

MINUTES

PLANNING & RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Fred Lightfoote, Chairman

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

4:00 PM

Conference Room 205

Municipal Building

Members Present

Chair – Supervisor F. Lightfoote
Vice Chair – Supervisor R. Green
Supervisor J. Gallahan
Supervisor D. Marshall
Supervisor N. Teed
Supervisor D. Vedora

**Members
Excused**

Staff and Guests:

Mary Krauss, County Administrator
Tom Harvey, Planning
Reliefia Kramer, Planning
Michael Wojcik, Economic Development
Tim Davis, OC CCE
Carol McNeil, OC CCE
P. J. Emerick, SWCD
Megan Webster, SWCD
Tucker Kautz, SWCD

TIME	TOPIC	NOTES & DISCUSSION
4:00 p.m.	Opening of Meeting Approval of Minutes	<p>Chair Lightfoote opened the April 5, 2016 Planning and Research Committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. Supervisor Teed was necessarily late.</p> <p>Chair Lightfoote requested a motion to approve the March 15, 2016 minutes.</p> <p><i>A motion was offered by Supervisor Teed, and was seconded by Supervisor Gallahan to approve the March 15, 2016 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.</i></p>
4:02	SWCD	<p>Chair Lightfoote welcomed P. J. Emerick, Meghan Webster, and Tucker Kautz.</p> <p>Mr. Emerick introduced Ms. Webster, Sr. Technician and Mr. Kautz, Technician to the committee. Mr. Emerick said that Ms. Webster and Mr. Kautz wrote a round XXII Ag Non-point Source Grant for the northern watershed for two million dollars. He said that they also wrote a Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) grant application to fund improvements on three farms. That grant totals \$788,000. Mr. Emerick said that is 2.8 million dollars they are hoping to bring into the county. The district doesn't capture a lot of that money as it only gets a small administrative fee for handling the paperwork. Most of the money goes to the improvements on the farm, back to local equipment vendors, engineers, and contractors. Mr. Emerick said that they did receive a WQIP grant for water quality improvement, Round XII grant for CMAC. They worked with the Planning Department, FLCC, and the Friends of CMAC on this grant that involves \$102,250 to do storm water improvements. The grant will help pay for porous pavement</p>

**SWCD
(cont.)**

and rain gardens. He said that will be a good partnership with Planning and the college. SWCD wrote and got approved for a grant for Honeoye Lake for the Inlet project for \$400,000. Mr. Emerick said that they continue to do storm water inspections FLCC Geneva project. That is now once a month and will be closed out soon. Mr. Emerick told the committee that SWCD is working on the CMAC Sewer program and that should be closed out later this year. He said that they are also working on the D Lot Redevelopment.

Mr. Kautz discussed the Ag Non-point Source Point XXII grant they had received. The annual grant funded mostly concentrated waste management storage structures on farms and some leachate containment for milk house waste systems. Mr. Kautz said that in the Northern Watershed five farms had eight projects funded. Four were manure storage structures and two had milk house waste systems. The Flint Creek Watershed had three farms with funded projects; two were for manure storage structures and one was for waste transfer system. The grants are being used to assist farms in staying ahead pending DEC regulations that will prohibit spreading manure in the winter months. The wording of the draft regulations that are to come out in June or July of this year is “can’t spread on frozen or saturated ground.” There are a lot of large farms that are in Ontario County that are going to be affected by this and they will be looking for some program assistance.

Meghan Webster told the committee that there are two WQIP grants in round XI. There is the hydro seeder grant which will be purchased in the spring of this year. She said that training will follow for highway districts. The second grant is for the ongoing Honeoye Sediment Nutrient Mitigation project. She said that this grant will fund many small projects around Honeoye Lake focused on different things like stream stabilization, sediment basins, vernal pools, and working with county highway on debris guards. She said that they are in the design and permitting stage for these projects. SWCD will be having a Vernal Pools workshop on June 18, 2016 open to anyone who is interested. She said that they have located six sites to install vernal pools on excess property, for example at Cummings Nature Center and Harriet Hollister State Recreation Area. This is where people will be able to view the vernal pools. Ms. Webster said that they are hoping to attract people that want to install vernal pools on their land to increase upland water storage in the watershed.

