to the issue to Rick Reisinger. Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Jim Howell. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. **Vouchers July, August, 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. **Part B and Annual Plan of Work:** - Jerry stated that although these were emailed and approval received in September so that we could submit them on time we should do a vote at the meeting. Jim Howell motioned to approve the Part B Project and Annual Plan of Work as presented. Seconded by Rick Reisinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

 - B. **Asst. Treasurer Transition Postponement Until May** – Jerry stated that with his health issues he has had he has contacted both Karen Tillotson and Beth Plank. Jerry stated Karen was willing to stay on through May. Karen has been an exceptional help with all the extra workload to assure everything is done while Jerry has been sick. Jerry stated Karen knows our payroll, insurances, health care etc... and always makes sure payments are done on time. Jerry stated I am sure once Beth is up to speed she will be able to do that as well, but it takes time and oversight. Right now Jerry doesn't have the ability to add extra oversight and workload until his health issues are straitened out. Jerry stated both Beth and Karen were very gracious and understanding about the issue. All board members agreed this was the best course of action.
7. **New Business:**
 - A. **2023 Budget** - Jerry stated that he was asked to provide a draft budget to Fonda at the County. Fonda worked with us to approve a \$25,000 increase. This if approved by the full legislature will be the first increase we have seen in nearly 13 years. Jerry stated we have always been able to bring in more

money or to cut costs to deal with inflation issues. However this year the rate of inflation was so great an increase was very necessary.

B. *Jerrys Health Update:* Jerry reported that he was diagnosed with a benign slow growing brain tumor. That he spoke with highly accredited neurosurgeons who feel its best to simply scan and monitor this brain tumor every three months. That said Jerry has had significant symptoms that the neurosurgeons feel are unrelated to the brain tumor. Jerry stated he has been to many dr. appts and had many tests and they are narrowing down what is wrong. Jerry stated he is going next to an endocrinologist and hopes that will get things in the right direction.

C. *Adding Capacity* – Jerry stated that we as a group have discussed many times adding potential capacity to the district. Jerry stated that with the last couple months of health issues it was very eye opening and noticeable that adding capacity in the form of a very experienced technician to ensure they had the capacity and knowledge base to truly assist when necessary was critical to ensuring the work completed annually continued at this level and to grow output and areas of the District in the future. Jerry explained this position would be focused on stormwater but would be adaptable to work on all GIS work, agricultural assessment, drone survey's to save money on engineered surveys, education for municipalities, schools, but also with assistance and work on agricultural programs like AEM. Jerry explained he worked with Lory from Civil Service to write up a job description and job duty sheet and that Lory had approved all of it, and that all we need is an approval from this board to move forward with Lory posting the position at Civil Service. If we did that the job is opened until filled. Jerry stated that a board meeting in the 3rd week of November would be a time to evaluate what applications we had and to either hire the position or set up interviews if needed at that meeting. Jim Howell made the motion to approve the new job and job description of SWCD Stormwater Program Technician for civil service to post. Seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion Carried. All board members thought this would be a plus for the District and our community. Rick Reisinger said he thought it was important to make sure the new person got into the Watkins Glen school and taught kids about water, sediment, runoff etc... Jerry said he thought that would certainly be great to do.

8. **District Manager Report -Jerry V.** – Jerry's Report was sent out with the packet and will be on file with the Book of Minutes.

9. **Adjournment** -Motion to adjourn at 6:42 by Gary Gaige and seconded by Jim Howell

Respectfully submitted by:

Tony Specchio, Chairman

Jerry Verrigni – District Manager