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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS March 27th, 2023

**PRESENT:** James Lieberum, Nick Rowell, Maren Stoddard, Jake Dunkley, Bob Bombard, Mark Brown, Mike Greenslade no attendance: George Ryan, Frank Thomas Zoom attendees: Tim Thomas, Susan Wilson, Dan Bruno, Ryan Cunningham

- 1) **Meeting was called to order:** called meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- 2) **Approval of the previous SWCD meeting minutes:** **Motion:** by Mike Greenslade, to approve February minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Bruno, carried.
- 3) **Presentation/Training:** No presentation/training.
- 4) **Report of Officers:**
  - a) **Chairman Report,** Brown had not much to report.
  - b) **Treasurer Report:** As far as the financial situation, district has \$368,055.74; most of it is in grant money. Bills for payment for February totaled \$25,524.16. **Motion:** by Tim Thomas to approve the financial report for February 2023 \$368,055.74, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greenslade, carried. **Motion:** by Wilson to approve Bills for payment \$25,524.16 for March operating and grant bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Thomas, carried. Along with a deposit transfer from the Money Management Account of \$50,000 transfer to the Now Account to pay payroll and payroll taxes for the month of April. **Motion:** by Wilson to approve the \$50,000 transfer for April payroll for the district employees, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Thomas, carried. **Motion:** by Wilson to approve additional bills for payment for March: Refund payment to a tree and shrub customer for \$80.00 and Lowes companies total 950.52, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Thomas, carried.
  - c) **Correspondence:** 1. NYSFOLA's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference is being held at Fort William Henry in Lake George, NY on May 5 & 6, 2023. 2. Sealed Bids announcement in the Chronicle for work being completed at the Blackberry Hill Farm in Thurman, NY with a site showing on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am.
- 5) **SWCD Business:**
  - a) **2023 Water Quality Symposium Review,** the 2023 water quality symposium was March 13-18, 2023, in Syracuse, NY. Three staff members Rowell, Stoddard and Dunkley went to the full conference. Lieberum arrived Thursday overnight to Friday. The Water Quality Symposium has a great turnout. The classes were excellent this year as Rowell and Stoddard

- did some presentations during the conference as well as attending classes.
- b) **2023 Legislative Days review**, Lieberum, Brown, and Bruno attended the 2023 NYACD Legislative days on Feb 27 and 28 in Albany, NY. They met with 7 legislators from across New York. Lieberum mentioned all legislators were very interested in the information and discussion that was had. The evening on the 27<sup>th</sup> was stormy, which kept the Capital quiet.
  - c) **2023 SWCD Part C Award and 2023 Part C budget modification**. This year the district has received from part c award is \$181,746.00 in funding, majority of this funding goes to fund many programs and projects throughout Warren County. Lieberum has updated the budget and approval of modified categories. **Motion:** by Tim Thomas to approve the Modification of the Part C budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greenslade, carried.
  - d) **2022 WQIP award-Sanford Street**, Lieberum mentioned the district received this WQIP grant for the City of Glens Falls to help work on a Sanford Street project. The City of Glens Falls will be hiring an engineer to design a plan for the project. This project will begin this summer and Lieberum will keep the board members updated as it begins.
  - e) **2023 Tree and Shrub update**, Stoddard mentions this year's tree and shrub program is a hit district has received 232 orders doubling from prior years. The district will be packing the orders the week of 17<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested, please let Stoddard know. The pickup is April 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:30 - 6pm there may be some extras to sell as well.
  - f) **Tree Planter Agreement modification, Motion:** by Greenslade to approve the modifications to the tree planter agreement added information and price change, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Thomas, carried.
  - g) **AEM Tier 4 cost share bids**, the bid process has been completed and the bidders met Stoddard and Rowell at the site for the bid reveal. This process has been challenging but Stoddard mentioned the bidders' amounts were much higher than expected around 70,000 thousand plus and District only expected them to come in around 40-45,000. The Farmer rejected the bids that were revealed do to the fact he did not want to spend that many monies on the project. There will be revisions to the project and this possible cost share amount given to the district may have to be reallocated elsewhere. Stoddard and Rowell will keep the board members updated on this AEM Tier 4 Cost share project.
  - h) **Warren County Water Quality meeting-April 12**, The Warren County Water Quality meeting will be held at the district office on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There will be two great presentations 1. Structural Plate Structures-Roadway stream crossing structures by George Evans, Regional Product specialist with Lane Enterprises, LLC. 2. Warren County Planning Lake Data Collection assistance-Amanda beck, GIS specialist with Warren County Planning Office. If any of the board members can attend please do.
  - i) **Warren County Probation Department Garden project**, Dunkley mentioned he has been speaking with Amy Secor from the probationary services at Warren County. She is interested in a rain and/or food garden down at the center for the youths she has in her program to keep them busy and help the community. **Motion:** by Greenslade with much discussion of a 1,000 square foot area being fenced in, possible with raised

