

Draft
St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For May 15th, 2025, at 5:00 pm

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Adam Cook (Vice Chair), Kaitlyn Kulp, Jackie teRiele, and John Burke

Board Members Absent: Patrick Smith, Daniel Fay

Guest Present: Ryan Cunningham

Staff Present: Alivia Bleau (Manager), Melissa Woods (Secretary/Assistant Treasurer)

I. Call to Order: at 5:01 pm

II. Agenda (Attachment A)

III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: *Motion to approve the April 17, 2025 minutes, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele approved by all.*

IV. Reports

A. Board of Legislators –John Burke

1. Burke reported that the county owns 56 out of 93 mineral rights in the southern portion of the county, which will be given to Titan Mines.
2. Burke stated the open house for the new Emergency Services building will be May 22, 2025.
3. Burke reported that the county is actively working with public health to decide who is eligible for the Septic System Grant.
4. Discussion on safety training for the counties firemen on how to protect the residence from Solar Battery fires, and the resources needed to do this effectively.

B. Ag and Farmland Protection Board – Bob Andrews

1. Andrews reported the Ag Tour date is August 15, and encouraged other BOD members and staff to attend; he also invited Cunningham to attend.

C. Soil & Water Conservation Committee – Ryan Cunningham

1. Discussion on DEC and wetland permitting, most Ag land has an exemption.
2. Cunningham reported that the state budget is done and that there is an increase in funding for SWCDs.
3. Cunningham stated that the Regional Managers meeting will take place on June 6 in Raybrook. He also stated that SWCC has a board meeting next week that anyone on the BOD can attend.
4. Cunningham reported that SWCC is hiring tow new positions, one Regional manager to help with the southern part of the state, the other is a CNMP planner that will be able to help districts with projects they have going on.
5. State Envirothon is May 28th and 29th in Cortland this year.

V. SWCD Reports: (Attachment B)

A. Treasurer's Reports: Melissa Woods

1. Woods worked on tech position posting, figuring Fosters final payout and sending paperwork to the county.
2. Woods continued working on NARE donations, and then helped at the NARE Event.
3. *Motion to allow Woods to transfer up to \$35 ,000 from Money Market Savings account to the checking account to pay for June expenses and \$35,000 from Money Market savings account to the Checking account to pay for July expenses, made by Cook, seconded by Kulp, approved by all.*
4. *Motion to pay Jefferson County SWCD for engineering for \$150.00, made by teRiele, seconded by Burke, approved by all.*
5. *Motion to transfer money in AgNPS Rnd 28 bank account to Money market account and close the account, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.*

Motion to approve the April 2025 Treasurers Report, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.

B. Forester's Report – Aaron Barrigar

1. Barrigar continues to work on Forest Management Plans, Boundary Marking, EQIP applications, Ash and Hazard tree project, site visits and land owner assistance.
2. Barrigar assisted with NARE, attended Lewis Co. 4th annual Safety Training Day, attended NACD Forestry Subcommittee meeting, TNC Planting with a Purpose meeting, and attended ALCOA's community advisory board meeting.
3. Barrigar has been working on Village of Potsdam tree planting plan/scope of work, five year maintenance plan, and nursery inspection form for their Urban and Community Forestry Project that will plant 79 new trees along village streets and parks.
4. Discussion on ARPA/Hazard Tree, Covell has signed the addendum but still hasn't completed the project. Discussion on what our next steps are if he doesn't finish by the May 31st deadline.

C. Technician Report- Heidi Knafelc

1. Knafelc has continued working on Ag Value Assessments, Boundary Marking, and NARE prep and then attended the event.
2. Knafelc attended the Lewis County Safety Training Day, NE1 Forestry Training in Jefferson County with NRCS.
3. Knafelc has been doing data entry for 2 Forest Management Plans, and inventory for a third project.

D. Manager Report- Alivia Bleau

1. Bleau attended SLELO Prism meeting, SLC CART meeting, Safety Training Day in Lewis County, and Great Lakes Action Agenda Work Group.
2. Bleau has been working on technician transition, WRP Easement monitoring, Envirothon, district tech search, close out documents for one of our AEM Farms, and updating our employee handbook.
3. Bleau went on a site visit to Clover Patch Farm, and did a presentation for the children at the Children's Museum in Potsdam on EAB.
4. Bleau will be attending the State Envirothon on May 28th and 29th, Conservation Field Days June 3rd and June 5th, Regional managers meeting on June 6th, and Oswegatchie Chestnut Pull on July 11th.

VI. Old Business:

- A. Discussion on purchasing apparel for the BOD and staff members.
- B. *Motion to purchase clothing items of choice for 5 staff members up to a monetary value of \$80, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.*
- C. *Motion to purchase all staff and BOD members a professional top, made by Cook, seconded by Kulp, approved by all.*
- D. Discussion hiring the new district technician. Decided on having a hiring committee of Andrews, Burke, Cunningham, and Bleau. Have 2 great potential hires.

VII. New Business:

- A. Discussion on increase in state aid to districts.
- B. Discussion on Cover Crop program, decided that we will strive to have new participants this year, or previous participants either planting something new or trying a different practice.
- C. *Motion to do the cover crop program covered by Part C funds up to \$25,000 at \$83/acre, 50 acres max per farmer, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.*
- D. Discussions on Dairy One increased pricing and wither to cover the cost for our AEM farmers already in contract.
- E. *Motion to cover the increased cost of soil testing from Part C funds until the next round of AEM comes out at \$2 per sample for fiscal year 2025, made by Cook, seconded by Kulp, approved by all.*
- F. *Motion to sign Resolution 2025-2 and to participate in AEM Round 19, made by Cook, seconded by Burke, approved by all.*
- G. Discussion on going into contract with The Nature Conservancy for a pilot program.
- H. *Motion to enter into Pilot Program contract with The Nature Conservancy to participate in "Tapping into your lands potential", made by Burke, seconded by Cook, approved by all.*

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss hiring personnel at 6:38 pm, made by teRiele, seconded by cook, approved by all.

Came out of executive session at 6:43pm.

VIII. Correspondence: No Mail this month (Attachment C)

IX. Announcements: N/A

X. Next Meeting: July 17th, 2025 5:00 p.m.

XI. Meeting Adjourned: *Motion to adjourn at 6:44 p.m., made by Cook, seconded by Burke, approved by all.*

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Melissa Woods, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

Date