Ms. Webster discussed WQIP round XII grant involving CMAC. She said that the grant Contract has been finalized so we are just waiting for the project work to start with the Friends of CMAC, FLCC and the County. The second round XII WQIP grant is the Honeoye Inlet Restoration Project that is on DEC land. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took over the design and permitting for this project. It has been submitted to DEC because they are both applicant and assessing the permit. This may start late summer, early fall 2016.

Mr. Emerick, Mr. Kautz, and Ms. Webster answered questions from the committee. Further discussion on the pending DEC regulations that will prohibit spreading manure in the winter months.

Chair Lightfoote thanked Mr. Emerick, Ms. Webster, and Mr. Kautz.

4:20	Cornell Cooperative Extension	<p>Chair Lightfoote welcomed Tim Davis and Carol McNeil.</p> <p>Mr. Davis introduced Ms. McNeil and told the committee that she had been to a previous meeting and wanted to further discuss soil health with the committee.</p> <p>Ms. McNeil handed out a report entitled “Diagnosing a Soil Health Problem on a Local Vegetable Farm. Ms. McNeil informed the committee that she has been working on improving soil health for 12 years on area vegetable farms. She discussed the impact that the Empire Pipeline had across the area by causing soil compaction damage. They have been working with Hansen Farms and documented the reduced productivity on their vegetable farm in areas where the Empire Pipeline was installed. While Hansen Farms has been compensated for their crop losses, their continued interest is to restore the productivity of their fields. Ms. McNeil did soil analysis testing, found that most of the impact was from over-compaction of soil during construction of the pipeline, possibly because work was done when the soils had too high a moisture content, and has made recommendations of how to restore the soil to good health. Ms. McNeil answered questions from the committee members and further discussion took place.</p> <p>Chair Lightfoote thanked Mr. Davis and Ms. McNeil.</p>
4:27	Tourism	<p>Chair Lightfoote welcomed Valerie Knoblauch.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch discusses and recommends approval of a resolution – Designating National Tourism Week, May 1-7, 2016.</p> <p><i>Motion to approve the above mentioned resolution was made by Supervisor Marshall, seconded by Supervisor Gallahan. Motion carried.</i></p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch told the committee that they would be receiving several pieces of correspondence over the next couple weeks. She said that Tourism has different activities that will be happening over the next 4 weeks. She told them that they will be releasing their new strategic plan.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch discussed issues regarding occupancy tax with the committee, including the need to renew the tax every 3 years with a short renewal process if no changes are proposed, but if they want to make changes, the process will involve a year-long process. They will be looking at the current limit of rooms before the county occupancy tax applies and the impact of on line renting through services like Air BnB.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch said that the new Tourism website will be ready to launch in early May.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch informed the staff about the Legacy Awards. The awards are for people that have contributed the tourism industry. Ms. Knoblauch said she would give the committee a list of the recipients. The awards will be giving on May 4th, 2016 and may wish to attend the breakfast at the new Seneca Arts and Culture Center in Victor. She said that one of the recipients will be Senator Mike Nozzolio. They will be sending out more information.</p>

		Chair Lightfoote thanked Ms. Knoblauch.
4:33	Deputy County Administrator	Deputy County Administrator Mary Gates discussed an informational resolution with the committee – Resolution Authorizing to Accept Cash Assets of the Western Ontario Local Community Development Corporation – Ontario County Work Force Development.
4:54	Planning	<p>Tom Harvey handed out the Planning Quarterly Project Status Report. He asked the committee to take it home and read it and if you have any questions he would be happy to address them at the next meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Harvey told the committee about the Aquatic Vegetation Funding in the new State Budget. He said we are expecting \$85,000 to be allocated for Ontario County’s portion for the Aquatic Vegetation Management Program and related activities as 2,399,000 was allocated for the region.</p> <p>Mr. Harvey distributed copies of an article that was in the Democrat & Chronicle about the challenges of providing a direct connection between local producers and restaurants for locally grown meat.</p>
5:00	Adjournment	<p>There being no further business for discussion, Chair Lightfoote requested a motion to adjourn.</p> <p><i>Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Teed, seconded by Supervisor Green at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.</i></p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Reliefia Kramer