



Cattaraugus County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD MEETING

County Center, Little Valley, NY

January 17, 2017

Board Members

David L. Zilker
Chairman

Barbara D. George
Vice Chairman

Crystal J. Abers

David Koch

Daniel Brown

Charles W. Couture

Brian Davis

James Finch

Daniel T. Martonis

Donald Telaak

Suzann Cushman

Ag Board Members Present: David L. Zilker, Chairman
Crystal J. Abers
David Koch
Charles Couture
Brian Davis
Donald Telaak

Ag Board Members Absent: Barbara D. George
Daniel Brown
James Finch
Daniel T. Martonis
Suzann Cushman

County Planning Board Ag Committee Present: Robert Keis

Planning Staff Present: Paul R. Bishop, Planner

Guest: Kimberly LaMendola, Regional Development Coordinator,
Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board
Jeremy Knab, Website Technician

Chairman Zilker called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brian Davis moved with a second from Donald Telaak to approve the July 6, 2016 minutes as submitted. Motion was carried.



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AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

Paul Bishop reported that on December 6, 2015 the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets approved the "**Cattaraugus County Agricultural Districts Review & Consolidation**". This year long process involved combining Cattaraugus County Agricultural Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 into Consolidated Agricultural District 5, using District 5 as the parent district. The consolidation of six districts into one eliminates the necessity for multiple, concurrent Eight-Year Reviews and allows for one 300-day review process, effectively combining six individual reviews into one Countywide review.

This review examined every agricultural district parcel to bring Cattaraugus County's Agricultural District Program up to date. The consolidation provides for a more efficient Agricultural District Eight-Year Review Process with no adverse impacts on farming operations or property owners within the districts.

The next Eight-Year Review of Cattaraugus County Agricultural District No. 5 is due to be completed on or before July 10, 2025.

2017 6TH ANNUAL FARMER-NEIGHBOR DINNER

Crystal Abers reported that the Farmer-Neighbor Committee met prior to the Board meeting to discuss the event and food. The dinner will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at the West Valley Fire Hall; purple will be the theme color. Tony Schabloski, Environmental Science Teacher, Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central School was suggested to be the guest speaker. Award recipients were discussed for Farmer of the Year, Friend of Agriculture, and Conservation Farmer of the Year.

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS TOUR 2016

Paul Bishop reported that the tour was well attended with 20 participants who were very pleased to see the diversity of agriculture in Cattaraugus County. Paul stated that we will be looking to visit four different Agricultural Businesses in September of 2017.

Agribusinesses visited this past September were as follows:

- Jeff and Diane Rupp of Rupp Family Forest, LLC, located in the Town of Cattaraugus, manage their 200 acres of mostly hardwood forest for the purpose of maintaining it indefinitely as a healthy sustainable forest.
- Dave and Mary Johnson of Southern Tier Dairy Service in Conewango Valley distributes, supplies, and services dairy systems including robotic milkers for dairy farmers in Cattaraugus and surrounding counties.
- Brian and Jacqueline Volpe of Fox and Hound Merino Sheep in Randolph are one of the only farms in Western NY that raise their own Merino sheep and produce 100% Merino wool fiber. Merino wool is exceptionally fine wool and is comfortably worn next to the skin. They sell their fiber, yarn, dryer balls and coming soon – merino wool socks.

- Gary and Heidi Boser are owners and operators of Randolph Peaches & Cream in Randolph, a fresh farm market and ice cream shop. They are open from spring to fall and throughout the Holiday season, when they offer poinsettias, wreaths and Christmas trees.

CCAGHELP.COM UPDATE AND NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

Crystal Abers informed the Board that a Cattaraugus County Ag Facebook page has been created. Jeremy Knab gave an online demonstration showing the different menus located on the Cattaraugus County Agriculture Website that can be found at www.ccaghelp.com and the website location of the new Cattaraugus County Ag Facebook page which can be found at www.facebook.com/Cattaraugus-County-Ag-132178103928819. The Committee was informed that both sites are being updated weekly with upcoming events and news.

NEW YORK STATE SLOW MOVING VEHICLE SYMPOSIUM

Paul provided information on the NYS Slow Moving Vehicle Symposium Training that will be held in East Syracuse on February 21, 2017. This event is hosted by the New York State Sheriffs' Association and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. The symposium will cover slow moving vehicle highway safety issues from the farm, construction, law enforcement, and religious community perspectives.

AGENCY UPDATES

Farm Bureau

Dave Zilker reported that the Farm Bureau recently held a farm safety training session.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

No report.

Soil and Water Conservation District

Brian Davis updated the Board on the status of the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program and the NYS Ag Non-Point Resource Grants. Brian also reported on the situation of the sewage sludge pellets that were being used for fertilizer in the Town of Ischua.

Southern Tier West

Kimberly LaMendola reported that Southern Tier West has assumed control of the New York Sustainable Agriculture Working Group. New York's Sustainable Agriculture Working Group promotes a healthy agricultural system that is environmentally sound, economically viable, and socially just for farmers and consumers by:

- Educating all stakeholders;
- Conducting research and development activities that foster sustainable rural development;

- Sponsoring public participation efforts that encourage all people to become active stewards of sustainable agricultural systems; and
- Promoting programs that support the development of sustainable communities.

OPEN FORUM

Much discussion was held concerning the one million dollar grant that was awarded to Edelweiss Dairy Facility.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for March 14, 2017 at 1:00 pm at the County Center in Little Valley.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian Davis moved to adjourn with a second by Donald Telaak at 2:30 p.m. Motion was carried.