

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD MINUTES**  
**Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**  
**3542 Turner Road**  
**Jamestown, N.Y. 14701**  
**May 18, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Brian Aldrich, Steve Kimball, Katelyn Walley-Stoll, Jim Caflich, Fred Crosut, Jim Joy, Don McCord

**ABSENT:** Dan Steward, Dennis Rak, Jay Gould, Heather Woodis

**OTHERS:** Michael Longley

*Administration / Organization*

<b>MINUTES</b>	Chairperson Kimball called the meeting to order. Chairperson Kimball motioned to approve the minutes of the May 2017 Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board ("Board") meeting. Fred Crosut seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous consent.
<b>CORRESPONDANCE</b>	None
<b>PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR</b>	None

*New Business*

<b>Notice of Intent for Town of Pomfret Water</b>	The Board reviewed a Notice of Intent filing by E&M Engineers on behalf of the Town of Pomfret. New water district to serve only the Lily Dale community. The Board expressed some concern over surrounding agricultural land and the the threat of conversion to residential subdivisions along Route 60 with the added water line. It was decided that the lateral restrictions to be imposed would be sufficient to preserve surrounding farmland, and that the water line would serve only existing residences at Lily Dale. The Board voted to accept the draft reponse letter requesting that lateral restrictions are imposed in accordance with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, and that minimum construction standards were followed for the project.
<b>Farmland Protection Plan Update</b>	<p>Steve Kimball: The plan should reflect changes in our agriculture from 2000 to now. There are new agriculture initiatives, like CFAs and farmers markets. We also need to come up with a funding strategy, this is harder to do than to write on paper.</p> <p>Jim Joy: The plan won't address a whole list of new things.</p> <p>Don McCord: I had a discussion with the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to talk with them about funding. They are on board to give \$30,000.</p> <p>Katlyn Walley-Stoll: We determined that we will have a \$10,000 gap and we were looking to ask the Ag. Business community to fund that gap. With the current conditions in agriculture this might be difficult to obtain.</p> <p>Don McCord: Even if it's less than \$10,000, we can negotiate. We want to get buy-in and get them to be part of it.</p>

Jim Joy: \$10,000 really is not much for the whole Ag. Business community across the County.

Katelyn Walley-Stoll: We need buy-in from grassroot efforts to make sure the plan moves forward. We don't want to have a consultant come in and do the plan, leave town, and not have it be implemented.

Don McCord: How do we help farmer profitability?

Brian Aldrich: Right, the key is profitability to keep farmers viable.

Don McCord: It has been a priority in the past, but has not been a "gun to head" situation.

Steve Kimball: In the center of Ithaca they have a farmer's market that serves as an attraction to the area. Maybe we can emulate what's happening in Ithaca with the National Comedy Center in Jamestown by incorporating a farmer's market along the rail by NCC. We should take advantage of the enthusiasm from NCC. There has also been hops development in Gerry.

Jim Caflich: Hops aren't easy crops.

Brian Aldrich: My problem is that this type of agriculture is small, about 5, 10, 20 acres. We need large scale farms with money, like Dennis Rak. We need big farmers to drive profitability and farmer viability.

Steve Kimball: My problem is concern over changing trade deals being a threat.

Brian Aldrich: No, small fields will be the first to go. Hops average about a half to one acre, this is insignificant. We need more like Dennis Rak, Trivale, and Falcone.

Jim Caflich: Hops will never be as efficient, or easy, as grapes and dairy.

Don McCord: It's not good to put all the eggs in one basket.

Brian Aldrich: I support diversifying, but we can't have all small, insignificant operations.

Jim Joy: How many small farms do we have in the County?

Katelyn Walley-Stoll: There are 1,500 farms in the County. About 50% do \$10,000 or less in production. I think about 200 farms sell directly to the customer. Dairy is not as profitable here as it is in other states.

Jim Joy: The current plan overlooks small farms, but does address large-scale farms.

Don McCord: This is a long-going discussion. We have the new Agriculture Census data coming in soon.

Katelyn Walley-Stoll: That's exciting. The new plan will reflect the new data for the County.

Don McCord: I'm interested to see in the Census how much crop acreage was lost in 20 years. Land is being taken by small residential cuts, not large development.

Brian Aldrich: How accurate is the Census?

Katelyn Walley Stoll: It's not 100%, but still accurate. They send out Census forms to farmers annually.

Fred Crosut: Dairy and grape large farms are accurate, the smaller farms and the Amish may be

missed.

Steve Kimball: I motion to go forward with the plan update and funding.

Jim Joy: I'll second.

Approved by unanimous consent.

Brian Aldrich: Chautauqua Region Community Foundation is on board, what about NCCF (Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation)?

Katelyn Walley-Stoll: We could ask them for a small contribution toward the \$10,000 we're looking for from the Ag. