

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
July 20, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Resource Management Committee Chairman Philip Curran.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Committee Chairman Philip Curran.

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

Other Attendees: T. Boyde, C. Braack, J. Burdick, A. Carrow, K. Demick, B. Harris, S. Havey, D. Healy, K. Hooker, L. Hunsberger, C. Knapp, T. Linn, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, S. Torrey

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried to approve the June 15, 2022, Resource Management Committee minutes.

COUNTY HISTORIAN

County Historian Craig Braack began by thanking the Legislators for honoring Rod Biehler at the June 22 Legislative Board meeting and commented that it was exceedingly appropriate to also fall on the anniversary of the flood of 1972. Mr. Braack stated that while exchanging memories at that month's meeting of County Town Historians, it was noted that the flood of 1972 was only one of three times that Allegany County was mentioned in the New York Times.

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 they should be wrapping up the Travis Lot later that day. Legislator Healy asked Mr. Torrey to refresh everyone's memory of the Travis Lot. Mr. Torrey explained that the Travis Lot is 300 to 400 acres of County owned timber land in the Town of Angelica that had been logged in 2019 and 2020. Mr. Torrey explained that they could not complete the cleanup last year because of the heavy rains at that time. Mr. Torrey stated that they are in the process of completing the cleanup of the logging roads back to acceptable condition. Legislator Harris recalled that they were going to establish a landing area near the road that may have the potential to be improved as a small parking area and wondered if that was still in the plans. Mr. Torrey stated that the existing landing area has been cleaned up but that no new landing areas had been created. Legislator Harris asked how big the landing area is and wondered if it was visible from the road. Mr. Torrey stated that he did not know how big the area is and that it is not visible from the road. Legislator Healy asked to clarify that this area was the logging landing area. Mr. Torrey replied, "yes." Legislator Harris explained that the original thought was to have the loggers establish a landing area closer to the road that was accessible to people that wanted to utilize the forest land for recreation purposes, and that could be improved by the Department of Public Works.

YOUTH BUREAU

Youth Bureau Director Brian Perkins was unable to attend the meeting but had previously submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Laura Hunsberger attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review.

Allegany County Fair Update

Mrs. Hunsberger stated that they had already had a bunch of farm shows at the Allegany County Fair. Mrs. Hunsberger explained that they always judge the chickens before the fair actually begins because of Avian Influenza. Committee Chairman Curran asked if they know how many birds locally and nationwide that have been found to actually have the disease versus the number of birds slaughtered. Mrs. Hunsberger stated that she would contact the Southwest New York Agricultural Team and that their livestock and poultry specialist Amy Barkley for those numbers. Mrs. Hunsberger commented that years ago when she was with the University of Maryland extension where large chicken operations like Purdue, Tyson, and Mountaire are located, when hundreds of thousands of birds had to be composted at a time due to Avian Influenza. Mrs. Hunsberger remarked that we are lucky we don't have large concentrated operations here.

Mrs. Hunsberger stated that the livestock auction would begin that evening at 6:00 p.m. for anyone interesting in a freezer full of meat. Legislator Healy commented that he spent a good share of the previous day at one of the political booths at the fair. Legislator Healy stated that the fair looked excellent, that there was a nice crowd in attendance, and that Mrs. Hunsberger's booth was also very nice. Mrs. Hunsberger stated that they have fewer entries this year and that the Elm Valley Harvesters are struggling a bit as they are down a few members. Mrs. Hunsberger stated that they are also holding a fundraiser in the youth 4-H building for the Erway family.

Legislator Ricketts-Swales stated that several years ago she helped someone from the CCE office with how to provide training for harvesting Ginseng and wondered if anyone had ever looked into it further. Mrs. Hunsberger stated that prior to the pandemic in 2018 or 2019 they held a training for Ginseng, but she had not heard a lot of interest since then. Mrs. Hunsberger stated that it was well attended then, and she could put her in touch with Lynn Bliven for more information.

Committee Chairman Curran took the opportunity to congratulate Alfred State Graduate Katelyn Miller as CCE's Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program field crops and forage specialist.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators