



Teleconference Meeting Minutes
August 30, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Dan Farrand, Pres.	Ron Montesi, 1 st V. Pres.
Bill Peoples, Treas.	James Bricks, Div. I
Tom Nichols, Past Pres.	Chuck Colby, Secretary
Rob Carpenter, Div. VIII	Frank Thomas, Div. V
Sam Casella, Member @Lg.	Blanche Hurlbutt, Interim Ex. Dr.

Absent:

Scott Ryan, 2nd V. Pres.
Steve Lorraine, NYSCDEA'
Ernie Swift, Div. IV

Guests/Partners: Greg Kist, NRCS

Call to Order: Dan Farrand, Pres. Called the meeting to order 7:02 p.m.

I. Roll Call: Blanche Hurlbutt, Interim Ex. Dr. gave roll called.

II. Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes: Dan requested that Blanche provide a date for all resolutions with the month and a number.

- *Motion by Ron Montesi second by Jim Bricks to approve the July minutes as written. Carried. #8/30/2017 = A*

III. Treasurer's Report:

July Treasurer's Report & Bills to be paid:

- *Motion by Ron Montesi second by Sam Casella to approve July treasurer's report as presented. Carried. #8/30/2017 = B*
- *A motion by Jim Bricks second by Ron Montesi to pay all the requested bills presented. Carried. #8/30/2017 = C*

Bill reported that line items on 2017 budget were adjusted accordingly to cover over budgeted line items. Bill reported that there is \$48,588 in the account as of July 31st minus the outstanding checks listed on report.

Ron reported that he traveled to Saratoga SWCD to discuss what NYACD does for Districts. Ron was told that Saratoga SWCD will pay the balance of their yearly assessment.

Sam inquired why there were some missing check numbers and Bill explained that those were the payroll check numbers not listed.

Dan explained that the national NACD dues from NYACD had not been paid for 2017, so he requested payment last month to be made.

IV. Partners Reports: Dan welcomed Greg Kist to the meeting and expressed his appreciation to Greg for all the help he has provided Blanche & NYACD these past few weeks.

NYACDEA' Report: Steve Lorraine was unable to attend due to a previously scheduled meeting, but did provide a report. See attached.

NRCS Report: Greg Kist reported they are in their final close-out period for EQIP, AMA, CSP, etc. In the next few weeks they will be working mainly with the CSP program, that has been awarded 53 thousand more acres to this successful program. Greg is hoping that with this remarkable success more acres will be added each year.

Greg reported that he has enjoyed working with Blanche on the NYACD Annual training sessions. Greg reported that NRCS staff will be presenting two (2) training session during the annual event. Leonard Jordan, Acting NRCS Chief will be speaking at the annual banquet.

Greg reiterated how USDA/FSA/NRCS as reorganized and NRCS has moved in with Risk Management. The FSA/NRCS service centers that were separated will now be moved back into same locations. There is no issue in New York with this transition even though there are a few in NY that were separate. With the FSA/Risk Management mergers there are a few administrative functions that will be changed. Customer service will continue as always.

Greg wanted to notify folks that there is a protentional government shut-down and we all need to be prepared. NRCS is working hard to prepare for this possibility and are working on the easements on the island, that could be tired up during this time, if not

completed in time. NRCS is making plans to work around this, if the shut-down takes place.

Greg expressed how much the partnership with NYACD and NRCS is better with everyone pulling together. Everyone is receiving the most out of all the effort put forth in partnering up.

Greg reported on a personal note he has some health issue, but is still hoping to attend the annual meeting. Dan expressed on behalf of the NYACD Board, that they hope Greg's health issues improve and Greg will be back working soon.

V. Board Report:

President – Dan reported that he attended the NE NACD event last month. He spoke with Gale Barry, NE NRCS regional agent. Dan discussed the \$50,000 received through NRCS for the NE NACD. These funds are for the NE to come up with a strategy plan for the northeast. There will be a NE meeting with all thirteen (13) states possibly located in New York City with the states employee board member, each NACD state board member, district board member, and state NRCS Conservationist. This committee would represent a model for the rest of the country regarding where we want to go, how to develop, and share ideas.

