



Meeting Minutes Hampton Inn, Cazenovia
October 17, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Dan Farrand, Pres.	Ron Montesi, 1 st V. Pres.
Bill Peoples, Treas.	James Bricks, Div. I
Chuck Colby, Secretary	Ernie Swift, Div. IV
Rob Carpenter, Div. VIII	Tom Nichols, Past Pres. (arrived 8p.m.)
Scott Ryan, 2 nd V. Pres.	Blanche Hurlbutt, Interim Ex. Dr.

Absent:

Sam Casella, Member @Lg.
Steve Lorraine, NYSCDEA'
Frank Thomas, Div. V

Guests/Partners:

Partners: Dennis DeWeese, NRCS Eric Hansen, NE NACD,

Guests: Jeff & Velynda Parker, Steuben SWCD, Darlene Farrand, Marilyn Peoples, Elaine Aldridge, Guests

Call to Order: Dan Farrand, Pres. Called the meeting to order 7:00 p.m.

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

II. Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes:

- *Motion by Ron Montesi second by Bill Peoples to approve the August minutes as written. Carried. #10/17/2017 = A*
- *Motion by Ron Montesi second by Scott Ryan to approve the September minutes as written. Carried. #10/17/2017 = B*

III. Treasurer's Report:

August & September Treasurer's Report & Bills to be paid:

- *Motion by Ron Montesi second by Jim Brick to approve August treasurer's report as presented. Carried. #10/17/2017 = C*
- *A motion by Jim Bricks second by Ron Montesi to pay all the requested August bills presented. Carried. #10/17/2017 = D*

- *A motion by Ron Montesi second by Scott Ryan to approve the September Treasurer's report as written. Carried. #10/17/2017 = E*
- *A motion by Ron Montesi second by Scott Ryan to pay all the requested September bills presented. Carried. #10/17/2017 = F*

Bill wanted to first express his thanks and appreciation to Suffolk Co. SWCD for their donation of \$1,000.00.

Bill reported on the assessments paid in full (41), partly (5), and unpaid (12). It was discussed those that have not paid the full assessment or at all will not be able to vote at the annual meeting.

Bill discussed the budget overage items and the reasons for each overage. It was discussed to move lodging of \$400 over to transportation for the Executive Director.

- *A motion by Ernie Swift second by Rob Carpenter to move the requested funds as discussed. Carried. #10/17/2017 = G*

IV. Partners Reports:

V.

NYACDEA' Report: Steve Lorraine was unable to attend but requested Velynda Parker present report in his stead. Velynda reported that Conservation Skills was held with 141 present for classes Monday – Friday.

Velynda reported RFP's for Sediment Erosion Control certification as it relates to the burden of maintaining certification.

Velynda reported that the Water Quality Symposium has been scheduled for March 2018 and will be held at the Double Tree in Syracuse. The Vice President and committee members have been working on classes. Award nomination requests are out, and a due date has been determined.

Velynda reported the next NYACDEA' will be a two-day meeting with the date to be announced.

NRCS Report: Dennis DeWeese shared that Greg Kist would be attending the event on Wednesday and is doing very well considering his health issue.

Dennis reported that there is a great deal of things going on related to the USDA new strategic plan as it relates to Farm Bureau and NRCS. Along with the administrative transitions there will be a reduction and more sharing off the vehicles. The work load allocations will be distributed amount the staff as the merger proceeds. Customer service is very important.

Dennis reported that there has been a nomination for the appointed position of Under Secretary of Missions, but has not been confirmed.

Dennis reported the NRCS fiscal year ended October 1st and they are working on a continuing resolution until December 8th under last year's funding.

The Board and guests had questions for Dennis as it related to the lack of NRCS engineer staff. Dennis stated NRCS has concerns with the inability to fill engineer positions. They are working on possible hires, but at this point are unable to hire any fresh staff.

It was asked if the NYACD Board and Steve Lorraine, President NYSCDEA' could meet with the Deputy Director to address their concerns related to lack of NRCS staff and the need for Engineer and NRCS staff statewide. Dennis feels that could be a good possibility, but reminded the Board that the hiring is selected nationally not locally, as well as, the hiring freeze.

NE NACD: Eric Hansen reported NE NACD's concern with the NRCS hiring freeze. The department/agency hiring then proposing in budget NRCS budget cuts. NACD working on hire encouraging NRCS to hire.

Eric reported that NACD and NRCS have entered into a contract for 10 million with 80% for EQIP and 20% Conservation Plans. This would cover hiring 180 full time staff across the country for one year. NRCS/District could hire one person as full time/part time shared employee. There would be an approved and signed contract. The funding would go straight to the approved District as opposed to the State Committee. The necessary paperwork will out in November. The funds will be disturbed by March. You don't necessarily have to have the staff person hired by then. This is a 20% match of in-kind or cash. New York is in decent shape to receive this funding compared to other states.

Eric was asked if this position would be competitive and he stated this could be an issue. The person would go to the District that have written and implemented EQIP. Eric was asked if the funds could hire an engineer and share throughout the state. Eric was unsure if that would be possible.

It was asked of Eric to take back to his folks the request to hire an engineer.

Eric 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.

New York needs to look at the folks they would consider sending to this meeting. Ron Montesi said he would consider attending this meeting. The cost will be covered by the funding provided. NYACD needs to let Eric know as soon as possible who will be attending on their behalf. Steve Lorraine, President NYSCDEA' needs to be notified to select who they will be sending.

- *A motion was made by Rob Carpenter second by Scott Ryan to send Ron Montesi and Dan Farrand to represent NYACD. Carried. #10/17/17 = H*

VI. Board Report:

President –

Dan reported that he gave up his seat as the NE NACD President at the Vermont meeting. Denise from Connecticut replaced Dan and Linda from New Hampshire is now Vice President.

Dan stated that March 5th & 6th will be Legislative Days, if this Board feels we should continue hosting this event. After much discussion the Board felt that we should continue to host the Legislative Days. The concern if we did not continue this we would lose our momentum and credibility may be lost.

Dan stated that Blanche will still need to and meet with Legislative Committee Chairs on behalf of NYACD.

Dan stated Blanche will be working on creating a booklet with District projects including before/after photos with descripts of those projects to be provided to the Legislators. The Districts can also use these booklets to provide to their local Legislators during the year. NYACD needs to encourage Districts to meet with their local Legislators. We still need to meet with the finance/real resources/DEC Committee Chairs and the State Senator & Assemblyman.

Dan reported that the Waterfront Revitalization bill will have a different bill provided once it is presented to the Legislators in January. Dan reported that when Blanche and

he met with Jillian Kasow, Director and Counsel Legislative Commission on Rural Resources for Senator Pam Helming, Chair and Jillian inquired how and what Part A, B, and C worked.

Interim Executive Director - 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 that everything is set for the annual event. There are 80 folks registered with more than half staying overnight. Silent Auction/Raffle items have been requested and some have been received with more expected. The tour went off and comments it was a good tour with 19 out of the 28 attending. Instructors are set and expected to attend as requested. Assemblyman Bill Magee will be unable to attend the banquet Wednesday evening due to falling and crack/breaking four ribs. Keisha Tatem, NRCS will replace Leonard Jordan, Acting NRCS NE Chief. All necessary projects, programs, packets, are prepared and ready.

Bill Peoples wanted to express to the Board how much he has enjoyed working with Blanche these last five months. Bill went on to say how much he appreciated the weekly reports. Bill expressed his thanks to Blanche for her hard work and to Velynda Parker for creating a binder of hard copies of all emails from Blanche and Dan. This all makes Bill's job so much easier.

Division Director & Representatives –

- a. Division I - Jim reported that he has encouraged Orleans to pay their dues, but now they have not.
- b. Division II – No report
- c. Division III – No report
- d. Division IV - Ernie reported that he will schedule a joint Division IV meeting after things slow down.
- e. Division V – Frank unable to attend, no report provided.
- f. Division VI – No report
- g. Division VII – No report
- h. Division VIII – Rob reported they have been very busy working on completing projects, but not much else to discuss. Rob will be working with NYSCDEA' Division VIII Representative, Ann Marie to schedule a meeting in the spring.

Committee Reports:

- a. **Finance Committee** - Nothing new to report
- b. **Public Affairs/Communications** – Nothing to report
- c. **Long Range Planning** – Rob reported that we need to plan, act on more funding, support qualified people on the Board and build on it. Goals to look at possible assistance from different organizations. Create a financial plan to provide sponsors showing what we have, what we need. We should reach out to wind towers for possible financial support. A good start to strengthen NYACD find more funds to do projects.
- d. **Legislative** – Nothing to report
- e. **Resolutions & By-Laws** –Tom Nichols reported the only change is in Article 5 Section I Sub E to add former after current or;

The resolutions were prepared, mailed at appropriate time to all Districts and Directors.

- 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. All is going well and there will be a monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 31st at Steuben Co. SWCD office.
- g. **NYS SWCC:** Nothing to report.

VII. Old Business –

Slate of Offices: Tom reported that he will be recommending to the Directors at the annual meeting to select the current slate of officers for another year.

VIII. New Business:

National NACD Meeting: Dan reported that he will be requesting Steuben Co. SWCD to pay for him to attend the national NACD meeting for 2018. This is an important meeting to attend and he encouraged the Board to attend. Dan feels there should be at least two NYACD Board members attending this event, which will be held in Nashville. The event dates are January 27-31, 2018. The decision as to who will attend to represent NYACD will be determined at the November meeting.

Chuck Colby reported that his Board will be sending him to the national meeting, but he may need help with some of the cost.

Director Training: Dan suggested that NYACD host a one-day training session for the NY Directors on roles and responsibilities by Mike Brown. The Board felt this was a clever idea and Dan advised Blanche to contact Mike Brown.

IX. Executive Session:

- *A motion was made by Scott Ryan second by Ron Montesi to go into executive session to discuss employment contract. #10/17/2017 = I*

9:15 p.m. Entered executive session.

- *A motion was made by Bill Peoples second by Ernie Swift to move back into regular session. #10/17/2017 = J*

9:32 p.m. Entered back in to regular session

- *A motion was made by Ron Montesi second by Bill Peoples to hire Blanche Hurlbutt as NYACD permanent part-time Executive Director for one year with renewable capability effective January 1, 2018 at the rate of \$25.00 per hour. Carried.*

X. Adjournment:

- *A motion was made by Ron Montesi second Bill Peoples to adjourn the meeting. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. #10/17/2017 = K*

XI. Next Meeting Teleconference: Next meeting date Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. this will be a teleconference.

Motions October 17, 2017 Meeting:

- #10/17/2017 = A *Approval August Minutes***
- #10/17/2017 = B *Approval September Minutes***
- #10/17/2017 = C *Approval August Finances***
- #10/17/2017 = D *Approval August Bill Payment***
- #10/17/2017 = E *Approval September Finances***
- #10/17/2017 = F *Approval September Bill Payment***
- #10/17/2017 = G *Approval 2018 Budget Funds***
- #10/17/2017 = H *Approval National NACD meeting***
- #10/17/2017 = I *Approval Move into Executive Session***
- #10/17/2017 = J *Approval Move into Regular Session***
- #10/17/2017 = K *Approval Adjourn***