

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
January 19, 2022

Committee Members Present: P. Curran, A. Cyr, G. Barnes, J. Ricketts-Swales, P. Stockin (Absent: D. Fanton, G. Hanchett)

Others Present: D. Bigelow, C. Braack, B. Budinger, J. Burdick, K. Demick, M. Denhoff, K. Dirlam, B. Harris, S. Havey, D. Healy, K. Hooker, L. Hunsberger, C. Jones, C. Knapp, T. Linn, T. Miner, B. Perkins, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, S. Torrey

Call to Order: Resource Management Committee Chairman Philip Curran called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the December 15, 2021, Resource Management Committee minutes.

COUNTY HISTORIAN

County Historian Craig Braack attended the meeting but did not submit a monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Braack briefly commented how big and diverse the County is by recalling a recent phone call he had a few weeks ago. Mr. Braack explained that during this phone call he was unable to answer a man's question. Mr. Braack stated that the man was from Canada, but had been involved with the Boy Scouts in Western New York, and asked if he knew anything about the Ukrainian Boy Scout camp. Mr. Braack explained that he discovered not only a Ukrainian Boy Scout camp in the Town of Hume on Lapp Road, but also a Hungarian Boy Scout camp in the Town of Granger on Robinson Road. Mr. Braack stated that he plans to drive around these interesting places in our County's history in the next few weeks.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Soil and Water Conservation Executive Director Scott Torrey attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Torrey stated that this time of year they are focusing on in-office paperwork, and referenced the various grants received listed within his report.

YOUTH BUREAU

Youth Bureau Director Brian Perkins attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Perkins stated that there was not much to highlight from his report, but that a few items popped up in the last 48 hours. Mr. Perkins stated that the Governor's Budget was released and that funding affecting the Youth Bureau remains flat from last year to this year, and will have more details after a scheduled phone call the following morning. Mr. Perkins stated that the Governor's Youth Council will continue, and Allegany County's representative will also continue to participate.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Laura Hunsberger attended the meeting and submitted a monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Hunsberger stated that they had their organizational meeting, and voted in new officers, and will have a well-represented Board.

Annie's Project

Ms. Hunsberger stated that Annie's Project is a six-week online business management class targeted just toward women farm operators and business managers. Ms. Hunsberger stated that there are a total of 29 participants. Committee Chairman Curran asked if the 29 participants were just from

Allegany County. Ms. Hunsberger explained that she believed it included the Counties of Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Allegany, Wyoming, and possibly the State.

Designing Your Succession Plan

Ms. Hunsberger stated that the Designing Your Succession Plan course is also a six-week course that focuses on who will be taking over the farm when people decide they will no longer be farming.

4-H

Ms. Hunsberger stated that 4-H is collaborating with their Nutrition Program through their 4-H Cooks Program, for a year-long spice of the month, with January's spice being Thyme. Ms. Hunsberger stated that it will be interesting to see the research the kids will do with the spices and herbs, and then they will have an online cooking class with a meal at the end.

Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle asked Ms. Hunsberger if we should add her to next month's agenda for her contract, and Ms. Hunsberger replied, yes.

Appointments to Fish & Wildlife Management Board

The Chairman of the Board plans to appoint Robert Jones of Angelica, New York, as the Sportsmen's Representative Member, and Joseph C. Herdman, III, of Belmont, New York, as the Alternate Sportsmen's Representative Member of the Region 9 Fish & Wildlife Management Board for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2023, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators. A motion was made by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Appointments to Soil & Water Conservation District Board

The Soil and Water Conservation District Board requested the committee to consider appointing Adam B. Cry of Bolivar, and Kevin (Fred) Demick of Angelica as Legislative Members of the Soil and Water Conservation District Board for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2022. Committee Chairman Curran asked County Administrator Knapp if Legislator Cyr would be eligible to vote on his own appointment. Ms. Knapp stated that typically the appointed would abstain from voting. Committee Chairman Curran asked if that left enough Committee members for a quorum. Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle stated there would be enough for a quorum with Chairman Stockin's vote. A motion was made by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Appointments to Soil & Water Conservation District Board-County Farm Bureau

The County Farm Bureau requested that the Board consider appointing Samuel Mietlowski of Alfred Station, NY, as the County Farm Bureau appointee on the Soil and Water Conservation District Board for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2024. A motion was made by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Farmworker Safety Housing Grant Program Announcement

Committee Chairman Curran requested approval to refer the Farmworker Safety Housing Grant Program to the County Administrator. Committee Chairman Curran stated that this new grant is being offered to support the undertaking of eligible projects in the farming industry. County Administrator Knapp stated that they would have to review the grant and determine if it is a program the County could apply for, and whether the program could be managed. Ms. Knapp stated that it may be possible to use

Planning Director Kier Dirlam to pass this information on to the Towns and Villages that could also apply for the grant. Legislator Burdick stated that the grant is to replace housing, and you may have a \$25,000 house that may be replaced with a \$100,000 house that will produce a huge difference in taxes. Legislator Burdick asked if there would be additional funding in the grant to help offset the additional taxes paid on that new housing. Ms. Knapp stated that would be one of the things they would look at, but that there is a lot of new information that she does not have a handle on yet. Legislator Harris added that this got passed to him through NYSAC, and it appeared to him that the grants are intended specifically to remediate COVID-19 issues such as: air filtration systems, masks, and hand sanitizer to name a few. Legislator Harris stated that he does not believe it is for major construction rehab projects, but more along the lines of improving shared housing situations. A motion was made to refer the Farmworker Safety Housing Grant Program to the County Administrator by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Cyr, and carried. **Refer to County Administrator**

Approval of Agreement with Agricultural Society

A resolution was requested to approve the annual appropriation of funds to the Allegany County Agricultural Society in the amount of \$8,000 for fiscal year 2022 in support of the fair. A motion was made by Legislator Barnes, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Good of the Order

Legislator Healy asked County Historian Craig Braack to say a few words about the changing of the County meetings to Wednesday. Legislator Healy stated that Mr. Braack had approached him earlier and made some interesting comments that should be shared. Mr. Braack stated that when the Board made the change at the Organizational meeting, he became curious because during his 35 years, meetings had always been held the second and fourth Wednesdays. Mr. Braack stated that he had asked Mr. Healy why the meetings were changed, and Mr. Healy said that it was Mr. Barnes idea that it made sense to hold all of the meetings on Wednesdays. Mr. Braack stated that after 35 years it really made sense, and he felt it was a good idea.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Barnes, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators