

**SENECA TRAIL RC&D  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING  
JUNE 8, 2006  
MINUTES**

President, Frederick Sinclair, called the business meeting of the Seneca Trail RC&D Council to order at 10:10 a.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2006.

Participants included:

- Allegany County – Cavagna, Sinclair
- Cattaraugus County –
- Chautauqua County – Brown
- Livingston County – Booth
- Wyoming County – Dominesey, Gozelski, McKurth
- Seneca Nation of Indians –
- District Staff –
- NRCS Staff – Snyder, Wild
- Interested Parties –

A quorum was present.

**MINUTES – Motion** made by Earl Dominesey to approve the April 13, 2006 minutes as amended. **Seconded** by Larry Brown. **Carried**.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Fred introduced Colleen Cavagna, the new Allegany County Alternate Representative.

Fred commented that he is optimistic that we will dodge the funding cut bullet at the Federal level. Rumor has it that both houses have wording that restores the funding to all RC&D offices at last years levels. This allows us to breathe a little easier for 2007, but we need to stay ever mindful of the possibility of cuts in future years.

The Conewango Project application for funding has been set in motion and we have moved forward with our concept of coordinating efforts and planning in the Conewango Watershed. Two applications have been filed with Great Lakes for stream restoration in Wyoming County and we hope these measure plans come to fruition. Revenues in the form of yearly payback are coming in from the Sand Separator project and although small they show how we can generate revenues to make ourselves self sustaining in the future.

The distribution mechanism for the Dry Hydrant evaluation program has been moved from Parks and Recreation to NYS DEC. This was at the advice of Parks after much back and forth over having easements prior to contract. Senator Young’s office is assisting with this modification as it was a member item. The contract conditions of Parks were just too stringent to be workable.

Information on the Pedestrian Bridge project has been forwarded to the NYS DOL for determination of wage rates to be applied to estimating the cost of the project. We are hoping that the final design and permits will be issued soon and the local groups can proceed with organizing their estimates for construction. There may have to be additional fundraising to support construction of all bridges.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – The Treasurer's report was presented as prepared by R.A. Mercer. **Motion** made by Joe Gozelski to accept the Treasurer's Report pending an audit. **Seconded** by Greg McKurth. **Carried.** **Motion** made by Greg McKurth to pay bills totaling \$8,184.31. **Seconded** by Jim Booth. **Carried.**

**ALLEGANY COUNTY REPORT** – The Allegany County RC&D Committee met on Wednesday, June 7, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. A written report was presented. The next meeting date is yet to be announced. Report attached.

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

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY REPORT** – The Chautauqua County RC&D Committee met on Monday, May 1, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. A written report was presented. The next meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2006. Report attached.

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY REPORT** – The Livingston County RC&D Committee met on Wednesday, June 7, 2006. An application for assistance will be presented at today's meeting. The next meeting date is yet to be announced.

**WYOMING COUNTY REPORT** – The Wyoming County RC&D Committee met on Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. A written report was presented. The next meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2006. Report attached.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT** – *Project Updates: 2006 GLCI Advocate Program*  
(Area wide): Met with the contract advocate to review developed plans to insure NRCS standards are being met. 50% Of the contract has been completed

Recreational Timber Bridge Project (Area wide): Work on obtaining the necessary permits for construction continues. Toured three of the proposed sites with an archeologist from the Seneca Nation of Indians to ensure the work being done will not harm Seneca cultural resources.

Grassland Evaluation Project (State wide): Five teams competed in the first annual NY Grassland Evaluation Contest held at the Big Flats Plant Material Center on May 2. Two of the teams were from Belleville Henderson School in Jefferson County, 1 from Cayuga County, 1 from Fillmore Central School in Allegany County and 1 from Cattaraugus/Little Valley School in Cattaraugus County. Belleville Henderson team #1 won the competition with a combined total of 646.6 points out of a possible 1200. Fillmore FFA came in second with 632.5 points. The highest individual score was Justin Hinz from Fillmore with a score of 251.7 out of 400 possible points. The Plant Material Center was chosen as the test location because the center has both warm and cool season grass fields for the students to evaluate. The PMC staff was extremely helpful in preparing the site for the contest, providing plant samples for the students to identify, and opening the center for tours after the contest was completed. Don Wild, Ciro LaPinto, Shanna Shaw and Paul Salon were the station judges. Dianne Naylor, Karen Sullivan, Lori Snyder and JoAnn Kurtis processed and corrected the tests. Bill Henning (CCE) and Mary Kerstetter collected the completed test and delivered them to the administrative area. Bruce Ayers was charged with keeping the contest on schedule. Cherie Sage (ETV) took pictures and Martin Van der Griten welcomed the students to the Plant Material Center and provided tours. Mary Kerstetter talked with all

of the team advisors while their students were taking the tests and Doreene Heffernan, Advisor with Cayuga County 4-H team told her that “the kids could see the practical applications of the contest.” Members of the Fillmore team, 3 juniors and 1 sophomore, indicated that they would definitely be back to compete next year.

