

SUFFOLK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS'
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

423 Griffing Avenue

Riverhead, New York 11901

January 2, 2020

Board of Director's in attendance:

Rob Carpenter, Chairman - Grange/Farm Bureau
Legislator Robert Calarco, Legislative District 7
Brian Culhane – Member at Large
Phil Schmitt – Farm Community Representative

Staff and Organizations in attendance:

Corey Humphrey – SWCD District Manager
Susan Odell-Pepe-SWCD Staff
Sharon Frost – SWCD Staff
K. Shahinian – SWCD Staff

- Chairman R. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.
- Chairman R. Carpenter declared a quorum. Four of five board members were in attendance.
- Legislator A. Krupski has been excused for a previous obligation he has to attend and will not be attending the board meeting.
- The Chairman of Board R. Carpenter announced that the January 2nd, 2020 Board Meeting is officially recognized as the Board of Directors Annual Organizational Meeting, which is a required as part of the Performance Measures.
- Chairman R. Carpenter wishes everyone a healthy, happy and safe new year and wished congratulations to Legislator R. Calarco on election as the Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature.
- The draft minutes of the November 14, 2019 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Motion made by B. Culhane to accept the November 14, 2019 minutes, seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report presented by S. Odell-Pepe

- The January 2, 2020 Treasurer's Report was presented and read to the Board of Directors.
- Chairman R. Carpenter requested a brief summary of the 2019 District Audit Report be presented at the February 13th, 2020 Board Meeting.
- Motion made by P. Schmitt to accept the January 2, 2020 Treasurer's Report as read; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.

District Report presented by District Manager C. Humphrey

- November 14th, 2019 was the last time we had the district's board meeting. Since this time the District has focused our efforts on administering our current programs and projects as well as

seeking new opportunities to preserve, protect, and restore natural resources. Our current work includes various grant programs related to Suffolk's diverse resources. The implementation of these programs provided the SCSWCD a foundation to strengthen and create new organizational partnerships with various municipalities/NGOs. In addition the District is constantly seeking new opportunities and working closely with the agricultural community to support environmental stewardship as well as provide technical assistance for all residents of Suffolk County.

- Our Annual organizational meeting is an opportunity for District Board Members to address the organizational business of the District. The NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee's District Operation Manual suggests that the following items should be addressed (as necessary):
 1. Elect Officers
 2. Appoint Directors to District committees
 3. Designate or reaffirm the District's official bank
 4. Review/approve new signers to each bank account
 5. Approve any new and necessary bank accounts
 6. A review of the current operating procedures
 7. Designate or reaffirm the official newspaper for the District
 8. Contact information directory of the Board of Directors should be updated
 9. Approve mileage rates
 10. Set availability period for accrual basis of accounting
 11. Set the meeting schedule for the new year

- Corey gave a state of the district report and some potential goals for the district to work on for 2020 includes staff development, internal polices, organizational growth, partnerships and reviewing our mission.
- Included in the District Manger's report is a timeline of the District's current projects and programs in 2020 to give the Board of Directors a closer idea of when the work will be implemented.

- Motion made by B. Culhane to accept the District Manager's Report; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.

USDA - NRCS Field Office Report – Liz Camps

- No report provided at this time.

Legislative Report presented by Legislator A. Krupski and Legislator R. Calarco

- No report provided at this time.

C.C.E. - Ag. Stewardship Report presented by Deborah Aller

- No report provided at this time.

L.I.C.A.P. Representative Update presented by Brian Culhane

- L.I.C.A.P. had a series of public hearings in December 2019 to solicit comments on the Commission's 2019 State of the Aquifer Report and Groundwater Resources Management Plan. The hearings were lightly attended.

Chairman's Report presented by R. Carpenter

- In December 2019 attended the Annual NY Farm Bureau Meeting which counts as a performance measure.
- There was a great discussion at the Annual NY Farm Bureau Meeting on Hemp and Marijuana and the specific policy discussion with regards to the recently released USDA regulations for Hemp production detailing how to handle Hemp products regarding testing and transport.
- Attend the Peconic Land Trust Public Policy Meetings. They have been recently looking at new climate change legislation that was passed back in 2019 at last year's State Legislative session. Peconic Land Trust is looking to see how they can assist in helping support projects or programs that will be used to implement some of those changes. The Agriculture Sub-Committee explained all the work the district was doing, in addition to NRCS and the farm community with the funding we have received through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund for agricultural stewardship programs, composing, carbon sequestration and a number of those projects that we have already been doing for the last number of years. The farm community is doing great work in trying to become even better stewards of the land and the district is in a position to greatly lend support for those programs going forward. We also talked about the equipment program that the district has implemented for the equipment loan program.
- I think that's going to be a key success going forward and hopefully will be utilized even more by the farm community.
- Also in December 2019 Rob traveled to Albany to work on State Budget issues and specifically regarding Deer Fence Funding, the E.P.F. Funds for the upcoming year and a number of other agricultural programs.
- It's going to be a pretty bleak year for the budget and a bit too early to say whether we will get funding for Deer Fence and some of the other agricultural programs. I'm hoping that the EPF Program stays intact and there will be additional funds going forward this year for the district to implement our projects, but with a 6 billion dollar budget deficit and no new sources of funding coming in, there's going to be a lot of programs that are going to be receiving cuts or not be refunded.

Old Business:

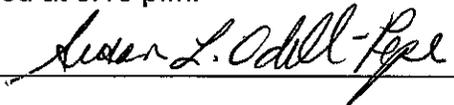
- Motion made by P. Schmitt to approve the USDA NRCS Memorandum of Agreement as written and for the Chairman R. Carpenter to sign; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by R. Carpenter to keep the existing structure in order for the District's 2020 Season, to reapprove all of the procedures, committees and officers that are in place for the upcoming year as part of our organizational meeting; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.

New Business:

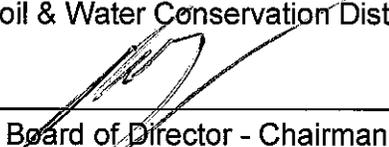
- Motion made by R. Carpenter reappointing Legislator A. Krupski and Legislator R. Calarco as a member of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by B. Culhane to approve the amended RES2019-48 as written and for the Chairman R. Carpenter to sign; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by B. Culhane to approve the renewal of the Friends of LI Horticultural Research Lab Annual Membership Dues using the District's unobligated funds in the amount of \$300; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.

Executive Session: None

- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m.; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by 
Susan L. Odell-Pepe
Principal Account Clerk
Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District

Date: 2/2/2020

Approved by 
Rob Carpenter – Board of Director - Chairman
Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District

Date: 9/20/20