

**SENECA TRAIL RC&D
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2006
MINUTES**

President, Frederick Sinclair, called the business meeting of the Seneca Trail RC&D Council to order at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2006.

Participants included:

Allegany County – Cavagna, Sinclair, Ungerman
Cattaraugus County –
Chautauqua County – Brown, Ormond, Rater
Livingston County –
Wyoming County – Dominesey, McKurth
Seneca Nation of Indians –
District Staff – Wilson
NRCS Staff – Halbohm, Halter, Kurtis, Snyder
Interested Parties – Joseph Edwards, Ruth Lundin, Joyce Ormond,
Rose Wightman

A quorum was present.

MINUTES – Motion made by Earl Dominesey to approve the June 8, 2006 minutes. **Seconded** by Larry Brown. **Carried.**

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Fred read two thank you’s from students involved in the Grassland Evaluation Contest.

The Great Lakes Funding Letter of Intent was signed and forwarded to secure the funding for the Wyoming County Projects (Jillson Road and Exchange Street).

The final reports for the Prescribed Grazing Implementation Project and the Centaur Stride Erosion and Sediment Control Project were signed and forwarded to the Great Lakes program administrators.

The broadening scope of the Conewango Project from a focus on the swamp to the entire Conewango Creek watershed and performance of a rapid watershed assessment is a task we need to brace ourselves and begin planning for.

TREASURER’S REPORT – The Treasurer’s report was presented as prepared by R.A. Mercer. **Motion** made by Greg McKurth to accept the Treasurer’s Report pending an audit. **Seconded** by Larry Rater. **Carried.** **Motion** made by Greg McKurth to pay bills totaling \$24,066.63. **Seconded** by Larry Rater. **Carried.**

ALLEGANY COUNTY REPORT – No written report available.

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY REPORT – The Cattaraugus County RC&D Committee met on Thursday, August 3, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. A written report was presented. The next meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2006. Report attached.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY REPORT – The Chautauqua County RC&D Committee has not met and no written report was available. However, today’s tour will highlight 2

recently completed RC&D projects in Chaut. Co. Dave Wilson has a book with step by step pictures of the Chautauqua Creek Streambank Stabilization Project which is the first stop on the tour. Our second stop will be the Centaur Stride Erosion and Sediment Control Project. The next meeting date will be announced.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY REPORT – No written report available.

WYOMING COUNTY REPORT – Greg McKurth presented a written report on current RC&D projects. The next meeting will be announced. Report attached.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT – *Project Updates:* Conewango Rapid Watershed Assessment (Chaut. and Catt. Counties): Received a confirmation letter from Thomas Christensen, Deputy Chief for Programs confirming the selection of Seneca Trail RC&D Council for the implementation of a Rapid Watershed Assessment in the Conewango Creek Watershed. A meeting with the Conewango Creek Watershed Association and interested participants took place on June 30. Information from the NRCS State Office on the contract is pending until statewide concerns with the RWA methodology are addressed.

Grazing Land Implementation Project (Allegheny, Catt. and Wyoming Counties): The final report to the Great Lakes Commission concerning the success of the Grazing Land Implementation Project was completed and delivered on July 13. Over 23,000 feet of stream bank fencing to exclude livestock from streams, rivers and ponds was installed as well as 7 alternative water sources for those farms. Reimbursement for expenses is pending.

Centaur Stride Erosion and Sediment Control Project (Chautauqua County): The final report for the Centaur Stride Erosion and Sediment Control Project was completed and sent to the Great Lakes Commission on July 12. Approximately 1200 feet of tile outlet diversion, 600 feet of waterline and 200 feet of laneway were installed to eliminate the gully erosion from the pasture. The project will greatly improve the quality and safety of the pasture for the horses while reducing sedimentation into Chautauqua Creek. Reimbursement for expenses is pending.

Chautauqua Creek Stream Bank Stabilization Project (Chautauqua County): Construction on the stabilization of 500 feet of severely eroding stream bank less than 400 feet upstream from the mouth of the creek into Lake Erie has been completed. Over 2000 tons of rock riprap have been placed and stacked along the stream bank to protect the site from further damage. The RC&D Council was instrumental in obtaining \$175,000 in grants from the Great Lakes Commission and Fish America Foundation for the restoration of prime steelhead trout habitat and the elimination of 900 tons of soil erosion from the site.

Meetings/ Other Activities: Approximately 24 hours spent on entering Council and project data into POINTS, provided POINTS training to RC&D secretary; participated in EQIP Watershed teleconference; attended RC&D Area Planning training in Denver, Co. from 7/17 to 21.

The Pedestrian Timber Bridges are next on the list of high priorities.

Fred Sinclair requested that JoAnn send the representing counties information on how their project benefits NRCS according to the 5 goals addressed in their strategic Plan and more specifically in POINTS.

OLD BUSINESS –It was the consensus of the Council to devote 30 minutes at each council meeting to address the Long Rang Plan during the next 18 months.

The Council again tabled the review of the Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct. Council members are asked to look over the two documents and bring their comments to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – Mark Pouthet gave an enlightening presentation on the history of Cross Roads. He handed out brochures and outlined the working structure of the membership.

Earl Dominesey reported on the 2006 National Conference of RC&D Councils. Much emphasis was on the participation of Native Americans. The council expressed its appreciation to Earl for his willingness to travel to the meeting.

The following people were appointed to the Budget Committee: Fred Sinclair, Larry Brown, and Greg McKurth. Lori will send a copy of the current budget to these members.

At this time Amanda Kurtis presented a new Seneca Trail RC&D Web Site she developed for the Council. The Council was pleased with the presentation and suggested that Amanda put this new format up on the site and Council members can review it on line and make comments at the next meeting.

Mid-Atlantic RC&D Strategic Plan was tabled until the next meeting.

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2006 in Wyoming County.

Motion made by Larry Brown to adjourn. **Seconded** by Greg McKurth. **Carried.**

The meeting was followed by a tour of the Chautauqua Creek Streambank Stabilization Project and the Centaur Stride Erosion and Sediment Control Project.

Frederick Sinclair Date
President

Lawrence Brown Date
Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded by Lori Snyder

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