

DRAFT
St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For September 18th, 2025, at 5:00 pm

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

Board Members Absent: Patrick Smith

Staff Present: Alivia Bleau (Manager), Melissa Woods (Secretary/Assistant Treasurer), Allycia Foote (District Technician)

I. Call to Order: at 5:00 pm

II. Agenda (Attachment A)

III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: *Motion to approve the August 21, 2025 minutes, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele approved by all.*

IV. Reports

A. Board of Legislators –John Burke

1. Burke reported that there are a lot of concerns on the recreational trails from citizens from the county.
2. BOL authorized chair to sign contract with JEDA for demolition and abatement of 2 structures.
3. BOL gave county authority to freeze the taxes on properties that are vacant.
4. Burke reported the county adopted a resolution to allow volunteer fire and EMT's a reduction on property taxes.
5. BOL authorize chair to sign contracts for New/rehab of courthouse.
6. The county also reauthorized a 1% sales tax, which means the county tax will remain at 8%.

B. Ag and Farmland Protection Board – Robert Andrews

1. Andrews reported that the Ag Tour was a huge success.
2. Andrews stated that the next meeting is October 2nd and the main topics of discussion will be the solar developments in Brasher and Massena and the solar farm in the town of Canton which is about 30 acres.

V. SWCD Reports: (Attachment B)

A. Treasurer's Reports: Melissa Woods

1. Woods reported that we got our apparel order and handed out to employees, has been prepping for Day at The Farm event which is September 27th at Mapleview Dairy.
2. *Motion to allow Woods to transfer up to \$30,000 from Money Market Savings account to the Checking account to pay for October expenses, made by Cook, seconded by Burke, approved by all.*
3. *Motion to pay farmer for AEM Tier 4 work that is completed (planted 22 acres at \$417/acre) for a total of \$9,174.00 out of AEM funds, made by Burke, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.*

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

B. Technician Report- Allycia Foote

1. Foote reported updates on the AEM program, we have 4 signed contracts, closeout for round 18 is 12/31/25 with 3 projects still needing to be finished but one of those contracts is moving to round 19.
2. Discussion on AEM heavy Use Area project, BOD states to contact landowner and explain to him that if the project isn't completed by 12/31/25 he will not get paid any money.
3. Foote has been working on AEM strategic plan which is due 12/31/25 and lasts for 5 years.
4. Foote went to SUNY Potsdam and did a career presentation to an Environmental studies class.
5. Foote gave updates on Ag Non-Point Source, Round 30 waiting to see if funding cutoff line changes, and Round 31 no new updates.
6. Foote have updates on Climate Resilient Farming (CRF), created and signed landowner contracts for round 8, RFP's for round 9 were unofficially released 9/8/25 and has a a meeting with Ag & Markets 9/19/25, also new this year in round 9 is an Ag Forestry Management track.

C. Forester's Report – Aaron Barrigar

1. Barrigar continues to work on Forest Management Plans, EQIP applications, Tapping into your lands potential, SLELO Grant, and landowner assistance and site visits.

D. Technician Report- Heidi Knafelc

1. Knafelc has continued working on iMap 15a Invasive Treatment Updates, has been working on Part B Forest managements plans and Ag Values.

E. Manager Report- Alivia Bleau

1. Bleau has been working on contacting CNMP's about being on a contractor list for us, she has been doing FOIL research, and has been working on Maternity plan with Foote.
2. Bleau has been working on Mid-season report for the SLELO invasive species grant.
3. Bleau received our Part B project request. Discussion on Part B projects and the BOD decided to continue doing Forest Management Plans for our Part B project in 2026.
4. Bleau attended New York State Invasive Species Expo, took classes on language around invasive species, class on weed management, class on mini forests, class on drones for environmental surveying and invasive species detection. The big discussion was on Elm zigzag sawfly, golden nematode, and southern pine beetle.

VI. Old Business:

- A. Discussion on CNMP planners, and came up with a list of interested planners.
- B. Discussion on Cover Crop program and the history of our cover crop program, waiting on one person to sign their contract. Had someone drop out of AEM which allows more money to go towards cover crops. The BOD decided to give them a deadline of Tuesday if they don't sign by then we will allocate those acres to someone else. The BOD also decided to offer 50 acres to one applicant who applied late, offer 50 acres to a farmer who expressed interest after the deadline and divide the rest of the acres amongst the 6 farmers. ***Motion to distribute remaining cover crop acreage amongst applicants, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.***
- C. ***Motion to sign Resolution 2025-3 (attachment D), made by teRiele, seconded by Cook, approved by all.***

- D. Discussion on Part C funds and what they can be spent on. BOD would like Bleau to do some research and report back next month on what we can use that money for.
- E. Discussion on FOIL requests, what people can foil and how they get that information.
- F. Discussion on new BOD member. BOD would like Bleau to reach out to planning department about someone from the EMC committee. Also came up with a few names to reach out to and ask if they are interested.
- G. ROW update, Bleau has reached out and has a verbal confirmation with Putney and Doyle, waiting on resolution from BOL before we sign contract with Putney.

VII. New Business:

- A. Discussion on Timber Marking contract Barrigar created. The BOD decided to table the discussion until our October meeting.
- B. Discussion on upcoming board meetings. ***Motion to move November 20th meeting to November 13th, made by teRiele, seconded by Burke, approved by all.***
- C. BOD also decided to donate to the Canton Church and Community Program/Back to School program in honor of Board member Dan Fay.

VIII. Correspondence: Mail (Attachment C)

IX. Announcements: N/A

X. Next Meeting: October 16, 2025 5:00 p.m.

XI. Meeting Adjourned: ***Motion to adjourn at 7:01 p.m., made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.***

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Melissa Woods, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

Date