

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2015**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: K. Graves, T. O'Grady, C. Crandall (Absent: D. Fanton, A. McGraw, N. Ungermann)

Others Present: L. Ballengee, L. Bliven, C. Braack, H. Budinger, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, K. Dirlam, L. Edwards, J. Foels, G. Hanchett, D. Healy, R. Hollis, L. Hunsberger, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, T. Miner, D. Pullen, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, F. Sinclair, R. Sobeck-Lynch, J. Wood
Guest: L. Shilling

Media Present: B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Resource Management Committee Chairman Karl Graves.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator O'Grady, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried to approve the Resource Management Committee minutes of January 21, 2015.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

County Historian

Monthly Report

County Historian Craig Braack told the Committee that he had little to report as he had been on vacation most of the month. He said that he had heard "scuttlebutt" that the old building would be coming down soon, and he was happy for that. He added that the new facility was coming along nicely.

Soil & Water Conservation

Monthly Report

Soil & Water Conservation Executive Director Scott Torrey was unable to attend the meeting, but sent along a written report which included the following information:

1. Program Updates:
 - Round 21 Ag Non-Point Source Grant
 - Grant application is due March 31, 2015
 - Currently meeting with farms to discuss grant projects.
 - FL-LOWPA
 - Finishing 2012-2013 FL-LOWPA grant. This closeout is due March 31, 2015
2. Technical Assistance:
 - Working on engineering for 2015
 - Working on soil group worksheets
3. General
 - Annual reports for both the State and County have been completed.

Youth Bureau

Monthly Report

Youth Bureau Director Linda Edwards highlighted some areas on her pre-filed monthly report, including her attendance at the Allegany County Counselors' Classic Basketball Tournament at Houghton College in January as well as at the Dan Barkley Basketball Showcase, also in January. The Youth Bureau was a sponsor of both events. On a disappointing note, Ms. Edwards said that the annual Youth Leadership Forum in Albany scheduled for February had been cancelled because of the weather. The students were disappointed, she said, but the parents were relieved that risky travel had been avoided.

Youth Board Appointments

At the February 23, 2015, Board meeting, the Chairman of the Board will appoint the following as (adult) members of the Allegany County Youth Board for term expiring as listed, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators:

Jessica Jennings, District I, Re-Appointment, (term expiring March 25, 2018)

Kelly Goble, District II, New Appointment, (term expiring March 25, 2018)

Jack Emrick, District III, Re-appointment, (term expiring March 25, 2018)

Michele Henry, District IV, Re-appointment, (term expiring March 25, 2018)

Vicky Westacott, District V, Re-appointment, (term expiring March 25, 2018)

The appointments were approved on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Monthly Report

Cornell Cooperative Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources Issue Leader Lynn Bliven distributed a document highlighting upcoming programs. These include Farm Disaster Preparation Certificate Training, the Annual Winter Grazing Conference in Western New York, and Winter Dairy Management 2015—Increase Milk Components Profitably. When asked how the extreme cold had affected the work of Cooperative Extension, Ms. Bliven noted that they are receiving more animal welfare calls than usual. However, she said, the site of herds in the fields covered in snow is a good thing. Because the snow is not melting on the animals, it means they are insulated from the cold.

Attorney/Client Session

The Committee entered attorney/client session at 1:10 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried. The Committee exited attorney/client session at 1:45 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried.

New Business

Radioactive Waste Disposal

Former Legislator Frederick Sinclair attended the meeting and distributed copies of the front pages of several recent studies regarding radioactive materials which provide sufficient information for those who are interested to "Google" the reports ["Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (TENORM) Study Support for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection"; "Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking [Unconventional Gas and Oil Extraction]", 2nd edition; and "Radioactivity in Marcellus Shale", Report Prepared for Residents for the Preservation of Lowman and Chemung]. Mr. Sinclair noted that the Allegany County Grange had submitted a resolution regarding Marcellus Shale Fracking Fluid which called for County lawmakers to pass legislation banning the importation of fracking fluid as well as requiring

treatment plants to clean up contamination at their facilities caused by radioactive waste. Noting that no representatives from the Grange were present, Mr. Sinclair, as Chairman of the Concerned Citizens of Allegany County (CCAC) presented the case for having Allegany County take an official stance against accepting this waste stream, saying that it has been "mischaracterized" and that he and his organization would like to see proper characterization of this waste because it has hazardous components. He also offered CCAC members who would work with County officials to look into these issues, to navigate through and find the pertinent data. Casella Regional Vice President Larry Shilling addressed the Committee, saying that if one were to review the Pennsylvania study (referenced above), the conclusions indicate that the drill cuttings are low, and not an issue. If one were to review the report co-authored by Marvin Resnikoff, PhD, he would want to consider the findings cautiously, as Dr. Resnikoff's courtroom testimony has been removed from the record as an expert "because he makes up his own kind of science." Mr. Shilling said his company has spent a lot of money trying to learn the truth about this, and it has been done in cooperation with the DEC. He also said they have voluntarily installed detectors, voluntarily required this kind of material to be profiled, and they do not exempt the gas and oil from the hazardous waste rules. He went on to say that the Hyland Landfill does not accept Pennsylvania "sludge" which is the material that causes detectors to go off. He insisted that Hyland does not accept hazardous waste, and in fact, has not accepted any oil or gas waste for over a year. Legislator Graves concluded the discussion by indicating that the Committee would take all these issues under advisement before moving forward with any decisions.

Bioprocessing Education Research & Development Center (BERDC)

Chairman Crandall told the Committee that this issue is an ongoing follow-up to the presentation made to the Committee of the Whole. However, he felt it would be more beneficial if the entire Resource Management Committee were in attendance before any significant discussion and/or decisions were made. He added that earlier in the month he and Legislator Graves and County Administrator Mitch Alger had met in Albany with rep from governor's office, Senate Finance, Alfred State President Skip Sullivan, looking to move this project ahead looking at state funding, AC is certainly a partner (of many) that would be part of helping to make this project happen and this would take place at Wellsville Campus of Alfred State, there is interest regionally, outside of Allegany County, looking at potential commercial operation once the R&D piece is put into place at Alfred. Mr. Crandall went on to say that pursuant to a brief meeting with the Governor, he had sent a letter to the Governor's Office. They had responded, looking for additional, detailed information. He added that we would continue to provide information to the Governor's Office and that the topic would remain on the agenda to keep Committee members updated as the project progresses.

Good of the Order

Hazard Mitigation Meeting Minutes

These were included as an "FYI" for Committee members.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m. following a motion by Legislator O'Grady, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators