

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
February 16, 2022

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

Others Present: D. Bigelow, J. Burdick, A. Carrow, K. Demick, K. Dirlam, B. Harris, S. Havey, D. Healy,
K. Hooker, L. Hunsberger, C. Knapp, T. Linn, B. Perkins, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross,
T. Shaw, S. Torrey

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

Privilege of the Floor

Chairman of the Board Philip Stockin stated that it was his great delight to share with the Board an announcement that had come out within the last twenty-four hours. Chairman Stockin explained that he received an email the previous day from Governor Kathy Hochul's Department of Transportation (DOT) office requesting a quote because the Governor was announcing \$8.6 million for the bridge in Belfast. Chairman Stockin stated that they sent the quote back in at 7:30 a.m. that morning. Chairman Stockin stated that they had been waiting for confirmation and then discovered the announcement had been printed in the February 16, 2022, *Olean Times Herald*. Chairman Stockin stated that they are very pleased to announce this, that it came about as a result of very good work and strong effort from the Department of Transportation, and our New York State and Federal Representatives. Chairman Stockin stated that with all of their input, the Governor made the decision, and Allegany County will be receiving \$8.6 million toward the bridge in Belfast which is unbelievable, but very, very thankful for it. County Administrator Carissa Knapp added that the Governor's website had been updated with the official press briefing.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried to approve the January 19, 2022, Resource Management Committee minutes.

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 most of their time has been focused on the annual reports for the County and State, and he hoped to complete them by February 15. Mr. Torrey stated that they will be exploring grant opportunities over the next couple of months for farms within Allegany County. Mr. Torrey stated that the Allegany County Farmland Protection Board met and approved the update to the Agricultural District #2 Report, and their recommendations for the eight-year review.

Agricultural District #2 2022 Report

Committee Chairman Philip Curran asked if the 2,727-acre increase was normal. Mr. Torrey explained that approximately 200 acres was due to the re-enrollment of the land around Belvidere, and several other landowners also re-enrolled. Committee Chairman Curran asked if landowners are able to add or subtract land in the middle of a year. Mr. Torrey explained that there is a time period around October where they could add or remove acreage, but that they do not see landowners taking advantage of that option very often. County Administrator Carissa Knapp explained that landowners within the agricultural district can add acreage every year with annual enrollment, but can only opt out every eight years. Ms. Knapp explained that does not mean they could not use it for other purposes, but the land would remain in the agricultural district until the eight-year review. Legislator Burdick stated that there have been concerns in the Town of Alfred with solar project development on prime farmland, and asked

if that is something they should be concerned about. Mr. Torrey explained that when solar development is planned on agricultural district land, they will receive a notice, and they can submit their thoughts about it, but the Department of Agriculture and Markets makes the final determination, and there is very little that Soil and Water can say or do about it.

Agricultural District Number Two Request to Set Public Hearing

County Administrator Carissa Knapp requested a resolution setting the date of a Public Hearing on the modification and continuation of Agricultural District Number Two. The public hearing is requested pursuant to Section 303-A and 303-B of the Agriculture and Markets Law. Agricultural Districts are reviewed every eight years and the review process includes, among other stages in the process, a public hearing on the modification and continuation of the district. The report from the Allegany County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, dated February 7, 2022, has been received recommending the inclusion of approximately 2,727 acres. The continuation and requested modification to Agricultural District Number Two will result in 365 landowners enrolling approximately 35,359.6 acres. The anniversary date for Agricultural District Number Two (formed and found within Allen, Amity, Andover, Angelica, Belfast, Birdsall, Clarksville, Cuba, Friendship, Scio, Ward, Wellsville, West Almond, and Wirt) is June 10, 2022, and the statutory review process must be completed prior to that date. Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle stated that once they have had time to take a closer look at the calendar they will fill in the date on the resolution. Mrs. Riehle stated that they are looking at a tentative date of either March 9 or March 23. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

YOUTH BUREAU

Youth Bureau Director Brian Perkins attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Perkins briefly highlighted items from his report and added that he learned that morning that someone will be going to local schools to give presentations related to STOP-DWI. Mr. Perkins stated that he would have a phone call tomorrow to connect with this individual, and learn which schools and what dates are planned for these presentations.

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 commented on some additional items.

Rural Landowners Conference

Ms. Hunsberger stated that the Rural Landowners Conference at Pioneer Central School is typically held around the first weekend in March, and there is usually a big draw of around 150 people in attendance, but with it being in-person they are expecting a smaller crowd this year.

CCE Training

Ms. Hunsberger stated they had some training the previous night to acclimate their seven new Board Members.

Meeting with Elected Officials in Albany

Ms. Hunsberger stated that usually every year the Executive Directors of the State go to Albany to meet with our elected officials, but this was done virtually this year. Ms. Hunsberger explained that it is usually done as a region consisting of Livingston, Wyoming, Allegany and Chautauqua Counties.

Nutrition Month

Ms. Hunsberger stated that March is nutrition month, and their nutrition staff is busy preparing several nutritional programs for the public.

Newsletter

Committee Chairman Philip Curran asked for the best way to obtain information on all of their available programs. Ms. Hunsberger stated that if someone would like to receive their newsletter to call, visit their Cornell Cooperative Extension [website](#), or send an email at allegany@cornell.edu, but the best way is to check their [Facebook](#) page. Ms. Hunsberger stated that prior to COVID-19 she regularly provided copies of the newsletter, and would be happy to start providing them again.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Association Agreement

County Administrator Carissa Knapp requested a resolution approving a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Allegany County as an optional appropriation and contract for a public benefit service pursuant to County Law Section 224(8). The MOA is a one-year term beginning January 19, 2022, in the amount of \$278,000, to be paid in equal quarterly distributions of \$69,500. An amount of \$278,000 is Included in the 2022 Budget in Account Number A8751.492. Legislator Harris asked how much funding was from State and County. Ms. Hunsberger explained that \$278,000 is from the County with approximately \$60,000 from the State, \$16,000 from Federal funds, \$271,000 from Fringe Benefits, New York State Contracts contributing approximately \$437,000, and other small grants contributing approximately \$128,000. Ms. Hunsberger explained that she did not have the graph available but the State and Federal funding is now contributing more than the County. Legislator Harris asked if it was typical that the County share had remained flat. Ms. Hunsberger explained that it does vary and she will gather that information for him. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Cyr, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators