

**SENECA TRAIL RC&D
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 13, 2006
MINUTES**

Vice-President, Charles Krause, called the business meeting of the Seneca Trail RC&D Council to order at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2006.

Participants included:

- Allegany County – Parmenter, Ungerman
- Cattaraugus County – Ellis, Krause
- Chautauqua County – Brown
- Livingston County –
- Wyoming County – Dominesey
- Seneca Nation of Indians –
- District Staff –
- NRCS Staff – Kurtis, Snyder
- Interested Parties –

A quorum was not present.

MINUTES – Motion made by Jim Ellis to approve the February 9, 2006 minutes as presented. **Seconded** by Larry Brown. **Carried**.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Charlie Krause introduced Norm Ungerman, the new Allegany County Legislative Representative. He also read a letter of resignation from Gwen Germain, Cattaraugus County Alternate. Lori will send a letter of appreciation to Gwen Germain.

TREASURER’S REPORT – The Treasurer’s report was presented as prepared by R.A. Mercer. **Motion** made by Earl Dominesey to accept the Treasurer’s Report pending an audit. **Seconded** by Jim Ellis. **Carried**. **Motion** made by Jim Ellis to pay bills totaling \$2,796.78. **Seconded** by Earl Dominesey. **Carried**.

ALLEGANY COUNTY REPORT – No written report available.

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

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY REPORT – The Chautauqua County RC&D Committee met on Monday, March 6, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. A written report was presented. The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2006. Report attached.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY REPORT – No written report available.

WYOMING COUNTY REPORT – No written report available.

COORDINATOR’S REPORT – 2006 GLCI Advocate Program (Area wide): Information was provided to the Advocate under contract with the Council to improve the grazing plans that are being developed. Met with the former advocate to discuss renewing his expired contract for this spring and summer. His current circumstances have changed

and will not allow much planning time, so he declined. The Council will pursue additional advocate options. Three grazing conferences were held in Randolph and Belfast in early March with approximately 175 producers in attendance.

Recreational Timber Bridge Project (Area wide): The application for the stream disturbance permits was submitted to NYS DEC. A flood plain analysis is being requested for 2 of the bridge sites. An engineer to do the study is being sought.

Conewango Creek Watershed Project (Chaut. and Catt. Counties): A pamphlet describing the importance of the Conewango Creek watershed was developed and distribute to local officials. After meeting with the Conewango Creek Watershed Association to discuss the common interest of the Association and the RC&D Council, an application to NRCS for the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, Rapid Watershed Assessment for the Conewango Creek Watershed was submitted to both New York and Pennsylvania State Conservationists. Follow-up to NYS Senator Young concerning the request for matching funds was conducted.

Grassland Evaluation Project (State wide): The Grassland Evaluation committee has continued to meet via teleconference. The draft study guide for New York was completed, reviewed and finalized before being converted to a PDF format for distribution to FFA and 4-H groups. Have received 6 requests from all across the state for information from interested team leaders. Planning for the training session was completed and the session was held at the Auburn SWCD office on March 25th. To date, \$1,600 has been donated for the state-wide contest.

Jillson Roadside Erosion Control Project (Wyoming County): A request for funding for the stabilization of 1335 feet of a steep road ditch was made to the Great Lakes Commission under the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. The road ditch contributes a large sediment load directly into one of the Village of Attica's drinking water reservoirs. Both biotechnical and structural practices are designed to reduce water velocities and trap sediments.

Exchange Street Culvert Erosion Control Project (Wyoming County): A request for funding for the stabilization of the area around a culvert outlet was made to the Great Lakes Commission under the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. The erosion around the outlet is creating unstable soil conditions at the road shoulder and on the adjacent crop fields.

Venison Donation Program (Area wide): 2279.5 pounds of venison was processed by meat processors working through Cattaraugus Community Action in Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties. Additional pounds of venison harvested and donated within the RC&D Council area and collected by Western New York Food Bank and Foodlink are reported through Finger Lakes RC&D Council.

Meetings/ Other Activities:

NY Federation of RC&D Councils teleconference, Grassland Evaluation Committee teleconference, Conewango Creek Watershed Association meeting, New York State District Employees Association training, CCE Computer Access Net meeting, Grassland Evaluation Committee teleconference, NY Federation of RC&D Councils Meeting, Conewango Creek Watershed Association meeting.