Dan reported that he and Blanche traveled to Albany to meet with Jillion Kasow Esq. Director, Senator Pamela Helming's staff person to discuss the Waterfront resolution, and encourage support for the proposed upcoming resolutions. Dan stated that Jillion will be working to reactive the Waterfront bill with the Assemblies changes and reintroduce for possible passing of this bill. Jillion will discuss the resolutions regarding the program C funding with Senator Helming. This may take a bit longer because this is a changing of District Law and everyone involved will need to be in full agreement. Ron stated he discussed this with Brian Steinmuller, Assistant State Director and the State Committee is in full support of the change.

Dan stated that at this point there are three (3) old resolutions with NYACD that did not receive sponsorship support, so NYACD will hold off on moving these forward now.

Dan encouraged the NYACD Board to reach out to their Legislators locally and encourage them to purchase a page for the annual meeting booklet.

Dan stated the 9-90's received a six (6) month extension, which means they will be ready for the annual meeting.

Dan reminded Tom Nicholas, that Tom and Chuck Colby are the nominating committee and should be reaching out to a couple of the other board members for assistance.

Dan requested the Board to contact Blanche if there is a District that would like to find out more about NYACD. Dan stated Blanche can always schedule a visit to meet with them. Also, if there are any NYACD members that attend a District, please let Blanche know, so she can include it in her monthly Director/District letter.

Dan stated that Blanche is doing an excellent job and he is looking forward to the annual meeting.

Interim Executive Director - Blanche reported that she received another resolution, which she provided to the Board for review. This is from Warren County SWCD regarding Resolution #1 of 2017.

Blanche reported that she has written letters as Dan requested to Senators & Assembly folks she will be working with to properly introduce herself.

Blanche reported that she has created a spread sheet of the NYACD Board and the NYSCDEA' Board/Division representatives contact information to be mailed to Districts and District Chairs with monthly update letter.

Blanche reported the annual event registrations have been completed and emailed to Districts and added to NYACD website. Registrations have started to come in and we have about forty-seven (47) registered. Blanche reported she is sending Silent Auction/Raffle item requests weekly to Districts along with registration requests for the annual event. Blanche reported in the next few weeks she will be preparing material for the annual event.

Blanche reported that she could secure a training session on the new Family Leave Act law related to employees. This will take about a half hour, so she set it up for directly after the annual meeting.

Blanche reported that she has been working on spread sheets for the NYACD meeting motions, polices, and resolutions. Blanche stated she will be working on a booklet with this information in it for easy access.

Division Director & Representatives –

- a. Division I - Jim reported other than the Division I, meeting held on July 20th at 6:00 pm he had little to report on. There was five-eight counties present, he felt it was a very good meeting.
- b. Division II – No report
- c. Division III – No report
- d. Division IV - No report
- e. Division V – Frank reported that he had very little to report. He was invited to an employee’s meeting in Westport and could attend that meeting. He had requested travel reimbursement and received payment.
- f. Division VI – No report
- g. Division VII – No report
- h. Division VIII – Rob reported that Jennifer Clifford was an immense help with the close-out of their grants. Rob thanked Greg for the help with the NRCS grant. Their ag management practices are up to speed with the planning and practices. Their staff is busy finalizing contracts and Rob is working with employee Division Representative to schedule a division meeting.

A question was asked as to how the mileage reimbursement works and if NYACD would pay for the Board members to travel to and from the NYACD Annual meeting. Along with what the time for the October Tuesday evening meeting would begin.

After some discussion, it was determined to put a motion into place. The present mileage reimbursement is set at \$.54 per mile.

