

ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
April 16, 2025
Minutes

Meeting held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension (District Office)

PRESENT

DIRECTORS: Chairman Sam Casella, Vice Chairman Jim Malyj, Ken Livermore, Ed Jackson, Dale Stell, Amanda Amadon

ABSENT: Mark Venuti

STAFF: Megan Webster, Diana Thorn

USDA

FSA: Joann Rogers

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Casella called the regular meeting to order at 4:30pm and Jim led the pledge to the flag.

MINUTES

Chairman Casella asked for any comments, changes, or corrections to the minutes from March 19, 2025. The following motion was offered:

Motion that the minutes of March 19, 2025 be accepted as submitted.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20250416-01

BILLS

A spreadsheet was provided that shows the bills that appear in the Abstract listed with more detail and in their current status. The bills were available for review.

Motion to approve the bills as submitted and Abstract #4 in the amount of \$93,497.31.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Ed Jackson.

Ken Livermore reviewed and signed the bills earlier today.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20250416-02

TREASURER'S REPORT

Diana reviewed her Treasurer's Report with the Board, which includes the financial statements for March 31, 2025. Megan has reviewed and signed payrolls #6 and #7; the March bank statements; and the reconciliation reports from QuickBooks. All bank accounts are reconciled successfully through March 31st.

District Savings Certificate of Deposit will mature on April 28th. I will roll it over with the most favorable interest rate offered per your resolution 20230419-03.

Diana explained that the recently purchased computer hardware and software (per Resolution #20250115-08) exceeded the budgeted amounts on those lines. In an effort to make the budget more accurate, Diana recommended changing the QuickBooks Enterprise line to encompass all software and to use the remaining funds in the Vehicle line to properly fund the Office Equipment line and the Software line.

Motion to approve budget amendments to move \$1,600.00 from Vehicles to Office Equipment and to rename the QuickBooks Enterprise line Software and move \$5,400 from Vehicles to Software.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Dale Stell.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20250416-03

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and the March financial statements.

Motion made by Dale Stell, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20250416-04

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ed Jackson

1. Ed asked if Tad was still scheduled to present in Syracuse. Megan shared that he is, and she will also be attending. They will go for the day and not stay over.

FSA

Joann Rogers

County Committee (COC): The next COC meeting is on Tuesday, 04/22/2025 at 9AM

EMERGENCY COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECAP): payments to eligible agricultural producers of eligible commodities for the 2024 crop year to help commodity producers mitigate the impacts of increased input costs and falling commodity prices; for more information: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/fact-sheets/emergency-commodity-assistance-program-ecap> factsheet or website: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/ecap>

To date Ontario County FSA has processed 93 applications for \$1,535,945.

Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) & Price Loss Coverage (PLC): 2025 enrollment deadline was 04/15/2025; for more information: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/arc-plc>

Ontario County enrolled approximately 720 contracts.

Disaster Programs: FSA offers a variety of disaster programs that assist with honeybee losses, livestock losses, milk losses, tree and vine losses, and feed losses. We request producers contact the office if they have any weather related losses to report.

Farm Program Loans:

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL): interest rates range from 4.000% to 4.250% for terms from 3 years to 12 years; the FSFL program has a variety of loan options from bulk tanks, hay barns, grain bins/dryers, telehandlers and storage coolers just to name a few; [farm storage facility loan programs fact sheet july 2022.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)

Farm Loan: has a variety of loans available and funding is still available. **Farm Loan staff:** Abbey Combs (abbey.combs@usda.gov), Acting Farm Loan Manager; and Kim Weykman (Kimberly.weykman@usda.gov), and Denise Buisch (denise.buisch@usda.gov) assist with new farm loan inquiries; Abbey and Kim can be reached at 585-394-0525 ext. 2 and Denise can be reached at 315-946-9912 ext. 112.

Farm Record: if new producers are interested in getting their farm records established please have them contact the office to make an appointment to get these established; here is a factsheet for your reference: [farmersgov-getstarted-factsheet-06-15-2021.pdf](#)

CROP REPORTING: 2025 maps are being distributed to producers for crop reporting; most crops have a deadline of 07/15/2025

Reminder to complete the AD-1026 form PRIOR to any clearing or tiling projects.

Please feel free to refer any inquiries on any FSA programs or what programs we have to offer by contacting our office at 585-394-0525 ext. 2. In addition to myself there are Program Analysts: Faith Avedisian, and Courtney Kautz.

NRCS

Dan Weykman – No report.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was going around the room.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Megan Webster, District Manager Report

Megan shared that due to the number of upcoming projects we have with municipalities and the County, she has begun researching contracts/agreements that might help to formalize these relationships. We currently work with verbal agreements which has been very successful, but might not be enough for the volume of projects and amount of grant funds we have coming in the future.

