

**SENECA TRAIL RC&D
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2007
MINUTES**

President, Gregory McKurth, called the regular business meeting of the Seneca Trail RC&D Council to order at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 11, 2007.

Participants included:

Allegany County – Cavagna, Parmenter, Sinclair
Cattaraugus County – Ellis, Ormond
Chautauqua County –
Livingston County – Kanouse
Wyoming County – Dominesey, McKurth
Seneca Nation of Indians –
District Staff –
NRCS Staff – Kurtis, Snyder
Interested Parties –

A quorum was present.

MINUTES – Notice was sent immediately following the August 17, 2007 meeting requesting actions be approved by voice vote due to the lack of a quorum. Voice votes were received and recorded in official minute's binder. **Motion** made by Colleen Cavagna to approve the August 17, 2007 minutes as presented. **Seconded** by Pete Kanouse. **Carried.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Greg reported that he continued to work on the Timber Bridge project with JoAnn and others. A request for a change in scope was submitted to NYS OPRHP. Still waiting for confirmation of the necessary permits. Need to prepare a GIS map showing the locations of the four remaining bridges.

Dry Hydrant Maintenance Project – Need to locate all existing dry hydrants within the RC&D area via GPS unit which was purchased through the program funds in order to develop a complete GIS map.

Conewango Rapid Watershed Assessment – Reviewed proposal for the Conewango Creek Watershed Curator position. Need to create a GIS map of the entire watershed with potential areas of concern. Need to develop a duty statement/job description for the “curator” position. Once the project is finished the potential for additional funding will be increased because the ground work has been completed. Greg suggested that JoAnn send a letter to each participating SWCD Board pointing out the opportunity that has been set before us regarding the potential for future funds for the Conewango.

GLCI – Extended the current GLCI Agreement with Helen Terry, Seneca Trail RC&D Council Grazing Advocate to continue assistance on several farms in Wyom. & Liv. Co. in the development of rotational grazing plans through December 31, 2007.

Area Plan Development – Please review the plan and fill in the blanks. The plan needs to be finalized by the December Council meeting.

40th Anniversary Committee – The planning committee needs to meet via teleconference soon!

Meetings – October 2, 2007 teleconference with budget committee to discuss 2008 Council Budget.

At this time Greg made an Award Presentation to Fred Sinclair. Fred was selected by the Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association to receive the “Outstanding Performance by a Council Member Award” at the September Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association meeting. Congratulations and thanks to you for your many years of effort and contribution as a Council Member and your leadership as President!

TREASURER’S REPORT – The Treasurer’s report was presented as prepared by R.A. Mercer. **Motion** made by Jim Ellis to accept the Treasurer’s Report pending an audit. **Seconded** by Al Ormond. **Carried.** Presentation of Bills to be Paid – change in FUNDS for 8/30/07 – Helen A. Terry - \$40.00 for Meeting with Darrell Emmick from OFF to GLCI’06. **Motion** made by Pete Kanouse to pay bills totaling \$8098.89. **Seconded** by Tom Parmenter. **Carried.**

ALLEGANY COUNTY REPORT – The Allegany County RC&D Committee has not met recently, however Colleen reported that the SWCD Board sent a letter to Assemblyman Daniel Burling regarding the funding of New York’s Agritourism Trail and a pilot program that covered 22 counties in New York under the NY Agritourism & Education Program.

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY REPORT – The Cattaraugus County RC&D Committee met on Thursday, October 4, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. A written report was presented. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. Report attached.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY REPORT – The Chautauqua County RC&D Committee met on Monday, September 10, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. A written report was presented. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 5, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Report attached.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY REPORT – Pete Kanouse reported that he has been working on EQIP programs. Helen Terry, Grazing Advocate has been working with several producers in Liv. Co. Pete has also completed 2 Non-Point Source grant applications. Greg thanked Pete for his help in acquiring a meeting place and securing a nearby farm for our Pasture Walk this afternoon.

WYOMING COUNTY REPORT – The joint Wyoming County RC&D Committee/ Water Quality Committee met on Thursday, September 20, 2007. Next meeting date to be announced. Report attached.

COORDINATOR’S REPORT – JoAnn presented the Council with her report. Report attached.

OLD BUSINESS – The Council reviewed an updated draft Long Range Plan in spreadsheet form. Council members will review and return input to the office by **November 2, 2007**. The Area plan needs to be approved at the December 6, 2007 meeting.

The Budget Committee presented the 2008 Draft Budget for review. It will be brought before the Council for vote at the December meeting.

The 40th Anniversary Showcase committee will meet in the near future via teleconference. Using the list of projects, contact persons involved and get pictures and/or testimonials to showcase projects. We will plan to set up a luncheon with Premier Banquet Center for the 1st week in June.

Greg will review the STW contract for the Ag Tourism project.

The \$30,000 for the Curator can be used as a match for the RWA grant. The Draft Rapid Watershed Assessment Profile was presented to the Council and comments have been made and returned to State Office for their work in preparing a needs list.

The bids for the Curator position are due back by October 30, 2007. **Motion** made by Fred Sinclair to allow President McKurth to enter into the most favorable proposal. **Seconded** by Al Ormond. **Carried**.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW PROJECT MEASURES – Gerald R. Bertoldo contacted the RC&D office to submit the Improving Field Necropsy Use & Value Project Measure for consideration. The project goals are to gather untapped information from mortalities to address management practices and profitability. **Motion** made by Colleen Cavagna to approve the Improving Field Necropsy Use & Value Project Measure. **Seconded** by Pete Kanouse. **Carried**.

CLOSEOUT OF PROJECT MEASURES – **Motion** made by Fred Sinclair to close out the following projects and transfer the remaining balance to the Net Council Funds: Venison Donation Coalition; Video Project; Envirothon; and Grazing Systems Practices. **Seconded** by Jim Ellis. **Carried**.

MID-ATLANTIC – Dave Wilson was the Mid-Atlantic RC&D Assoc. representative to attend the Mid-Atlantic RC&D meeting September 17-19, 2007. Lori will send copies of the report along with the info sheet entitled “7 Characteristics of Successful RC&D’s”.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – The Council as a whole acted as nominating committee and will recommend to the Board that the current slate of officers be presented for vote at the December meeting.

OTHER – JoAnn presented a USDA NRCS Board Diversity handout - Adding Diversity to the Conservation Partnership. The Council discussed various ways to encourage diversity in its structure and membership.

Motion made by Fred Sinclair to approve the cleaning and repair of the office typewriter for approximately \$68.00. **Seconded** by Pete Kanouse. **Carried.**

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2007 at the Ellicottville Service Center.

Motion made by Colleen Cavagna to adjourn. **Seconded** by Jim Ellis. **Carried.**

Greg McKurth
President

Date

Lawrence Brown
Secretary/Treasurer

Date

Recorded by Lori Snyder

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