- A motion was made by Ron Montesi second by Jim Bricks to reimburse the NYACD Board mileage traveling both ways for the NYACD Annual meeting. One (1) opposed/Carried. **#8/30/17 = D**

Committee Reports:

- a. **Finance Committee** - Nothing new to report
- b. **Public Affairs/Communications** – Nothing to report
- c. **Long Range Planning** – Nothing to report
- d. **Legislative** – Nothing to report

- e. **Resolutions & By-Laws** – Chuck Colby, Tom Nichols and Lindsey Gerstenslger, Wayne Co. SWCD make-up the By-Laws committee. Tom reported that they finally could hold a meeting, but unfortunately Lindsey was unable to attend. There were not any major changes to the by-laws. The requested change is in Article 5 Section I Sub E to add former after current or;
Tom stated this will create continuity with the Boards ability to go back and pull these previous District Board members, as well as, flexibility to cover Directors and officers such as; the present treasurer. It will widen our pool for future Directors.

The decision to have an Division Director and an alternate to have two voting members from each county has not been very successful. This came from the long-range planning committee.

Tom and Chuck both feel that the previous recommended changes to the By-Laws had too much detail and being simple helps give clear understanding of the By-Laws.

- f. **Education & Envirothon** – Blanche reported the NYS Envirothon 2018 event will be held Wednesday, May 23rd and Thursday, May 24th, 2018 at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY.
- g. **NYS SWCC:** Ron had nothing new to report, but a question was asked why it appeared that the same Districts year-after-year seem to be receiving the major amount of funding.

Ron explained that there are some good District grant writing folks and these grant proposals are ranked equally. Some Districts receive matching funding through other grants, and landowner funds, which make them more competitive. Ron stated there are many factors that are considered during the ranking process, that will raise a grant up or down in ranking level.

VI. Old Business –

Credit Card Policy:

Blanche provided the Board in advance of the meeting a copy of the drafted updated Credit Card Policy for review, discussion, and approval.

- A motion was made by Frank Thomas second by Ron Montesi to approve the updated Credit Card Policy as written. Carried. **#8/30/2017 = E**

VII. New Business:

2018 NYACD Budget:

Dan reviewed the 2018 NYACD Budget with the Board pointing out, that additional funds have been placed in sections for the increased monthly mailings, mileage for Executive Director, since she will be travel to Districts.

Ron stated that the financial committee did a nice work and created a good budget for 2018.

- A motion was made by Sam Casella second by Ron Montesi to accept the 2018 budget as presented. Carried. **#8/30/2017 = F**

Legislative Days:

Dan suggested that the Board think about how they want to handle Legislative Days this next year such as; host it as we have in the past, continue with the hand-out booklet, or provide the booklet to all Districts for local Directors to visit with their Legislators at their home office. This was tabled until the October meeting date.

Resolutions:

Blanche provided the Board with a copy of a resolution provided by Warren County SWCD regarding resolution #1 of 2017 requesting NYACD to work with NYSDEC Division of Water to evaluate the change to the eligible expenses and work toward a more equitable solution. Blanche inquired if the Board wanted to move forward with this resolution for the NYACD Annual meeting.

- A motion was made by Ron Montesi second by Jim Bricks to accept the Warren County SWCD Resolution as written. Carried. **#8/30/2017 = G**

VIII. Adjournment:

- *A motion was made by Ron Montesi second by Sam Casella to adjourn the meeting. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. #8/30/2017 = H*

IX. Next Meeting Teleconference: No meeting for September. The next meeting date will be held at the NYACD Annual meeting, Hampton Inn, Cazenovia at 6:00 p.m.

Motions August 30, 2017 Meeting:

#8/30/2017 = A *Approval July Minutes*
#8/30/2017 = B *Approval July Finances*
#8/30/2017 = C *Approval Bill Payments*
#8/30/2017 = D *Approval Mileage Annual Meeting*
#8/30/2017 = E *Credit Card Policy*
#8/30/2017 = F *2018 NYACD Budget*
#8/30/2017 = G *Approval Adjourn*

Partner's Report:

From employee's Assc –

- Conservation skills registrations are currently out and we encourage all to attend.

- starting work on the WQS for 2018 it will be in Syracuse again

- We are working on developing a new sediment and erosion control certification for NY state and hope to have that rolled out soon – more info to come.

Steve Lorraine

District Manager

Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District

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