beds for veggies, etc. the district will help fund this project in the amount of \$1,000 and possible additional if needed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Thomas, carried. This project will also be claimed under the counties MS4 program.

- j) **NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee Executive Director**, Cunningham mentioned a new Executive Director to the State Soil Water Conservation Committee has been announced, Bethany Bzduch will serve as the new SWCC Executive Director! Bethany started her career with the SWCDs in 2008. In 2012, Bethany joined the staff of the SWCC as a Regional Program Assistant and has excelled over the years to manage several of our very important SWCD cost share programs. As the SWCC Executive Director, Bethany will be providing staff leadership to the SWCC, working with SWCDs across the state, developing and implementing the SWCC's Strategic Plan, policies, and programs, along with many other responsibilities.
- k) **Lake George Park Commission project funding**, Lieberum mention Wick, Lake George Park Commission contacted district and mentioned he adjusted his budget for some funding in the Lake George Watershed for erosions and stormwater projects around Lake George in the amount of \$200,000 and would like the district to forward projects that may fall under the guidance of Lake George Park Commission practices. Mostly implementation dollars but will hire contractors as well as fund district to help bring on an intern. Projects from \$5,000 up to \$100,000 for 2023 and funding will be continued each year after. This also monies to help Washington County and Essex who are around Lake George as well. Lieberum will keep the board updated on these projects.
- l) **Champlain watershed improvement Coalition of NY (CWICNY) update**, CWICNY had a meeting a few weeks ago, it was mentioned CWICNY was being provided funding to the organization for the position of a coordinator.
- m) **Upper Hudson River Watershed Improvement Coalition update**, Rowell mentioned he mailed out a check and the final invoice as part of the phase 1 roadside erosion grant closeout. Rowell assembled GIS maps for project sites and planned watershed areas for the roadside erosion assessment update for completion this year.
- n) **Current grant Projects**, see all Staff Reports Springtime is has arrived and projects will be starting up soon. Upfront monies have been invoiced for payment from NYS DEC.
- o) **Community Conservation Program, Motion:** by Greenslade to approve 2 Community Conservation proposal, 1. The family YMCA of the Glens Falls Area in the amount of 1,000-provide a space for educational on how to garden and health benefits of fresh vegetables, nutrition information for during summer day camps. 2. The board had more questions on the Crandall Library proposal for a discussion then was approved as well, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wilson, carried.
- p) **SWCD Board of Directors Reporting Info, NONE.**
- q) **Other, NONE**

6) **Staff Reports:**

- a. **Jim Lieberum, DM**, Lieberum's report was reviewed.
- b. **Robert Bombard, WRS**, Bombard's report was reviewed.
- c. **Nick Rowell, NRS**, Rowell's report was reviewed.
- d. **Maren Stoddard, SDT**, No report.
- e. **Jacob Dunkley, DT**, Dunkley's report was reviewed.
- f. **Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCC**, Cunningham's report was reviewed.

- 7) **Adjournment: Motion:** by Greenslade to adjourn meeting at 2:34pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Thomas, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rhonda L. Jarvis, Office Manager/ Treasurer  
Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_