

**SENECA TRAIL RC&D  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2006  
MINUTES**

President, Frederick Sinclair, called the business meeting of the Seneca Trail RC&D Council to order at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2006.

Participants included:

Allegany County – Parmenter, Sinclair  
Cattaraugus County – Ellis, Germain, Krause  
Chautauqua County – Brown  
Livingston County – Booth  
Wyoming County – Dominesey, Gozelski, McKurth  
Seneca Nation of Indians –  
District Staff –  
NRCS Staff – Kurtis, Snyder  
Interested Parties –

A quorum was present.

**MINUTES – Motion** made by Jim Ellis to approve the December 15, 2005 minutes as amended. **Seconded** by Joseph Gozelski. **Carried**.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Fred Sinclair presented a handout on Making Government More Effective. This included an explanation of the prioritization of the RC&D funding and gave a funding overview. Fred suggested that the Council members initiate a strong communication link with our Legislators while working on becoming more self-sufficient and using our 501 © (3) status more effectively.

Jim Booth, Larry Brown and Earl Dominesey would like to be included on the Capacity Committee.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** – The Treasurer’s report was presented as prepared by R.A. Mercer. **Motion** made by Charles Krause to accept the Treasurer’s Report pending an audit. **Seconded** by Joseph Gozelski. **Carried**. **Motion** made by Joseph Gozelski to pay bills totaling \$3,899.16. **Seconded** by Jim Ellis. **Carried**.

**ALLEGANY COUNTY REPORT** – Fred Sinclair reported that Norman Ungerman is the new Legislative Representative appointed to the RC&D Council. Fred will meet with Norm and bring him up to date on RC&D.

**CATTARAUGUS COUNTY REPORT** – The Cattaraugus County RC&D Committee met on Thursday, February 2, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. A written report was presented. The next meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2006. Report attached.

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY REPORT** – The Chautauqua County RC&D Committee met on Monday, January 9, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. A written report was presented. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2006. Report attached.

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY REPORT** – No written report available.

**WYOMING COUNTY REPORT** – The Wyoming County RC&D Committee meeting was postponed and no written report was available. However, Greg McKurth reported that he has been working on a proposal for a wind farm with 80 wind mills. At least 4 companies will be involved at various sites in Wyoming County. Greg is also working on the Town of Attica Streambank Stabilization Project and has requested engineering services from the Area Office for several other projects.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT** – JoAnn updated the Council on the following projects:  
Grazing Implementation Plan (Area wide)

A Great Lakes Commission grant was obtained to assist 7 farms in the Great Lakes Watershed to implement water quality improvement projects in conjunction with their rotational grazing plans. To date over 10,000 feet of stream bank fencing, 2000' of waterline and numerous stream crossings have been installed on five of the farms. Due to adverse weather conditions, an extension of the grant deadline was obtained. This extension was set to expire on December 30<sup>th</sup>, a request for an additional extension was sought and approved so that the remaining practices can be installed in the spring of 2006.

Ceres Metro Farm Project (Cattaraugus County)

A request went out to all Council members for information on each Counties' Industrial Development Agencies and public power communities. This information was relayed to Ceres Metro Farm for their action on where to site the aquaponics business.

2006 GLCI Advocate Program (Area wide)

The Council approved the contracts with two new grazing advocates to implement the project. Don Wild and I went to work with Advocate Helen Terry to provide Rotational Grazing plan training. We visited the Schade Farm in Wyoming County to plan a grazing system for a 40+ goat farm. Advocate Pat Lango has declined the contract due to his time constraints related to his new business.

Recreational Timber Bridge Project (Area wide)

The engineering of the eight bridges appears to be at a stand-still with seven of the bridges designed, the eighth is awaiting a field visit to determine the reason behind the bank failure. All of the maps that relate to the sites have been sent to the DEC Permitting office for review and permits applications are underway. A request for a one year extension for the construction of the bridges has been approved by the NYS OPRHP.

Conewango Creek Watershed Project (Chaut. and Catt. Counties)

The Council was interested in developing a pamphlet on the watershed to distribute to officials and groups interested in partnering with the Council to moving forward with the watershed coordinator position. A draft of the pamphlet has been developed. The Conewango Creek Watershed Association and the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy met to discuss partnership efforts.

Naturalist Video Project (Chautauqua County)

Four copies of the naturalist interviews were transferred to DVD's for distribution to partner sites. One set of the six hour DVD was provided to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, one set to the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency, who provided the funds, one set will stay in the Council office, and one set will be delivered to the Chautauqua County Historical Society for archiving. Chautauqua County IDA has

copied an additional six copies to distribute to local colleges in both Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties.

#### Grassland Evaluation Project (State wide)

The Grassland Evaluation committee met to start planning this event. Mary Kerstetter obtained a copy of the PA study guide which will be modified for New York. A presentation was made to the NRCS Management Team for their approval for NRCS employees to assist with the promotion and operation of this state-wide contest. FFA and 4-H state program managers have agreed to help promote the contest to the students in their respective programs. FFA will host the downloadable study guide on their website.

#### *Meetings/ Other Activities:*

##### 2005 Open Space Plan

Attended DEC/NYSOPRHP Open Space Planning meeting in Bath to discuss the draft 2005 Open Space Plan. Inquired about the inclusion of farmland protection statements into the plan for DEC Regions 8 and 9.

##### RFP 952

A proposal was submitted to NYSERDA for the collection of digester and other manure collection system data. The proposal included working with the local SWCD to collect and ship samples on a scheduled basis.

##### NARC&D Conference Success Story

The Upper Cattaraugus Creek Stream bank Stabilization project was submitted as a success story to the NARC&D Councils 2006 National Conference to be held in Savannah Georgia this summer.

**OLD BUSINESS** – A letter was presented from Wendell Thrush stating that he was not able to bid on the Grazing Advocate Position at this time. He also stated that he would like us to consider him again in the future.

#### **NEW BUSINESS** –

**NEW PROJECT MEASURES** – **Motion** made by Earl Dominesey to approve the Car-Bu Farm LLC Sand & Manure Separation with Barn Flush Project. **Seconded** by Larry Brown. **Carried.**

The Council reviewed its' Code of Ethics and Civil Rights Policy. **Motion** made by Charlie Krause that members seek to encourage diversity when filling vacancies on the Council and within the RC&D Committees. **Seconded** by Jim Ellis. **Carried.**

The Draft 2006 Annual Plan of Work was presented to the Council. Please review the draft plan and bring your comments and/or corrections to the April Council meeting.

The appointment of a committee to work on the Long Range Plan was tabled until the April meeting.

Fred Sinclair has been appointed as the Representative to the Federation of RC&D Councils. The Annual NYS Federation of RC&D's meeting will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Syracuse.

