

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
April 20, 2022

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

Others Present: D. Bigelow, T. Boyde, J. Burdick, K. Demick, K. Dirlam, S. Havey, D. Healy, K. Hooker, L. Hunsberger, C. Knapp, T. Linn, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, 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 Fanton, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried to approve the March 18, 2022, Resource Management Committee minutes.

COUNTY HISTORIAN

County Historian Craig Braack was unable to attend the meeting.

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 the State was very generous with substantial increases to most of their program areas within the State Budget. Mr. Torrey stated that they will be getting several projects going this summer with approximately eight grants to write between now and May 16, 2022. Committee Chairman Curran asked what the overall percent increase was to their programs. Mr. Torrey explained that the percent increase varies with most of them around a couple million dollars, but the Client Farming Resiliency Fund had a substantial \$12 million increase. Committee Chairman Curran stated that he wonders where the money is coming from and how it is being divided. Legislator Hanchett asked what the Client Farming Resiliency Fund is used for. Mr. Torrey explained that there are different aspects with it, but it is used primarily for reducing methane gas from manure storage, and increasing soil health by improving storm run-off and erosion sediment and silt into our streams. Legislator Barnes recalled that 3 or 4 years ago the buildup of debris at the Belmont Falls Bridge had been removed, and he noticed this year that the buildup is back and wondered if Mr. Torrey had plans to remove it. Mr. Torrey explained that they will try and find the funding to bring someone in to remove the debris.

YOUTH BUREAU

Youth Bureau Director Brian Perkins was unable to attend the meeting.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Laura Hunsberger attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Hunsberger stated that the new Horticulture Educator Cristian Acosta began work with the CCE last week. Mr. Acosta is from Columbia and has studied everything from orchids to corn, and is excited to see the direction he takes the Horticulture, Master Gardener Volunteer, and part of the Farm to School programs.

Ag Literacy Week

Ms. Hunsberger stated that Ag Literacy Week was held March 21 through 25, with 100 percent of schools participating. Ms. Hunsberger thought that the Legislators may be willing to read something during next year's Ag Literacy Week at one of the schools in their District. Legislator Cyr replied with, "absolutely sign us up."

Staff Development-Negotiating Land Leases

Legislator Ricketts-Swales referred to the Staff Development section of Ms. Hunsberger's report and asked if she was able to elaborate on Negotiating Land Leases. Ms. Hunsberger explained that she has limited knowledge, but if there is something that communities may be interested in to please get in touch with her. Ms. Hunsberger stated that when they facilitated a Solar Program with Push Buffalo last summer, she reached out to the Villages and Towns to see if that was something they were interested in and it worked out very well. Legislator Cyr thanked Ms. Hunsberger for her hard work and all of the good things that she does for the County.

Appointments to Region 9 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle announced that Chairman Stockin plans to make the following appointments to the Region 9 Fish and Wildlife Management Board to serve a term of two years, commencing January 1, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2023, and Mrs. Riehle requested a resolution confirming those appointments as follows:

Legislative Representative Member

Alternate Legislative Member

Dwight R. Fanton

Brooke Harris

The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Barnes, seconded by Legislator Cyr, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators