

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors - Tompkins County SWCD
March 15, 2021
Via Teleconference

Present: Aaron Ristow, Alan Teeter, Deborah Dawson, David McKenna, Callan Space (Directors)
Staff: Jon Negley, Paul Gier, Angel Hinickle

Meeting called to order at 11:15 am.

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

C. Space moved to approve the February 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. D. McKenna seconded. No discussion. All in favor. Carried.

Agency Reports

Erin Krutz, NRCS introduction. Was in southern Oregon for 15 years with NRCS. Covering Cortland, Schuyler and Tompkins counties. Erin P is now Area Program Specialist. Hired for soil conservationist, Tyler, who will be in Ithaca office. Position hung up in security, so position isn't in place. In middle of contracting with EQIP applicants, 44 total, 25 in Tompkins. Lots interest in high tunnels and few forestry/agronomic applications. April is CSP sign up deadline, working through summer to do contracting through CSP. Soil Conservationist position is now direct hire for Cortland, NY office.

Financial Report

Financial report, approved.

Vouchers

D. McKenna moved to approve the March Vouchers as presented. D. Dawson seconded. Reviewed routine vouchers. All in favor. Carried

Soil and water Conservation Society renewal – A. Ristow moved it. Deborah asked what level member we are. It's conservation community member and it's \$230. D. Dawson seconded it. All in favor. Carried.

Computer Purchase Authorization – A lot of the machines are windows 7 and the County is looking to pull all windows 7 machines off of the network. They can't upgrade to windows 10 on the current operating system. The main computer that needs upgrading is the clerks. \$15,000 for 4 computers. D. McKenna seconded. Aaron asked about Surfaces. All in favor. Carried.

Staff Reports

P. Gier provided staff report.

Cooperator Agreements

FL-LOWPA we have 4 projects, 4 farms interested in developing CNMPs. They are not regulated CAFO farms, they are about 200 cow farms. New planting technologies for soil health, promotional work for inter-seeding.

Ag nonpoint source – 3 covered barnyard projects for Round 27 and more funding for cover cropping.

Carey Farms Bid meeting- received 6 bids. We have two low bids and we are working with contractors to let them know they are committed to these low bids and have to build for this price.

Organizational Meeting

Appointment of assistant treasurer to the board. It was a position held by Kym Jackson, it will now be vacant and hopefully filled by the Senior Account Clerk. Needs to be changed to “vacant.”

Old Business

RESOLUTION 2021-17 - State Award for Part C – \$161k with come caveats but open to utilize. By next month, need to allocate funding to projects, staff development, or capital improvements. Had \$55,000 or rolled over from last year. Could set aside like last year. Questioned about adding to County budget for the Engineer but would need to know salary and length of position. A. Ristow and D. Dawson mentioned interest in putting money toward staff. P. Gier mentioned the funds could be used to support current projects, \$10,000-\$15,000, that don't fit into existing grant funding. C. Space expressed that the funds could be used toward a mix. Board needs list organized list of priorities. J. Negley needs to talk with Albany and County facilities is looking to put up a cold storage facility, however, it is on rented space. J. Negley will look to sit down as staff and go over project priorities, put numbers toward staffing and staff development along with capital improvements and come back to the board in April.

Stormwater coalition discussion regarding the District being a member of the coalition. **Send the current MOA and contract to Deborah.** Should we work with Johnathan Wood on this and develop MOU or other similar document? Deborah wants to know how do you have a stormwater coalition without a central role for SWCD. Next step will be to work with Johnathan Wood to come up with some options and bring that to the board in the future.

New Business

Under FL-LOWPA 19-20 Work Plan: CLWN Proposal – C. Space motioned to approve, and D. Dawson seconded. CLWN proposal is for education and outreach related to hydrilla. We had supported this effort over the last two years through our Fish and Wildlife Contracts. Those contracts have been expended and we are looking to cover the cost through FL-LOWPA. Take \$3,300 out of each non-ag, compost sock program, and ag program areas to pay for it. Aaron motioned “CLWN proposal will be approved through FL-LOWPA 19-20 funds”. All in favor. Carried.

FL-LOWPA ranking tool. Need a motion on approving the two ranking tools for the non-ag and agriculture project. This would allow staff to rank the projects out and not have to come to the board to get the approval of the projects. This way we could approve a project and bring contract to the board. All in favor. Carried.

Executive Session

Executive Session for Account Clerk started at 12:20pm.

The meeting left Executive Session at 12:32pm.

A.Ristow moved hiring Kyle Markwardt for Conservation Technician. D. Dawson seconded. All in favor. Carried.

A. Ristow moved hiring Samantha Smith for Senior Account Clerk/Typist. D. Dawson seconded. All in favor. Carried.

D. Dawson moved to adjourn meeting at 12:34pm.

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2021 at 11:00am. The meeting will take place via teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted:

Secretary

Aaron Ristow, BOD Chairman