Rural Landowners Seminar

Presented an overview of Federal, State and local programs and services that are available to owners of rural land at the 14th Annual Rural Landowner Seminar in Arcade on March 4th. Over 250 people received information concerning NRCS programs including WRP, CSP and EQIP.

JoAnn brought the following up to date information to the Council:

Projects:

Grassland Evaluation Contest: Five teams, the minimum number, have registered to compete in the contest. Tests are being written. Additional funds are beginning sought.

Timber Bridge Project: Both DEC and US ACOE have requested additional information concerning permit applications. The engineering design on the last site is being completed. Cultural Resource reviews were submitted to NYSHPO through NRCS.

GLCI 2005: Helen Terry has asked for an increase in the contract amount for developing plans. Her rate was \$350, she is now asking for \$400 to cover the additional forms that she is now being required by NRCS to complete with the plan. She has completed 1 plan, has 5 in progress and believes that she can complete 2-3 each month during the summer. Cooperative Extension in Chautauqua, Allegany and Wyoming Counties are seeking funding from the Council for the Grazing Conferences that were conducted in February and March. The grant total for the educational components of the GLCI contract is \$4,000, Extensions are requesting: \$1,000 (Chaut.), \$1,000 (Allegany), \$? (Wyoming). Funding is also being sought for support of an Advance Grazers Group that Cooperative Extension in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties are sponsoring.

Grazing Implementation: The grant was extended until June 30, 2006. Permission has been granted from GLC to switch funding from Dana Rudgers to another operation within the same watershed. Don is interested in setting up a demonstration site for a new type of water pump, which is activated by the Cow's nose. All practices need to be completed by June 30.

Chautauqua Creek Stabilization: The site showing was this week and quite a few contractors were on hand to see the site and review the work to be done. Permits are in place and work is scheduled to begin June 1st. Dave Derrick, US ACOE will be on site for a week during construction.

New York Federation of RC&D Councils:

The Federation is asking each Council to appoint a representative and an alternate to attend meetings and teleconferences. Annual Meeting was held March 23rd. The Federation spent a considerable amount of time fine-tuning the 2006 budget and developing a financial policy. The Federation is looking ahead to the end of the program dollars for the Venison Donation Project as is looking for another state-wide project. A Farm to School agricultural program was mentioned.

NRCS:

NRCS has released the RC&D goals for FY 2006.

OLD BUSINESS – Motion made by Earl Dominesey to approve the 2006 Annual Plan of Work. **Seconded** by Tom Parmenter. **Carried.**

The Council tabled the Appointment of a Committee for the Area Long Rang Plan due to the lack of a quorum. Jim Ellis asked about the focus of RC&D and suggested that the council look more to economic development.

A letter was presented from Wendell Thrush stating that he was not able to fill the Grazing Advocate position at this time and asked that the council keep him in mind for future opportunities.

Butch George was at the meeting and gave an updated presentation on the Sand Flush System project. He will continue to update the council as he gets additional information.

NEW BUSINESS – Motion made by Jim Ellis to give Helen Terry an increase in the contract for completed plans due to a change in the requirements. **Seconded** by Larry Brown. **Carried.**

Motion made by Larry Brown to approve lodging and registration for Earl Dominesey to attend the 2006 National Conference on June 18-21, in Savannah, GA. **Seconded** by Jim Ellis. **Carried.**

Charlie Krause has agreed to serve as the alternate representative for the NY Federation of RC&D Councils.

Motion made by Jim Ellis to approve the funding of Alleg., Catt. & Wyom. CCE Pasture Expo's totaling \$2,500 in GLCI funds. **Seconded** by Larry Brown. **Carried.**

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2006 in Allegany County.

Motion made by Larry Brown to adjourn. **Seconded** by Jim Ellis. **Carried.**

All actions at this meeting will be subject to voice vote from absent Council Members.

Frederick Sinclair
President

Date

Lawrence Brown
Secretary/Treasurer

Date

Recorded by Lori Snyder

"All programs and assistance of the RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD)."

**Voice Vote Talley
For
April 13, 2006
Executive Council Meeting**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Fred Sinclair	Allegany County SWCD Rep.	Yes
Vernon Klein	Cattaraugus County SWCD Rep.	Yes
E. Joseph Gozelski	Wyoming County Legislative Rep.	Yes
Greg McKurth	Wyoming County SWCD Rep.	Yes