

DRAFT

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For August 20th, 2026, at 4:30 pm

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Adam Cook (Vice-Chair), Patrick Smith (Treasurer), Jackie teRiele, John Burke, and Anthony Levato

Excused Board Members: Ross Kostin

Staff Present: Alivia Bleau (Manager), Melissa Woods (Secretary/Assistant Treasurer), 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 July 9, 2026 minutes, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.*

IV. Reports

A. Board of Legislators –John Burke

- 1. Levato stated the new highway building is ahead of schedule, the county has hired some new staff, and Solid Waste is purchasing larger trailers to cut down on the amount of trips they have to take to Rodman to the landfill.
- 2. Levato said they BOL passed a resolution accepting new mission statement and values for the county, they also sent a resolution to Albany about not closing Claxton-Hepburn Hospital and other clinics in the area.
- 3. The BOL received an update on the overtime at the correctional facility, stated they are looking for board of election inspectors, and that august is immunization month and September is sepsis awareness month.

B. Ag and Farmland Protection Board – Bob Andrews

- 1. Andrews stated their next meeting is in October and the major topic for discussion is solar farms. The company didn't get any feedback from the local community when deciding where to put them and there has been so much push back the company would now like input from local authorities.
- 2. Discussion on milk plants being built and the effect it will have on the North Country, also talked about the importance of a local slaughter facility in St. Lawrence County.

V. SWCD Reports:

A. Treasurer's Reports: Melissa Woods

- 1. Woods sent the purchase order for the new truck, worked on routine maintenance and filing, attended the Water Chestnut Pull in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy/SLELO and DEC, completed training sessions, and closed the ARPA bank account.
- 2. Woods also helped prep for and table at the St. Lawrence County Fair.
- 3. *Motion to send staff to conservation field days, made by Cook, seconded by Burke, approved by all.*
- 4. *Motion to pay Dairy One bill for \$540.50, made by Cook, seconded by Smith, approved by all.*
- 5. *Motion to allow Woods to transfer up to \$40,000 from Money Market Savings account to the checking account to pay for September expenses, made by Smith, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.*

Motion to approve the July 2026 Treasurers Report, made by Cook, seconded by Levato, approved by all.

B. Technician Report- Allycia Foote

1. Foote has continued working on AEM Round 19, and has completed 9 site visits and is working on 1 soil health plan, 2 grazing plans, and 1 farmstead plan.
2. Foote attended ArcoPro GIS training, Water Chestnut Pull, Farm Bureau Picnic, taught forage ID at Franklin County SWCD, and attended CCE Ag Advisory meeting.
3. Foote stated we were officially notified we have been funded for 1 of the 7 applications we submitted for AgNPS Round 31.

C. Forester's Report- Aaron Barrigar

1. Barrigar continues to work on Part B Forest Management Plans, doing landowner assistance and site visits.
2. Barrigar has been working on Tapping into your lands potential tree planting program.
3. Barrigar has been assisting the Village of Potsdam with UCFG, and did the state of forest address with the county.

D. Technician Report- Heidi Knafelc

1. Knafelc passed her Pesticide applicator Exam,
2. Knafelc went to the Water Chestnut Pull with SLELO PRISM.
3. Knafelc completed 8 Ag Values, and worked on 6 inventories and data entries for Forest Management Plans.

E. Manager Report- Alivia Bleau

1. Bleau worked on preparing for the SLC Fair, the County Forest Address, wrote a letter to Stec, prepared and gave presentation to the BOL for our proposed budget for 2027, went on a site visit for sediment deposit concerns, and wrote a division report for SWCC.
2. Bleau attended Pro-Dairy/CCE Field day at Maplevue, went to DEC permitting meeting in Lowville, and attended State Aid to Districts forum, FEMA Flood plains meeting, and SWCD CDEA managers meeting.

VI. Old Business:

- A. Discussion on Cover Crop program for 2026, rankings, and allocating money.
- B. ***Motion to designate \$51,790.00; \$25K from the Part C funds and the rest supplemented with AEM Round 19 funds to cover 50 acres at \$83 for a single species and \$102 for multi-species for 11 producers, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.***
- C. ***Motion to approve Cover Crop ranking as per attachment E, made by Cook, seconded by Levato, approved by all.***
- D. Discussion on CRF round 8 participant and pay out for purchased equipment.
- E. ***Motion to Motion to pay Ortman Dairy, LLC \$47,624 for CRF Round 8 grant for a No-Till Drill, made by Cook, seconded by Smith, approved by all.***
- F. ***Motion to allow Bleau to sign MOU with Franklin County SWCD regarding Ortman Dairy, LLC, made by Cook, seconded by Burke, approved by all.***

VII. New Business:

- A. Discussion on creating a vacation buy-back program. BOD would like Bleau to come up with some examples and will decide at a later BOD meeting on whether to offer this to employees or not.
- B. Discussion on the way we use personal time and looking into changing the definition.

- C. Discussion on how SWCD will give raises going forward. BOD would like Bleau to come up with different options to present at next BOD meeting.

Cook stepped out at 6:02 pm

- D. Discussion on Timber Marking contract.
E. ***Motion to approve Timber Marking application for Cook property, made by Burke, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.***

Cook entered at 6:09pm

- F. Discussion on TNC program and work being completed.
G. ***Motion to pay out Daniel Caster for TNC payment if we don't receive payment in time from TNC for the amount of \$553.00, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.***

Motion to enter executive session at 6:16 pm under section 105 1f of opens meeting law, made by teRiele, seconded by Smith, approved by all.

Exit executive session at 7:02 pm

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

IX. **Announcements:** None

X. **Next Meeting:** September 17, 2026 4:30 p.m.

XI. **Meeting Adjourned: *Motion to adjourn at 7:02 p.m., made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.***

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Melissa Woods, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

Date