The Belleville Henderson team will now travel to Springfield Missouri to represent New York at the Mid-America Grassland Evaluation Contest on June 6-7. Sponsors of the New York competition include Seneca Trail Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D), New York State Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, New York Federation of RC&D Councils, Kencove Farm Fence, Finger Lakes RC&D, Hudson-Mohawk RC&D and USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Jillson Roadside Erosion Control Project (Wyoming County): Still awaiting a decision on funding from the Great Lakes Commission.

Exchange Street Culvert Erosion Control Project (Wyoming County): Still awaiting a decision on funding from the Great Lakes Commission.

Forestry Education (Area wide): Presented Arbor Day program to 5 Kindergarten classes at one of the City of Jamestown elementary schools. Approximately 50% of the students were minority or disadvantaged youth. Each student received a spruce tree seedling to take home to plant. This is the third years of presenting information on the importance of trees and conservation at this school.

Conewango Rapid Watershed Assessment (Chaut. and Catt. Counties): The application for \$50,000 in funding from NRCS under the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative to conduct a rapid watershed assessment of the 900 square mile Conewango Creek Watershed has been sent to Washington D.C. for review. Additional funds from New York State have also been requested. Still awaiting a decision on funding.

Grazing Land Implementation Project (Allegany, Catt. and Wyoming Counties): Permission was obtained from the Great Lakes Commission to replace one program farms that went out of business with a neighboring farm. Construction on the remaining watering systems, fencing and stream crossings is to be completed by June 30. Three of the seven farms have completed all of the conservation practices and are utilizing their grazing systems.

***Meetings/ Other Activities:***

Attended “Working with the Media” training on 4/5, Assisted with the Cattaraugus County Envirothon on 4/26, RC&D Coordinator Meeting on 4/27, Chautauqua County RC&D Committee meeting on 5/1, “Watershed and Stream Restoration Workshop” on 5/10 & 11, NY Federation teleconference on 5/19, NYS Envirothon 5/23-35.

**OLD BUSINESS** –The Council appointed the Executive Committee to review/revise the Area Long Rang Plan.

The Council 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** – Livingston County submitted the Little Lakes Food Festival project measure application to the Council. This festival was started in 2005 featuring locally grown products by small scale producers of the Little Finger Lakes Region. Financial assistance is requested for advertising (\$5,000); repair of restrooms (\$5,000); and site work (\$5,000). **Motion** made by Earl Dominesey to approve the Little Lakes Food Festival project measure. **Seconded** by Larry Brown. **Carried.**

Wyoming County submitted the following project measure applications to the Council:

- 1.) The Schdellkopf Road Bank Stabilization Project has secured initial funding for a solution through Senator Volker's office. The Town of Bennington is looking for an engineering solution to severe stream/road bank erosion and to eliminate a public safety issue. **Motion** made by Larry Brown to approve the Schdellkopf Road Bank Stabilization project measure. **Seconded** by Jim Booth. **Carried.**
- 2.) Ressler's Corn Maize Development Project is seeking to continue to develop a family oriented Agri-Tainment business that will educate the general public on today's agriculture and assist groups and organizations with fund raising (Hunter's Hope, Mercy Flight, etc.). **Motion** made by Larry Brown to approve the Ressler's Corn Maize Development project measure. **Seconded** by Earl Dominesey. **Carried.**

The Council reviewed the Employment Issues for RC&D Councils Fact Sheet provided by the National Assoc. of RC&D Councils.

Don Wild gave the Council a brief update on the Grazing System Practice Implementation Project. There were a total of 7 individual projects, 3 have been closed out and 3 have minor things to complete. We have 1 producer who opted out and we have transferred that money over to a new producer in hopes that we can accomplish the work before the deadline.

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 2006 in Chautauqua County.

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

The meeting was followed by a tour of the Grazing System Practice Implementation Project on the Hillcrest Homestead Farm.

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Frederick Sinclair  
President

Date

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Lawrence Brown  
Secretary/Treasurer

Date

Recorded by Lori Snyder

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