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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS February 26, 2024

PRESENT: James Lieberum, Rhonda Jarvis, Maren Stoddard, Jake Dunkley, Bob Bombard, Nick Rowell, Frank Thomas, Mike Greenslade, Susan Wilson, Dan Bruno, Clint McCarthy, no attendance: Mark Brown, Tim Thomas Zoom attendees: NONE

- 1) **Meeting was called to order:** called meeting to order at 1:01pm.
- 2) **Approval of the previous SWCD meeting minutes:** **Motion:** by Bruno, to approve January 2024 minutes, 2nd by Greenslade, carried.
- 3) **Presentation/Training:** NONE.
- 4) **Report of Officers:**
 - a) **Chairman Report,** Frank Thomas chaired the meeting this month he has not much to report but it feels like spring outside lately.
 - b) **Treasurer Report:** As far as the financial situation, the district has \$489,651.45; most of it is in grant money. Bills for payment for February totaled \$44,714.73. **Motion:** by McCarthy to approve the financial report for January 2024 \$489,651.45, along with Bills for payment \$44,714.73 for February operating and grant bills, 2nd by Bruno, carried. Along with a deposit transfer from the Money Management Account of \$60,000 transfer to the Now Account to pay payroll and payroll taxes for the month of March. **Motion:** by Greenslade to approve the \$60,000 transfer for March payroll for the district employees, 2nd by Wilson, carried. **Motion:** by Greenslade to approve the transfer of \$31,519.73 from AEM Tier 4 account to the district money management account for reimbursement of the AEM base funding the district has earned. Along with a check made out to Ag and Markets in the account of \$13,000 returned funds on the AEM Tier 4 program project not completed, 2nd by Bruno, carried. **Motion:** by Wilson to transfer \$25,000 from Part C funding account to Projects account raising the amount to \$70,000 to sustains grant upfront monies and transfer the remaining funds to vehicle/equipment fund, 2nd by Greenslade, carried.
 - c) **Correspondence:** 1. Warren County Board of Supervisors resolution No 22 of 2024 board member terms. 2. NYACD thank you card for the district payment on dues this year and last. 3. Lake George Park Commission 2023 Annual Report. 4. Article in the Lake George Mirror Hemlock pest invading ADK Park. Many groups have been meeting about a program on hemlock issues. Dave wick, LG Park Commission has great article in there as well. 5.

5) **SWCD Business:**

- a) **2023 NYSSWCCC Reports,** Lieberum mentioned all the 2023 NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee reports have been submitted by February 15th and it all looks great. Lieberum had them on the table for board members to review. The district financial annual report was reviewed by the Rob Lynch, assistant treasurer and was given the good to go for Rhonda to submit as well by February 15th, 2024.
- b) **2024 Legislative Days,** Lieberum mentioned he has sent out he Legislative visits to the board members and they are all set on March 4th & 5th. Bruno, Thomas, Greenslade and Lieberum will be attending in Albany.
- c) **2024 Water Quality Symposium,** The District's annual training 2024 Water Quality Symposium will be held in Syracuse again this year, Lieberum, Stoddard, Rowell, and Dunkley will be attending.
- d) **2024 Tree and Shrub Program,** Dunkley mentioned the tree and shrub program this year is coming along nicely. Orders are coming in daily items are still available, there are about 115 orders to date.
- e) **2024 Envirothon,** Dunkley and Lieberum mentioned the donations are coming in for the event and more things will be presented at the event for the kids. Currently there are seven schools who will be attending.
- f) **2023 APW review,** Lieberum mentioned the 2023 APW was sent to all for review on the district staff accomplishments in 2023 there had been some additional work that came up during the year as well.
- g) **Ag Env. Management Forestry Contact,** Lieberum and Stoddard are working with Kristine Blue from Franklin County SWCD on funding for a grant from climate resilient farming round. Possible working together with Franklin and Essex County SWCD as well. Lieberum will keep the board updated on the discussions.
- h) **Draft Part C for review,** Lieberum passed around the draft Part C funding programs to have the board review with additions and deletions. All members were on board with the suggested programs for 2024 Part C funding.
- i) **Hemlock Wolly Adelgid Contribution request,** Rebecca Bernacki from the Nature conservancy ask if the district would be interested in deploying and monitoring a spotted lanternfly trap at the office. The board was welcoming the opportunity to do so.
- j) **Champlain watershed improvement Coalition of NY (CWICNY) update,** CWICNY annual report was passed around for review and comments. Stoddard mentioned a lot of programs will be added to the next year. The new event with CWICNY is Water days up in Plattsburg mall Bombard will be attending for the district on some of our programs. CWICNY received a grant of \$15,000 for the North Country stormwater Tradeshow from LCBP education and outreach.
- k) **Upper Hudson River Watershed Improvement Coalition update,** Rowell. Phase 2 RR grant, Thurman, DEC 18th storms WC DPW Rowell relief on some storm damage. 2 construction seasons left.
- l) **Current grant Projects,** the projects have been moving forward waiting

for weather to break. Wrapping up AEM and final report has been submitted. NYS DEC planning grants waiting for the final financial paperwork to come in. The district received a NYS DEC award for culverts.

- m) **Community Conservation Program**, Lake George Association-Lake Geroge Saltwatch in the amount of \$850.00 and Town of Chester-Chester Challenge-Dynamite Hill Trails Phase 3 in the amount of \$1,000. **Motion:** by Wilson to approve the two community conservation programs listed, 2nd by Greenslade, carried.
- n) **Other**, 1. Bombard mentioned at this year's spring fish sale the district will be offering Brook Trout. **Motion:** by Clint to approve the fish program supplier change to Fish Haven Farm, 2nd by Wilson, carried. 2. Lieberum mentioned Joe Patterson was the creator of a painted district's bluebird house. Just suggested for Dunkley to reach out to him to see if he can paint 6 for a price at the Warren County Envirothon event. 3. Lieberum mentions that Dunkley would like to drive his own vehicle out to the WQ symposium for district training if he signs a waiver just like last year. 4. Lieberum mentioned will be discussing taking out one of the doors in the break room and saving on an extension over the deck removing it all he will keep the board informed after he discusses it with the county buildings and grounds department. 5. The City of Glens Falls Mayor (Pat Dowd) has discussed with Lieberum to possible have the district administer a USDA Urban Forest Grant they have received for the next 5years, Lieberum will have more discussion with him to find out exactly what they would like the district to help with.

6) **Staff Reports:**

- a. **Jim Lieberum, DM**, Lieberum report was reviewed.
- b. **Robert Bombard, WRS**, Bombard 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 Bruno to adjourn meeting at 2:49pm, 2nd by Greenslade, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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