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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS November 27, 2023

PRESENT: James Lieberum, Rhonda L. Jarvis, Nick Rowell, Jake Dunkley, Bob Bombard, Frank Thomas, Mike Greenslade, Mark Brown, Susan Wilson and Tim Thomas
Zoom: None. No attendance: Dan Bruno

- 1) **The meeting was called to order:** called meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- 2) **Approval of the previous SWCD meeting minutes:** **Motion:** by Wilson, to approve September minutes, 2nd by Frank Thomas, carried. **Motion:** by Wilson to approve Octobers Minutes, 2nd by Frank Thomas, carried.
- 3) **Presentation/Training:** Invasive Species and Pesticide Use-Rebecca Bernacki, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program- What a great presentation and many questions were asked and discussed. Thank you, Rebecca, all members and staff were very pleased with this presentation.
- 4) **Report of Officers:**
 - a) **Chairman Report,** Brown mentioned he was disappointed that he missed last month's board meeting at the ADK Folks School. Brown was in Maine for his moose hunt after waiting for 25yrs to be picked to hunt and he was successful in the hunt.
 - b) **Board Member Reports,** None
 - c) **Treasurer Report:** As far as the financial situation is concerned, the district has \$533,970.60-Sept and \$520,333.28-Oct; most of it is in grant money. Bills for payment for October totaled \$29,517.89 and November \$26,477.15. **Motion:** by Tim Thomas to approve the financial report for September and October 2023 \$533,970.60 and \$520,333.28, 2nd by Greenslade, carried. **Motion:** by Tim Thomas to approve Bills for payment \$29,517.89 and \$26,477.15 for October and November operating and grant bills, 2nd by Greenslade, carried at the board meeting with Frank Thomas sustaining on the bills for payments in October. 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 November and \$50,000 for December. **Motion:** by Tim Thomas to approve the \$50,000 transfer for November and December payroll for the district employees, 2nd by Greenslade, carried.
 - d) **Correspondence:** 1. NYFOA donation request sent to the district, Lieberum mentioned we haven't donated to them before, but it is a discussion for the board members. 2. Thank you card to Dunkley for participating in the outdoor show at the tannery pond center. 3. A booklet

sent from NYACD for projects to submit for 2024 Legislative Days Lieberum will get some projects submitted. 4. Lieberum passed around a pamphlet from Ward Ohare, a Farmers Museum in Auburn, NY if anyone is ever out that way this was a place to stop, he mentioned.

5) **SWCD Business:**

- a) **Warren County AEM Round 18 (Y2024-2026), Motion:** by Frank Thomas for the approval of the AEM Round 18 plan of work for the next two years as well as the Tier 4 cost share in the amount of \$190,000, 2nd by Wilson, carried.
- b) **SWCD Employee IRS issue From Square Account, Motion:** by Tim Thomas to have the County Attorney take over the district issue with the square up account and Lieberum's IRS issue, 2nd by Greenslade, carried.
- c) **SWCD Letter of Board Member interest,** Clint McCarthy sent in a letter of interest for the opening of another board member for the district. It was discussed for the acceptance of McCarthy to be presented to the Warren County Board of supervisors to be approved to serve on the District Board. **Motion:** by Tim Thomas to approve Clint McCarthy if approved to serve on the district board to have him start on January 1, 2024, knowing he will not be able to attend a meeting until April of 2024 2nd by Wilson, carried.
- d) **2024 Tree and Shrub Program Pricing Approval, Motion:** by Greenslade to approve the 2024 Tree and Shrub Program flyer with updated pricing, 2nd by Wilson, carried.
- e) **December 2023 Board Meeting and Luncheon,** Lieberum mentioned the December board meeting luncheon will be held at the Talk of the Town restaurant in Queensbury on December 18th, 2023, starting at 11:30.
- f) **2023 WCSWCD Awards: Conservationist of the Year, Montesi Awards, AEM of the Year,** Lieberum mentioned the AEM of the year is Tom Grace-Grace Family Farm, Montesi Awards; Jim Niles, The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Town of Warrensburg DPW and the Crandall Park Beautification Committee, Conservationist of the Year is Olga Vargas-Soil Scientist USDA-NRCS.
- g) **Lake Champlain Basin Program Grants (Part 2),** Lieberum mentioned there is another round of funding coming out and he will be putting in a grant proposal for an organizational grant for the district office up to \$20,000. Lieberum will keep the board members updated on the process and if accepted.
- h) **2023 NYACD Meeting and the 2023 Administrative Conference,** Rhonda was the only attendee for both meetings. Rhonda mentioned the 2023 NYACD meeting was a success as always and she always brings back to the district many updated information on her duties. The 2023 Administrative conference again was a great success and also many things were brought back to the district for updates on her duties. Rhonda mentioned these two meetings always keep her up on all the state updates and keep her busy throughout the year.
- i) **Champlain watershed improvement Coalition of NY (CWICNY) update,** The North Country Stormwater Tradeshow was a hit again this year a great attendance from registration and vendors. Lieberum, Rowell,

Stoddard, Frank Thomas, Bruno and Greenslade attended the district office.

- j) **Upper Hudson River Watershed Improvement Coalition update**, Rowell himself and Dustin from Saratoga County SWCD will be teaching a 4h Erosion and SW training later this week. Rowell worked with Town of Thurman Hyw department to complete the Forst street roadside stabilization project of 800 ft of roadside ditch with hydroseeding, Biosoxs as check dams and rolled erosion blankets.
 - k) **Current grant projects updates**, See Staff reports. Most grants are in the process of wrapping up for the winter months.
 - l) **Community Conservation Program**, NONE.
 - m) **SWCD Board of Directors Reporting Info (for performance measures)**, Frank Thomas mentioned he is no longer the representative for the NYACD agency for the region. Rhonda mentioned a Hamilton County SWCD board member stepped up to represent.
 - n) **Other**, 1. Lieberum mentioned Jefferson County SWCD has a 2019 Toyota Rave 4 up on Auction International and if it doesn't sell for the price, they are looking for the district is looking for a new vehicle that is 4-wheel drive to replace the district car that is having some issues. **Motion:** by Wilson to approve the purchase of the Toyota Rave 4 from Jefferson County SWCD amount up to \$24,000, 2nd by Frank Thomas, carried.
- 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**, Stoddard's report was reviewed.
 - e. **Jacob Dunkley, DT**, Dunkley's report was reviewed.
 - f. **Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCC**, Cunningham's report was reviewed.
- 7) **Adjournment:** **Motion:** by Wilson to adjourn meeting at 2:40pm, 2nd by Frank Thomas, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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