

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For March 19th, 2026, at 4:30 pm

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

Guest Present: Ryan Cunningham NYS SWCC (via zoom), Blanche Hurlbutt (via zoom)

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

- I. **Call to Order:** at 4:30 pm
- II. **Agenda** (Attachment A)
- III. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** *Motion to approve the February 19, 2026 minutes, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele approved by all.*
- IV. **Reports**
 - A. **Board of Legislators** –John Burke
 1. Burke stated they had a presentation from National Grid, which stated 60% of electricity in NYS comes from Natural Gas, and that there has been a 77% increase in price in the last year. Demand has also increased with the rough winter we had.
 2. Burke also said there was a resolution proclaiming February Women’s History Month; the resolution did not pass.
 - B. **Ag and Farmland Protection Board** – Bob Andrews
 1. 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 and Bleau reported on an update to the AFPB plan. Want to get farmers input for the plan on what their top issues for land usage.
 4. Next board meeting is April 2nd.
- V. **NYACD Report:**
 - A. **Blanche Hurlbutt** joined via Zoom with Ryan Cunningham joining at 5:01 pm.
 - i. Discussion on justifying full membership; what it entails to be a division representative. Ended at 5:25 pm
Motion to pay \$1,500 for full dues to NYACD, made by Cook, seconded by Smith, approved by all.
- VI. **SWCD Reports:**
 - A. **Treasurer’s Reports:** Melissa Woods
 1. Woods gave an update on classes she took at Water Quality Symposium (WQS).
 2. Woods also gave an update on the budget.
 3. Woods has been asked to present at an upcoming conference.
 4. Woods continued to work on NARE, completed the yearly sales tax, closed CAFO Rnd 3 bank account and worked on issues with her LincPass which is now fixed.
 5. *Motion to pay Kravitz \$181,018 for the rest of last year’s contract, made by Cook, seconded by Smith, approved by all.*
 6. *Motion to open NY CLASS bank account to put AEM Technical Assistance money into, made by Burke, seconded by Levato, approved by all.*

7. **Motion to allow Woods to transfer up to \$30,000 from Money Market Savings account to the checking account to pay for April expenses, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.**

Motion to approve the February 2026 Treasurers Report, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele approved by all.

B. 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 tree sale.
3. Barrigar also gave update on WQS classes he took.
4. ROW: Kravitz is done and Putney has 1 town left to finish.
5. Discussion on tree removal issue. It is the consensus of the BOD that we won't pay Putney until all of the trees are cut.

C. Technician Report- Heidi Knafelc

1. Knafelc reported she completed approximately 35 Ag Values.
2. Knafelc also helped Barrigar with ROW checks.
3. Knafelc gave update on classes she took at WQS as well.

D. Manager Report- Alivia Bleau

1. Bleau had meetings with the NYS Envirothon group, team meetings in the office, and Ag Planning meeting with CCE and Planning Department.
2. Bleau has also been working on the ROW tree issues, working on NARE, working on some Ag Values as well and tree sale ads.
3. Bleau worked on putting the intern application up and conducting interviews (3 applicants).
4. Bleau also gave an update on the classes she took at WQS.

E. Technician Report- Allycia Foote

1. Foote has continued getting our AEM information to the public by hanging flyers, also contacted CCE and added our AEM flyer and our Newsletter in their newsletter, she will also be attending the Farmers Market come this summer to reach more people in the community.
2. Foote watched a webinar (It Starts with Soil) and (integrated Water Conservation-Farm Base Planning), attended the Farmland Protection planning meeting, and attended the Annual Tree Tapping Ceremony at the Orebed Sugar Shack.
3. Foote continues to work on AgNPS Round 31 applications and work on things for NARE.
4. Foote has been working on ranking and assessing EQIP applications for NRCS.
5. Foote also gave an update on classes she took at WQS.

VII. Old and New Business:

- A. Discussion on Reasonable Suspicion, Bleau talked to the county attorney and because we are in a federal building our Drug Policy is in good standing. BOD would like to add something to our procedures book on how to handle a situation. Bleau will work something up to bring to April BOD meeting.
- B. Discussion on going into contract with CVA for different farms they may be working with. **Motion to go into contract with CVA for Farm planning purposes, made by teRiele, seconded by Cook, approved by all.**
- C. Discussion on how to handle difficult farms/projects.
- D. Discussion on Cover Crop Program. We will start advertising in late April/early May with a deadline of August 1st. **Motion to set Part C Cover Crop deadline to be planted as of October 25, 2026, made by Cook, seconded by Smith, approved by all.**

Smith stepped out at 7:03 pm and recuses himself from the discussion and vote due to participating in the AgNPS Round 31 program.

- E. Foote went through her ranking for AgNPS Round 31. ***Motion to participate in AgNPS Round 31 using the ranking provided and to sign Resolution 2026-1, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.*** There was no opposition.

Smith entered at 7:15pm.

- F. Discussion on CRF round 6 extension which is set to expire on 4/30/2026. ***Motion to accept 1 year extension for CRF Round 6 participant, made by Cook, seconded by Smith, approved by all.***
- G. ***Motion to enter executive session at 7:17pm to discuss employment history of an employee, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele.***

Exited executive session at 7:36pm.

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

IX. **Announcements:** None

X. **Next Meeting:** April 23, 2026 4:30 p.m.

XI. **Meeting Adjourned:** ***Motion to adjourn at 7:38 p.m., made by teRiele, seconded by Cook, approved by all.***

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Melissa Woods, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

Date