Megan reported that our new URL ontariocountyswcd.gov is now live. Our emails and website will be updated.

Megan reported that she and Diana continue to gather information regarding healthcare insurance options. We have information from the County and Diana has an inquiry in to the Tompkins County Healthcare Consortium.

Megan shared that the 2025 Toyota Rav4 Hybrid is here and registered/insured. She has submitted the information to Auctions International for the sale of the 2022 Rav4. The auction link should be live soon and she will share it when it is available.

Megan stated that she continues to work with the County and FLCC regarding the new building and potential office space. Unfortunately, the first agreed upon design came in at too high a cost. They are currently trying to redesign in a cost saving manner. We have been provided a design that was unacceptable and then a revised design that is more workable. Megan will continue to work with them and report back as new information becomes available.

Megan reported on a situation involving a contractor and Hudson Pipes. The contractor purchased materials for one of our projects using our account/discount at Hudson's. The contractor failed to pay for those materials. Tucker has kept documentation of contact he has had with the contractor and Megan is now communicating with the contractor. Hudson's is pursuing the matter from their end. Hudson's has stated clearly that they are aware that this is not a District problem and they continue to be happy with the way we work together. Megan will continue to follow up with the contractor and we hope that the situation will be resolved soon. She will keep the Board informed.

Grants & Projects Updates

Ag NPS Round 29

Megan reported that the test wells have been dug for the Fa-Ba Manure Storage project. The design work will be done this year and the actual install is planned for next year.

CRF Round 8

Megan shared that she received word on 4/15/25 through the USDA that the Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities program from which the federal funding for CRF Round 8 was coming is being repurposed into the Advancing Markets for Producers initiative. Therefore, the Round 8 Track 1B and Track 3B projects are on-hold until further notice. We are waiting to hear what exactly this will mean. Megan has contacted the farms involved.

GLC-SNRP 2023

Megan shared that Tucker and Jeremy have been working with Fa-Ba on the final design and survey/staking for the erosion and sediment control project on Buffalo St. Ext. Work should begin in May.

GLC-SNRP 2025

Megan shared that Tucker is currently working on an application for the Genesee River Watershed.

NFWF SOGL: Lake Ontario Basin Regenerative Agriculture Implementation Project

Megan shared that staff are preparing a project for this grant. The farm is very responsive and is used to our programs. Megan reported that we have been told that the money for this grant is available. Megan discussed with the Board going ahead and entering into contract with the farm for this fencing project with an anticipated cost of \$35,000 and using Special Projects funds for payout. We will then voucher NFWF for reimbursement. The Board agreed.

WQIP Round 20

Megan reported that she hosted the required training for the Road Salt Reduction Grant awarded in this round. DEC will now begin working on the contract. We are hoping that the executed contract will be available soon so that municipalities can buy the plow blades this summer while pricing remains stable.

We continue to wait on contracts for the other projects in this round.

Ontario County Water Resources Council Implementation Projects

Megan reported that Jeremy is working on designs and permitting for both Jones Rd (Town of Bristol) and Sandy Bottom Park (Town of Richmond). The design for the West Swamp Rd project will be provided to Ontario County DPW so that they can do the work in May. Jeremy is working on the final design for the drainage stabilization project for J Minns.

EFLC

Megan reported that the Capacity contract is in process. She is hopeful that more will be known soon. The Implementation funding is anticipated for late summer but is dependent on the State. Staff are preparing a number of projects including a culvert replacement on Reservoir Creek with the Town of Naples.

Envirothon

Megan shared that Alaina and the staff have been busy preparing for this year's regional event. The regional event will be held April 29th at FLCC.

Soil Health Workshop/Manure Roadshow

Megan reported that our recent event went very well. There were approximately 70 attendees this year.

Needs:

Megan shared that we are running low on the pens that we use as promotional handouts.

Motion to approve the purchase of additional pens with the District logo not to exceed the \$1,000.00 in the budget.

Motion made by Jim Malyj, seconded by Ed Jackson.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20250416-05

Megan reported that we need additional survey equipment that can work throughout the County including areas where service can be blocked by tree growth and terrain. She reported that staff are considering a non-robotic total station and will work with Admar on the details. She shared that we also need the consumables that go along with survey work (stakes, flags, etc). This equipment purchase will be eligible for reimbursement from the Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition Capacity funds once that contract is executed.

Motion to approve the purchase of additional survey equipment and consumables not to exceed \$40,000.00.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Dale Stell.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20250416-06

Next meeting: May 21, 2025 4:30PM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:46pm.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Dale Stell.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20250416-07

Diana Thorn, Secretary-Treasurer to the Board