

*Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District*

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Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting

**January 13, 2025**

**Minutes**

**I.** **Call to Order:** Chairman Hughson called the regular business meeting of the Sullivan

 County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors to order at 6:05 p.m.

 Board members present – Wilfred Hughson, Chairman Eugene Benson, Treasurer

 Justin Sutherland, Farmer John Diehl, Farmer

 Catherine Scott, Legislator Peter Carey, Member at Large

Board members absent – Nadia Rajsz, Legislator

 Agency representatives: – Brian Brustman, SWCD Lisa Schick, SWCD

 Russell Reeves, Sullivan County Clerk

**II. MINUTES:** E. Benson made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 9, 2024, board

 meeting, C. Scott seconded, no one opposed, the motion was passed and carried.

**III. WRITTEN & VERBAL REPORTS:**

NRCS: No written report

 FSA: No written report.

 CCE: See written report

 NYSSWCC: See written report

 Neversink/Rondout: See written report

## **IV.** **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Program Updates:
* Tree & Shrub - Program is up and running. Suppliers were discussed. Have received four orders.
* AEM – W. Diehl project total is $385,000. NRCS total is $244,559. District will cover remaining costs of $144,040. Will get a signed approval to pay contractor directly. P. Carey made a motion to pay Bernas Construction, W. Hughson seconded, no one opposed, motion was passed and carried.

Sullivan County SWCD January 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Page 2

# V. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Oath of Office was conducted by County Clerk.
2. Bank Statements: The bank statements were reviewed.
3. B. Wagner will lead a stormwater training session for Sullivan County Employees.
4. CHB account was closed and funds transferred to District’s NYCLASS account. W. Hughson made a motion to transfer an additional $300,000 from public funds to the NYCLASS account. E. Benson seconded the motion, no one opposed, motion was passed and carried.
5. Director Reappointment: J. Diehl director term has been re-appointed to 2027. P. Carey was appointed as Member at Large. Legislators N. Rajsz and C. Scott were re-appointed to the Board.
6. Reorganization:
* The Following Board of Director Positions were discussed for reappointment:
	+ Chairman – Wilfred Hughson-E. Benson motioned, J. Diehl seconded,
	+ Vice-Chairman – John Diehl - E. Benson motioned, P. Carey seconded,
	+ Treasurer – Eugene Benson – J. Diehl motioned, P. Carey seconded,
	+ Secretary of the Treasurer – Lisa Schick – E. Benson motioned, P. Carey seconded,
	+ Each candidate was nominated and accepted the position. Motion to keep the positions the same, no one opposed, the motion was passed and carried.
* J. Diehl made a motion to keep the Board of Directors meeting on the second Monday of the month. The Board meetings to be held at 6:00 pm, E. Benson seconded the motion, no one opposed, and the motion was passed and carried.
* E. Benson made a motion to keep the meeting per diem at $25.00. The mileage reimbursement rate will remain being paid at the Federal rate of mileage reimbursement. W. Hughson seconded the motion, no one opposed, and the motion was passed and carried.
* J. Diehl made a motion to keep the District’s local bank accounts with Jeff Bank, and Wayne Bank, and to use any reputable depository for investments. P. Carey seconded the motion, no one opposed, and the motion was passed and carried.
* The 2025 Holiday schedule of 14 days was reviewed. P. Carey made a motion to approve the list of Holidays, J. Diehl seconded, no one opposed, motion was passed and carried.
1. District Policy: Review and approval will be tabled to February meeting.

 H. E. Benson made a motion to keep the District official newspaper as the Sullivan County Democrat, P. Carey, seconded, no one opposed, motion was passed and carried.

 I. COLA: COLA’s discussed, E. Benson made a motion to give a 3% increase to District employees, matching the 3% COLA in NYC DEP grant contract. W. Hughson seconded the motion, no one opposed, and the motion was passed and carried.

 J. Annual state reports are due by February 15th. P. Carey made a motion to submit reports upon Treasurer Benson’s review of Annual Report of the Treasurer and approval, J. Sutherland seconded, no one opposed, motion was passed and carried.

Sullivan County SWCD January 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Page 3

1. Discussed applying for the NYS Ag Non-Point Source grant. E. Benson made a motion to submit a RFP, W Hughson seconded, no one opposed, motion was passed and carried.
2. The Water Quality Symposium will be held March 11-14 in Rochester. Each District is being given a $2,500 voucher to cover cost for District employees to attend. LS and AG would like

 to attend. C. Scott made a motion to approve sending District employees to the training, E. Benson

 seconded, no one opposed, motion was passed and carried.

**VI. DISTRICT CLAIMS:** P. Carey made a motion to approve abstracts, bills and pre-approvals,

seconded by J. Diehl, no one opposed, the motion was passed and carried.

 2024 – 12B $ 185,362.80

2025 – 1A $ 81,878.21

Bills presented to the Board for pre-approval: Total - $ 68,953.84 - See breakdown sheet

**VII. TREASURER REPORT:** The Profit and Loss and the Balance Sheet were reviewed. J.

Sutherland made a motion to approve the reports, P. Carey seconded, no one opposed, the motion was passed and carried.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING:**  Monday, February 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:** Adjourned at 6:57 p.m. -Motion by J. Sutherland

 Lisa Schick, Wilfred Hughson,

Program Assistant Chairman