

HAMILTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
January 3, 2012

Chairman Robin Morrison called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Present: Robin Morrison, Ed Winchell, Brian Wells, Rick Wilt, Elizabeth Mangle-District Manager, Caitlin Stewart, Conservation Educator, Janice Reynolds, District Clerk

Minutes: Tabled

Treasurer's Report

Balance 11-30-11	\$136,490.34
Receipts	1,066.95
Disbursements	57,720.39
Balance 12-31-11	\$79,836.90

Motion by Winchell to accept the treasurer's report and bills to be paid. Seconded by Brian and carried.

Transfers:

\$10,000.00 from General Savings to General Checking.

\$1,000.00 from WRB Savings to WRB Checking.

Motion by Winchell authorizing these transfers. Seconded by Brian and carried.

Elizabeth passed around copies of the 2011 End of Year Budget Accounting Sheet for the boards review.

CORRESPONDENCE

• **SPF 2009-2010 FI-LOWPA Contract**

Motion by Brian authorizing Robin to sign the contract. Seconded by Winchell and carried.

- **SWCD-Letter to Mr. Voorhees-** Caitlin and Elizabeth developed a response to the letter to the editor that he submitted to the HCN. With the letter they enclosed informational material regarding the district to help him understand his benefit from the district and benefits to the economy of our area. Copies were also given to all Board members for their information.
- **NRCS-Fact Sheet** on Funding for On-farm Energy, Organic, High Tunnel & Tunnel & Air Quality Conservation Initiatives.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

• **Annual Organizational Items**

Motion by Morrison to accept the 2012 Organizational Items including the change to have Ed Winchell serve as Vice-chairman to replace Barry Hutchins. Seconded by Brian and carried.

- **Newsletter and Tree Program** - Apples trees are among the new items this year. Lenny found a source for bare root apple trees 5-6 ft tall. To get input from the public on how many people are interested in ordering apple trees, we sent an announcement to the email list. This will help us establish how much to pre order. Responses have been good, but we probably won't sell pears this year, only apples.
- **Erosion Control Projects Update – Cave Banks** –ongoing search for woody materials for the projects.
- **St. Lawrence River Watershed Partnership Update** – continued to move along with applying for 501c.3 status. Also looking into grant options to fund watershed management plan.

- **Piseco Lake Conductivity Sweep Report Completed** – sent to Rick and all requests for report go to him.
- **Dry Hydrant Update** – the Piseco Lake dry hydrant will be going in this week. Camp of the Woods had one put in last week and they used a long arm excavator to do installation. Since the equipment was also necessary for the Piseco Lake installation, Lenny arranged to have them bring it over to Piseco and get that one installed at a fraction of the cost. Charlie King is donating his time to run the equipment. Lenny worked to get DEC Permit extensions.
- **APO Review** – 2011 was a busy year and next year will be even busier with the Piseco Airport hydro seeding project added to all the other ongoing projects. 2012 APO will be updated and sent to the directors.
- **Equipment & Vehicle Repair Update** – the hydro seeder is fixed. The district truck has been having an issue with the transmission slipping. Since the check engine code had to be read by the Chevy dealership, we took it to Johnstown for repair. They did what they thought was the problem but it started acting up again. It is back down there for another look at the problem. If the transmission is in need of further repair, the board recommends that it be taken to a transmission repair shop in the area.

Managers Report

Presented by Elizabeth Mangle

- Worked on the 2011 and 2012 APO's
- Compiled and completed the final 2011 quarterly financial report
- Worked on organizing folders on the file server.
- Organized the RC&D Camp Scholarship letter out to schools in the county and across the area.
- Received signature on the DEC WQIP contract and submitted to DEC.
- Reviewed the Piseco Conductivity report.
- Attended the St. Lawrence River Watershed Partnership meeting.
- Assisted with submission of the CDEA District Project Award application.
- Assisted District Clerk with sales tax reporting.
- Worked with Lenny on logistics and efficiency plan for Piseco Airport Project.
- Compiled materials for new director and develop training plan.
- Complete Operation & Maintenance for Camp of the Woods dry hydrant.
- Request made for additional materials for dry hydrants.

Conservation Educator Report

Presented by Caitlin Stewart

- Website-updates and maintenance – working on a new web site.
- Face book page – updates.
- Updates to You Tube page.
- Rainwater-recorded amount and pH.
- Information Requests:
 Bill Waller-Does pH impact drinking water quality of a UV system.
 Dorean Page-watershed map for organization's logo.
 Bill Zullo-printed maps.
 Kathy O'Connell – Watershed, aquifer, wetland map for Oxbow. Sent her to hamcomaps.net.
 Private landowner in Indian Lake – Lenny conducted a site visit. Brown water with odd fuzzy matter. DEC followed up.
 Tim Chick, Forestry Consultant. Soil survey and soil pH.
 Paul Coppock. Chestnut trees.
 Pam Corcoran – Piseco Lake conductivity sweep information.
 Denise Duckett. Bug ID. Leaf footed pine seed bug. Picked up invasive species brochures and Internet resources.

- Attended Aquatic Nuisance Species meeting in Ray Brook. Collaborating on an invasive species rack card for ice fishing tournaments.
- Compiled and submitted a Special Project award for the Conservation Districts Employees Association Awards. Elbow Creek Natural Channel Design.
- Completed the January CDEA Newsletter.
- Assisted Lenny with recycling. 840 lbs in December.
- Native Tree and Shrub Fruit Tree pre-order.
- Attended Forest Connect Webinar: Restoring the American Chestnut.
- Began to update the 2012 APO
- Working on new 2012 Native Tree and Shrub Order Form.
- Drafted Going Green post cards to send to Tree and Shrub mailing list. We want to notify people that we are no longer mailing the order forms. They can receive publications and announcements via our email list.
- Wrote and mailed letter to Mr. Voorhees addressing his letter to the editor in the Hamilton County Express inquiring” Why are there so many employees in the Soil and Water Conservation district?”.
- Completed and submitted the Piseco Lake Conductivity Report.
- Moose River Plains video.
- Press Release: Thank You Barry Hutchins-Hamilton County Express.
- Completed and sent out the December Conservation Corner. Working on the January edition.

Conservation Technician Report

No report

District Conservationist

No report

RC&D Report

- No meeting

Motion by Winchell to adjourn at 11:15 p.m. Seconded by Brian and carried.

Next scheduled meeting Tuesday, February 7th 2012.

Janice Reynolds
District Clerk