

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

October 21, 2015

NOT APPROVED

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

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, C. Braack, H. Budinger, S. Burt, D. Healy, R. Hollis, K. Hooker, L. Hunsberger, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, T. Miner, D. Pullen, B. Riehle, T. Ross, R. Scott

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 Ungermann, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried to approve the Resource Management Committee minutes of September 16, 2015.

County Historian

Legislator Graves noted County Historian Craig Braack did not have anything to officially report. Legislator O'Grady asked about the Allegany County Museum Tour. Mr. Braack replied it was very successful this year. This was the second year of the Tour, and the average number of people attending from the reports he has reviewed so far, was fifteen to nineteen at each place. He noted the average last year was three to four.

Soil & Water Conservation

Monthly Report

Legislator Graves reported Executive Director Scott Torrey was not able to attend, but he submitted his written report for review. In his report, Mr. Torrey stated he is working on finishing projects and field work before winter. The Cuba Lake permit application should be finished next week. Next week, they have a meeting with the Department of Environmental Conservation in Hume to look at flooding issues with Rush Creek. They were awarded two grants in round twenty-one of the State's Ag Non-Point Source Grant funds. The total State funding awarded was \$734,678, with a total grant project cost estimated at \$1,034,120. The timber harvest has begun on the C. Horner Lot. The Ag District number one update will be completed, and ready for review by the Farmland Protection Board. He continues to work with the Alma Rod and Gun Club in repairing their dam. They will be receiving funds from Cathy Young's office to help with repair costs. Finally, the Town of Allen is finishing the installation of a box culvert that was funded by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Youth Bureau

Monthly Report

Legislator Graves stated Director Linda Edwards was attending a conference, and submitted her written report for review. Legislator Healy reminded everyone the SADD conference is Friday, October 30, 2015.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Monthly Report

Executive Director Laura Hunsberger highlighted the Ag Plastics Recycling Project. She stated it was very successful, and they collected two and a half tons of plastic. Legislator Ungermann asked what kinds of plastics were collected. Ms. Hunsberger replied it was everything from irrigation tubing, to black plastic used in vegetable production, to nursery pots. Legislator Ungermann asked about the baler silage bags, and noted they have to keep the plastic clean. Ms. Hunsberger stated yes they did collect those as well. Mr. Ungermann asked who he would contact if he had plastics he wanted to recycle. Ms. Hunsberger stated if anyone is interested in the recycling project, to contact Tom Parmenter for recycling dates. Chairman Crandall asked if they get any money for recycling these plastics. Ms. Hunsberger stated no not to her knowledge.

Ms. Hunsberger announced there will be a Small Berry Conference next week in Bath, New York. This conference is a joint effort with Steuben County. Legislator Pullen added he knows some berry growers who are planning on attending the conference. Legislator Graves asked if the conference would be appropriate for a small gardener. Ms. Hunsberger noted this conference is for people who are using it as a business to make money, and not so much for the homeowner who has berries. Chairman Crandall stated he saw berry hanging baskets in Wyoming County, and wondered if there were many of those. Ms. Hunsberger stated it was more of an "eye catcher," but she has seen some greenhouses using gutters to grow berries in order to maximize space.

Ms. Hunsberger highlighted other upcoming events and programs. She noted there is a 4-H program for the holidays. There is also a cooking contest where the majority of the products used in the contest have to be produced in New York. She also highlighted an upcoming fundraiser, and annual meeting. Legislator Pullen added the annual meeting is November 10, 2015, and the New York State Director of Extension will be there. He noted it will be an important meeting, and he would like to see the Legislators attend the meeting.

Legislator Ungermann stated he had some comments directed to Agriculture and Natural Resources Issue Leader Lynn Bliven, who was not present at the meeting, regarding the Farmer Neighbor Dinner. He noted the purpose of the Farmer Neighbor Dinner is to get to know one another. He noted there were no introductions, and it was hard for someone to speak to someone else if they did not know who they were. For example, it would be hard for someone from Empire Cheese to talk to farmers who may provide milk to the company because they would not know who they were in the room. Legislator Ungermann noted he had personally asked certain individuals to attend. He stated he spoke with Ms. Bliven before the dinner about these people attending, and told her they were prepared to talk about their business. At the dinner, they did not have an opportunity to do that. He also stated vendors were not allowed to speak. He noted some vendors spent \$250, and did not have the opportunity to speak. He believes they have a paid a premium, so they deserve a few minutes to speak. He is concerned they may not come back. Finally, he noted the speaker had a lot of important information. He was concerned about people hearing the speaker because they had a hard time hearing her, and they were towards the front of the room. He was disappointed with the event. Legislator Graves stated the sound system was deficient, and asked if it belonged to Cornell Cooperative Extension. Ms. Hunsberger said no, and they will bring one next time. Chairman Crandall noted it was a nice event. Legislator Graves commented the food was good. Ms. Hunsberger stated she would pass the comments along to Ms. Bliven.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m. following a motion by Legislator O'Grady, seconded by Legislator Ungermann, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Scott, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators