

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

January 20, 2016

NOT APPROVED

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

Others Present: L. Bliven, H. Budinger, S. Burt, P. Curran, L. Edwards, G. Hanchett, D. Healy, R. Hollis, J. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, J. Margeson, T. Miner, D. Pullen, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, R. Scott, R. Sobeck-Lynch, S. Torrey

Guest: Steve Robertson, Snowmobile Association

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Resource Management Committee Chairman Karl Graves.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Ungermann, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried to approve the Resource Management Committee minutes of December 16, 2016.

County Historian

County Historian Craig Braack was not in attendance.

Soil & Water Conservation

Monthly Report

Executive Director Scott Torrey gave a brief report. He stated they are working through year-end paperwork, and planning for the 2016 construction season. Mr. Torrey said they are accepting applications for the first round of funding for the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program until March 7, 2016. They started accepting applications yesterday. He also distributed the announcement for the program that will be sent to farmers in Allegany County. Mr. Torrey reported the farmers have to be eligible for the farmer's school tax credit for the last three years in order to qualify for funding. They are finding the smaller farms are not eligible for that. Mr. Torrey said they do get phone calls from smaller farms that are not eligible. Legislator Ungermann asked what types of projects people can apply for. Mr. Torrey said it can be economic or environmental projects. Legislator Ungermann asked if manure lagoons were included. Mr. Torrey said yes, but they can't buy land or tractors. Chairman Crandall asked how they are letting people know about the applications. He noted most of the farms they work with regularly know about the grant. They will also send out the announcement to the farms. Mr. Torrey said the applications have not been released on the Ag and Market website, even though they started accepting applications yesterday. Chairman Crandall asked if it was all online. Mr. Torrey said it is online, and the farms have to complete the applications. Legislator Graves added even though the application process is more complex, Mr. Torrey's office will help as much as they can. Legislator Decker commented it feels like "déjà vu" all over again. He used the example of Common Core. The State said they are going to have Common Core testing, but they did not have the curriculum ready. Legislator Decker said they could start submitting

applications for this funding yesterday, but it is not online. Legislator Pullen asked about the deadline of March 7. Mr. Torrey said they can apply again in July.

Legislator Ungermann asked about the permits for Cuba Lake. Mr. Torrey stated he sent in the application, but the Department of Environmental Protection (DEC) requested to scale the project down. Legislator Ungermann asked if it will be a project for next year. Mr. Torrey replied yes; he is afraid it will be. Legislator Ungermann commented they used to have a blanket type permit, but that has expired. Now it is gridlock in government. He said the window of opportunity gets smaller and smaller all the time. Legislator Decker asked if Legislator Ungermann was talking about removing silt from the Rawson Road area in Cuba. Mr. Torrey said it is near Carpies.

Contract Extension

Mr. Torrey requested a contract extension for the timber harvest on the C. Horner Lot. He said they will not be able to complete the project before the contract expires in February because of the wet weather, and the Town of Angelica restricting the logger's access to the lot. Legislator Ungermann asked what the problem was with the Town of Angelica. Mr. Torrey said they oil and stoned the road this summer, and really restricted the access when it was dry. Legislator Ungermann stated he talked before about this business being a double-edged sword. He said they want agricultural expansion, but the town will tell you that you can't use the road. He said something has to give because you can't have one without the other. Legislator Ungermann stated if the town wants to post all of the roads, then they should not issue any building permits. He noted everything that is used to build a house or barn is over the weight limit. He added the UPS truck, school bus, and fuel truck are over the limit too. Legislator Ungermann said it might be better to leave the roads dirt, and then people can use them. He added it is becoming a bigger and bigger problem. He said if you look at the law, the intent is not to stifle commerce. Legislator Ungermann feels the Town Highway Superintendent and Town Board don't read the second page where this is mentioned. He noted there are towns that post 8 tons all year round. He is not sure what they can do as a County, but it is a problem because it stifles growth. Legislator Healy asked if this was the contract that was extended once already. Mr. Torrey said no. Chairman Crandall asked how long the contract should be extended. Mr. Torrey said until the end of the summer. He said September 1, 2016, should be fair. The request was approved on a motion by Chairman Crandall, seconded by Legislator Ungermann, and carried to extend the agreement with Ayers Earthmoving & Forestry Services approved November 2014 for timber removal on the C. Horner Lot in Angelica until the end of summer. **Prepare Resolution**

Youth Bureau

Monthly Report

Director Linda Edwards pre-filed her monthly report. She stated she is not taking any youth to the youth forum because only one youth could attend. They can't have him in a room by himself. She checked all over the state for a roommate, but couldn't find one. So, they will try to go next year. Ms. Edwards reported all of their agencies have billed for their State funding. She noted there is one agency that has to be submitted to the State to be reimbursed in the amount of \$574. Ms. Edwards said they will get that billed in a week or so. Legislator Decker apologized for not attending the basketball showcase. Ms. Edwards said it was a great showcase. Allegany County won 6 out of the 7 games. She added the games were really good, and there was a good turnout.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Monthly Report

Agriculture and Natural Resource Issue Leader Lynn Bliven distributed the most recent *Ag News*. She said the Southern Tier Crop Congress went very well with thirty-five participants. This program offered pesticide recertification credits. She reported they are finishing a couple of projects including the Dairy Acceleration Program (DAP). She said Tom Parmenter is working with two farms to finish up. She noted that funding is continuing so they are trying to make sure farms that may need this type of assistance are aware that funds are still available. Ms. Bliven said they have been receiving calls regarding the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program. She also said there was another grant that was due this week for beginning farmers. Ms. Bliven stated through the Governor's Office there is up to \$50,000 in match funding that will allow for the purchase of equipment and updates for beginning farmers. They have to have 3 to 10 years' experience in farming. Chairman Crandall asked what constitutes three years of experience. Ms. Bliven noted there are different ways to show intent such as filing Schedule F, or having a Doing Business As (DBA). Ms. Bliven said she is working with five new beginning farmers that were not eligible for the funding. Three were aspiring farmers and the other two were start-ups. She hopes two of them will be eligible next year if funding is still available.

Ms. Bliven spoke about a few programs that were highlighted in the newsletter. The Cornell Pro-Dairy is offering a webinar series. She stated they realize not all people have internet access. They will download the recordings, so those without internet access can still participate. Ms. Bliven distributed the updated *Life in the Country* brochure. She stated they received funding from the County Comprehensive Planning Group to update it. The purpose of the brochure is for outreach and education to the general public. This was originally created when a law required realtors to provide information to individuals buying property in a rural area. Ms. Bliven stated it is part of the County Ambassador packet available to realtors. Legislator Root asked about the realtors providing information to potential buyers. Ms. Bliven stated she did not know when the law was put into place, but when someone is buying a home in an agricultural area they have to be notified of what happens in that area. She said she can forward the information to Legislator Root of when the law was put into place. Ms. Bliven stated they originally came up with a brochure about 14 to 15 years ago. The brochure contains information on agricultural districts and the Right-to-Farm. Chairman Crandall asked if the Right-to-Farm is local or State law. Ms. Bliven replied there is both a State and a County Right-to-Farm Law. Ms. Bliven stated they are working on updating the local Right-to-Farm Law, and they will bring it to the Committee. She noted Allegany County was one of the earlier counties to adopt the Right-to-Farm Law. The more recent Right-to-Farm Laws have more information that is why they would like to update Allegany County's Right-to-Farm Law. Legislator Ungermann asked if it was up to the landowner to tell neighbors. Ms. Bliven said there are things people can do to educate neighbors moving in. Legislator Ungermann stated his farm has been there since 1949, and he has had neighbors complain. Ms. Bliven said the challenge as a farmer is they have to defend themselves from a complaint or litigation. She stated they can do things through education to prevent that, and there are agricultural mediation services available.

Legislator Decker asked whether there have been any complaints or problems with the animals being housed outside. Ms. Bliven said they haven't had any calls this year. She noted

this is another educational piece. Animals that have a snow pack on their backs doesn't mean they're cold, it means they are well insulated and the snow is not melting off of them.

Presentation by Snowmobile Association – Steve Robertson

Legislator Graves introduced Designated Trail Contact and County Coordinator Steve Robertson from the Snowmobile Association. Mr. Robertson said this is their twentieth year for the New York State Snowmobile Trail Funds. This money that is passed through the County has helped to develop 383 miles of funded trails. He noted there are no tax dollars, it is all registration money. Mr. Robertson requested support for the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) forms. He noted Chairman Crandall is the sponsor. Legislator Graves asked if they need to hold a public hearing. County Attorney Tom Miner stated no.

Mr. Robertson gave a brief PowerPoint presentation. He also distributed a newsletter, and map of the trails. Mr. Robertson said they were incorporated in 1987. There are about 400 to 600 members, and they have 38 groomers. He spoke about working with landowners to get permission, ensuring the trails are safe with signage, and maintaining the trails when the season begins. Mr. Robertson gave a brief history, stating there wasn't any smoothing apparatus when they started. Today, there is a total length of 70 feet in smoothing equipment that can cost about \$120,000 if it is used and \$250,000 if it is new. Mr. Robertson also talked about the economic impact. He noted they have brought in over \$1.5 million in grant funding over the years. Mr. Robertson talked about working with Soil and Water Conservation District to repair a washout on Route 275 in Friendship.

Mr. Robertson said snowmobiling is a destination riding sport. They travel about 80 to 100 miles a day. Legislator Burt asked if there was information on the amount of non-residents coming into the County. Mr. Robertson said he doesn't have specific statistics, but there is a statewide trail system of about 12,000 miles. He noted one gas station owner said they had about 500 to 1,000 sleds gas up in one weekend. Legislator Burt asked about the funds for the grooming machines. Mr. Robertson said it comes from grant money and fundraisers. Legislator Decker said his nephew-in-law is planning a snowmobile trip from Marion to Cuba. He noted people come from all over.

Accept New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Grant for the Allegany County Federation of Snowmobilers

Allegany County acts as a pass through for the Allegany County Federation of Snowmobilers for snowmobile trail development and maintenance assistance grants funded by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Snowmobile Grant has already been budgeted for 2016 so we only need to accept the grant; no budget adjustment is necessary. The 2015-2016 application was approved for \$112,045. Sufficient funding was appropriated in the 2016 budget to A7185.3089. No Budget adjustment needed for 2016.

Appropriations		
A7185.483	NYS OPRHP Funding Award	\$112,045
Revenue		
A7185.3089.00	AC Snowmobile Association – St Aid	\$112,045

The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Ungermann, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Chairman Crandall made a motion to accept and approve a negative declaration relative to the SEQR, seconded by Legislator Ungermann, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Appointment to Soil and Water Conservation District Board

The Soil and Water Conservation District Board requested the Committee to consider reappointing Karl Graves of Wellsville, and appointing Judy Hopkins of Fillmore as Legislative Members of the Soil and Water Conservation District Board for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2016, and expiring December 31, 2016. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Ungermann, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Attorney/Client Session

The Committee entered attorney/client session at 1:51 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Ungermann, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried. The Committee exited attorney/client session at 2:02 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Ungermann, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Ungermann, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried

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