

ONTARIO COUNTY Agricultural Enhancement Board

MEETING MINUTES: November 19, 2019
Fredrick Lightfoote, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Davis
Maria Rudzinski – for OCPD Tom Harvey
Frank Fessner
Tucker Kautz – for OCSWCD Megan Webster
Fred Lightfoote
Robert McCarthy
Erin Bullock
Robin Johnson, OCRPT
Elizabeth Newbold

Call to Order: Sup. Lightfoote called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion to approve the April 2, 2019 minutes: Made by R. Johnson. Seconded by F. Fessner. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve the August 20, 2019: Made by M. Rudzinski. Seconded by F. Fessner. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Vacancy Update

F. Lightfoote said that John Zimmerman agreed to serve on the Board. He currently has an agricultural operation in the Town of Gorham. As a member of the Mennonite community, he will bring an important perspective on agriculture to the Board.

Motion: The OC AEB recommends that the OC Board of Supervisors appoint Mr. John Zimmerman to the OC Board of Supervisors to represent active farmers. Made by: R. Johnson. Seconded by: T. Davis. Motion carried unanimously.

NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets (NYSDAM – Final Notice of Intent –Water Systems Capacity Improvement Project, Town of Geneva – OC Agricultural District 6

A second water tank is proposed adjoining an existing water tank located on Olson Rd. near Gorham Rd. in the Town of Seneca. The +/- .75 acres of land to be disturbed is on the property of the existing tank. Other upgrades are proposed at the Kashong Point wellfield including new well and well house and additional pumps and equipment at the Treatment Plant Building.

The Board discussed the project and determined that it would not have an adverse impact on agricultural operations in Ag. District 6 and would benefit dairies in the Town by providing a clean water supply.

Motion: Send letter to NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets indicating support for project and its potential benefit of providing clean water to dairies and not adversely impact agricultural operations. Made by: M. Rudzinski. Seconded by: R. Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on 2018 Agricultural Implementation Projects

M. Rudzinski reported that Finger Lakes and Genesee Land Trust’s series of four farmland protection workshops for landowners have been scheduled for Dec. 9 & 16, and January 6 & 13, 2020 from 6:30p – 8:30p at the OC Safety Training Center.

The OC Soil and Water Conservation District’s and Geneva City School District’s projects will be completed by the end of the year.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of OC partially completed the Finger Lakes Agricultural Website Project. The Adult Tractor & Farm Safety Education and Training will be postponed until 2020.

As required by the Board of Supervisors resolution approving the projects, M. Rudzinski will seek approval of the BOS’ Planning and Environmental Quality Committee at their December meeting to extend the term of the contract with CCE and Finger Lakes Land Trust until June 30, 2020 to allow completion of the project.

2019 Agricultural Implement Grant Applications

The table below summarizes the applications submitted for funding. Since \$5,000 is available the Board discussed the project and recommended reduced funding as listed below. M. Rudzinski was directed to work with the applicants to revise the scope to reflect the budget allocation.

Applicant	Proposed 2019 Implementation Projects Summary	AEB Share	In-Kind/Other	Board Recommendation
Geneva CSD	Support FFA and ag education activities including development of small greenhouse, camperships to FFA Camp Oswegatchie, “Ag in Our Schools Day” activities, teacher professional development, and program supplies. GCSD is proposing partnerships with Midlakes to encourage development of a program there.	\$5,000	(Support Ag Education staff position)	\$2,500
OC CCE	Pilot Special Interest 4-H Program (SPIN) to develop skills and career interests in welding trade skills for 6 young adults.	\$2,900		\$1,500
OC SWCD	Workshop on sustainable grazing practices.	\$1,500	\$500 – project administration.	\$1,000
	Total	\$9,400		\$5,000

Motion: Recommendation that the OC Board of Supervisors approval funding of Agricultural Implementation Projects as listed in the table above. Made by: R. Johnson. Seconded by: F. Fessner. Motion carried unanimously.

January 16, 2020 was set as the next meeting date.

Member/Agency Reports/Other Business

T. Davis said that CCE will be providing a daylong session on agricultural at the Leadership Ontario Training Workshop.

Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Minutes submitted by,

Maria Rudzinski, Senior Planner