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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS November 25th, 2019

PRESENT:

Frank Thomas, Chairman	Jim Lieberum, DM
Susan Wilson, Director	Rhonda L. Jarvis, OM
Tim Thomas, Director	Nick Rowell, NRS
Michael Greenslade, Director	Bob Bombard, WRS
	Maren Alexander, DT
	Dean Moore, Sr. DT

- 1) **Meeting was called to order:** Chairman Thomas convened the Director's meeting at 1:00pm.
- 2) **Approval of the previous SWCD meeting minutes: Motion:** by Tim Thomas to approve the October 2019 minutes, 2nd by Greenslade, carried
- 3) **Presenter:** Maren Alexander – Using the District E-Calendar- Alexander presented the calendar very well and made a notes sheet for all to use.
- 4) **Report of Officers:**
 - a) **Chairman Report:** Thomas mentioned the budget meeting at the county the District's budget for 2020 was authorized. Thomas also mentioned he will be stepping down from the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District Board at the December meeting. Thomas will be running for the chairman of the Board of Supervisor for Warren County.
 - b) **Treasurer Report:** As far as the financial situation, the District has an estimated \$144,458.91 most of it is in grant money. Bills for payment for November totaled \$7052.63 and no grant bills for approval, approval of October financial report 2019. **Motion: by Tim Thomas to approve all bills for payment for November, 2nd by Greenslade, carried.**
Motion: by Greenslade to approve the financial report for October 2019, 2nd by Tim Thomas, carried.
 - c) **Correspondence:** 1. Homeland Security and Emergency Services training on January 29th at Bay Ridge Fire Department in Queensbury. 2. Lieberum kept the board informed on the MOU from USDA a new one has been developed and passed around for comments. 3. The Town of Schroon received an approval letter from MWBE so the Schroon DOS Grant will be closed out. 4. Lieberum asked to be on the stirring committee on the Septic Inspection issue that is currently being discussed and developed for new purchaser of a home it will be mandated to conduct a septic inspection.

5) **SWCD Business:**

- a) **LCBP Grant Applications,** The District have been awarded the Habitat and Invasive Species Grants through LCBP application process. Two others have been submitted for approval. A. Organizational grant \$4,000 and an Educational grant \$10,000. Lieberum will keep the board informed if the District has received or denied the grants.
- b) **Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Application,** Lieberum attended a floodplain map training that was done at the county through Warren County Planning. Brad Wenskowki went over the program and helped to solve and create many questions for the floodplain managers that were present. County does not have many National Flood Insurance Policies (NFIP) in effect in the county (~250) and there is only one location has been identified as a Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) property. About 1/2 of the properties are within the mapped 1% annual flood zone.

By the time the SWCD meeting starts Lieberum should be around 80-90% completed with an online FEMA grant application for Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The system is not overly helpful even with "help" links, but the folks at the state office have been very good. As District did for the prior grant, SWCD is the applicant and the county will be the recipient once (if) it is received. Lieberum has the OK to do that again from the state office. Ryan Moore is appreciative of the District taken care of this.

- c) **Northeast Organic Farm Association Conference,** Ryan attended this conference last year and mentioned it is a great conference. Lieberum is sending Rowell this year it's being held in Syracuse January 17-19, 2020. Rowell will be applying for a grant through the Lake Champlain Basin Program to offset some of the cost for attending. Total cost is \$553.00.
- d) **Ag Environmental Management Program 2020,** Alexander and Rowell have hit the ground running with AEM completing a Tier 1, Tier 2 and completed the NY Grown and Certified requirements for a Christmas tree farm. They are also working to complete a Tier 3a farm conservation plan with an expanding market farm. The Year 16 AEM Annual Action Plan has been submitted and is being reviewed by SWCC. AEM Year 16 starts January 1st. We are also working with SWCC, Saratoga and Franklin SWCD's to organize Tier 3a training. Nemeč's donated a large box full of this year's vegetable seed and Moore and Rowell worked to get them donated to local community gardens and the GF seed library. Regional Conservation Partnership Program: The last two high tunnel projects in the program. The District's budget for AEM will be approximately double the amount of funding.

- e) **Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Application, Motion:** by Wilson to approve to submit the Urban Agriculture Conservation grant application for a more targeted area in Warren County with more options with Soil Health up to \$50,000, 2nd by Tim, carried.
- f) **Community Conservation Program- review of current status –** None.
- g) **Community Conservation Program application review and approvals –**None.
- h) **Current Grant Project updates-** LCBP grants are wrapping up for the season along with some in their final report and payment with a few more to close. Three NYS DEC Grants will be closing out by the end of 2019.
- i) **SWCD Board of Directors Reporting info –** None.
- j) **Other,** 1. So it has been agreed to by the Brant Lake Association (BLA), the Town of Horicon and our office that moving forward this is how the milfoil harvest program will go – the BLA will hold the contract for harvesting, will receive funding from the Town, provide weekly oversight of their contractor and pay the invoices. The Town will provide funding to the program. The SWCD will hold the APA harvest permit, provide review of the harvest reports and comments to BLA and town prior to the payments, provide technical services if requested and develop annual report for APA. Our contractor feels so great about, this so I am developing a letter for Aqualogic, SWCD and the BLA to sign for this changeover. **Motion:** by Tim Thomas to transfer agreement with Aqualogic to BLA, 2nd by Greenslade, carried. 2. The NYSCDEA Division meeting was well attended and very informative. 3. The December Monthly meeting for Warren County SWCD is all set at the Farmstead Flatbread in Queensbury. 4. **Motion:** by Tim to approve the purchase of 10,500 of material for the NYS DEC Erosion and Sediment Control -13 for the closing of the grant, 2nd by Greenslade, carried. 5. Lieberum and Wilson were asked to attend a tree cutting ceremony at a Malta tree farm, elected officials, Saratoga Co. SWCD, Ag & Markets and channel 6 News were in attendance. There two trees that were cut. 5. Lieberum mentioned there will be more discussions on Funding for the County for project, where invoices being paid from county and then District will submit to NYS DEC on grants then reimbursed back to the same department at the county. Lieberum will keep board updated after it has been discussed.

6) **Staff Reports :**

- a. **Jim Lieberum, DM,** Lieberum's report was reviewed
- b. **Robert Bombard, WRS,** Bombard's report was reviewed
- c. **Dean Moore, SrDT,** Moore's report was reviewed
- d. **Nick Rowell, NRS,** Rowell's report was reviewed
- e. **Maren Alexander, DT, Alexander's** report was reviewed
- a. **Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCC,** Cunningham's report was reviewed.

7) **Adjournment: Motion: by Tim Thomas to adjourn Directors meeting at 2:23p.m., 2nd Wilson, carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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