

**DRAFT**

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District  
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
For April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 4:30 pm

**Board Members Present:** Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Jackie teRiele, Ross Kostin, and Anthony Levato

**Excused Board Members:** Adam Cook (Vice-Chair), Patrick Smith (Treasurer), John Burke

**Guest Present:** N/A

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

- I. **Call to Order:** at 4:32 pm
- II. **Agenda** (Attachment A)
- III. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** *Motion to approve the March 19, 2026 minutes, made by teRiele, seconded by Levato approved by all.*

IV. **Reports**

A. **Board of Legislators** –Anthony Levato

- 1. Levato stated they received bids for the new county highway building which Whitton Construction is building. BOL requested to go through all line items. The bid would increase appropriations by \$19 Million.
- 2. Levato said there was a discussion on Room Occupancy Tax in SLC. SLC is the lowest at 3%, looking into increasing that tax.
- 3. There was a request to change regulations for Northern Pike in Black Lake which was approved. The new regulations went from a bag limit of 5 to a bag limit to 3 and an increase in size from 18” to 22” in order to keep the fish.

B. **Ag and Farmland Protection Board** – Bob Andrews

- 1. Andrews stated they met the beginning on April and they do plan to update the AFPB Plan. AFPB is eligible to receive money from NYS Ag & Markets for up to 50% of the cost to update the plan.
- 2. Andrews reported Hayes property solar farm is under construction, 2 Rivers Solar Farm (Massena) has gotten the go ahead from NYS DEC and NYS Department of Energy.
- 2. Andrews also reported that Rich road solar project is on hold till late 2027.
- 3. Andrews stated Scott Lee from Bourdeau Brothers is looking to join the board.
- 4. Andrews stated they added 67 acres into the agricultural district this past year.

Andrews wanted it noted in the minutes they recognized the Admin (Melissa Woods) for a good job done in honor of Administrative Professionals Week.

Bleau also recognized Bob Andrews for being on the SLC Soil and Water BOD for over 30 years and presented him with a customized portfolio with the districts logo and his name.

V. **SWCD Reports:**

A. **Treasurer’s Reports:** Melissa Woods

- 1. Woods continued to work on NARE, finished up Tree Sale things, helped Bleau conduct interviews for our summer intern positions, opened new CLASS account for AEM R19, sent quarterly paperwork to the county, sent 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Forestry Appropriation invoice to the county, normal month end procedures, attended a SWCC meeting, and completed the 15<sup>th</sup> ARPA draw.

2. *Motion to subscribe to Business Canva for \$250/year, made by teRiele, seconded by Levato, approved by all.*
3. *Motion to pay Alpha Nurseries, Inc. the balance for tree sale 2026 for \$4,108.77, made by Levato, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.*
4. *Motion to pay Morse Agronomics \$2,397.00 for contracts with Decker and Putney, made by teRiele, seconded by Levato, approve by all.*
5. *Motion to allow Woods to transfer up to \$30,000 from Money Market Savings account to the checking account to pay for May expenses, made by Levato, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.*

*Motion to approve the March 2026 Treasurers Report, made by teRiele, seconded by Levato approved by all.*

**B. Technician Report-** Allycia Foote

1. Foote has continued working on AEM Round 19, has completed 5 Tier 1's (filled out form), 2 Tier 2's (site visit), had a meeting about Tier 3a planning, has ranked the 6 applications for Tier 4, and completed 1 Tier 5a forms.
2. Foote filled out an application to attend Farmers Markets across the county, attended the Building Better Soils meeting at CCE, met with a producer for NY Grown & Certified, and helped host a Nature Walk at the Kip Trail in Canton.
3. Foote has sent all paperwork for CRF Round 6 extension to the state, and 2 CRF Round 9 projects got approved and will be funded from Ag & Markets.
4. Foote finalized and submitted all 7 AgNPS Round 31 applications.
5. Foote has been preparing for NARE which takes place April 28<sup>th</sup> at Paul Smith's VIC.
6. Foote has continued ranking and assessing EQIP applications for High Tunnel applicants.
7. Discussion on a company called Magnolia, concerned that this program will take prime agricultural land and make it unusable for the next 35 years. BOD would like Foote to create a document with questions that landowners should consider when considering to join or not join the program.

**C. Forester's Report-** Aaron Barrigar

1. Barrigar continues to work on Part B Forest Management Plans.
2. Barrigar also continues with landowner assistance, site visits and finished tree sale.
3. Barrigar has been working on Tapping into your lands potential tree planting program, and also assisted AHPIS with an EAB IPM study.

**D. Technician Report-** Heidi Knafelc

1. Knafelc reported she completed approximately 76 Ag Values.
2. Knafelc also helped Barrigar with IPM study, tree sale prep and handout.
3. Knafelc also checked the last 2 towns for ROW.

**E. Manager Report-** Alivia Bleau

1. Bleau had a meeting with Ryan Cunningham from Ag & Markets about CRF round 8, meeting with NRCS about contribution agreement, and has a state Envirothon meeting.
2. Bleau completed interviews for our summer intern positions.
3. Bleau worked on NARE prep, helped hand out trees at the tree sale, and communication for ROW project.

**VI. Old Business:**

- A. Discussion on Reasonable Suspicion, BOD would like Bleau to make final revisions to the in house procedure managerial guide and approve at the next BOD meeting.
- B. Bleau gave an update on the Interns. We have hired 2 interns both from SUNY Potsdam and they plan to begin the end of May.
- C. Bleau gave an update on EBM/Invasive species grant. We did not get funded for the invasive species grant, but we did get funded for both EBM grants we submitted for.
- D. Discussion on ROW update. BOD would like Bleau to reach back out to county attorney and see what he thinks our next steps should be.
- E. Table discussion on Surplus policy.
- F. Bleau gave an update on the Tree Sale, we sold \$9,228.94 worth of trees, wildflowers, tree tubes, etc., after paying for trees and other supplies we made a profit of \$2,242.71.

**VII. New Business:**

- A. Discussion AEM Rankings for Round 19 Tier 4 implementation projects. We have \$300,000 to spend on Tier 4 projects. We only pay 75% of the requested funds for each project. Once we approve the rankings and projects they will still need to be approved by the state. Foote gave the BOD a brief breakdown of what AEM is and the type of projects that fall under this program.
- B. ***Motion to approve farms 1, 2, and 3, based on rankings provided by Foote for funding in AEM Round 19, made by teRiele, seconded by Levato, approve by all.***
- C. ***Motion supporting implementation of AEM Round 19 Tier 4 Cost-Share projects on the following farms; Angle Acres Farm, LLC, Meadowview Farm, and Scott Joe Bango, made by Levato, seconded by Kostin approved by all.***

**VIII. Correspondence:** Mail was available for the Board's review.

**IX. Announcements:** None

**X. Next Meeting:** May 21, 2026 4:30 p.m.

**XI. Meeting Adjourned:** ***Motion to adjourn at 7:07 p.m., made by teRiele, seconded by Levato, approved by all.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Woods, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date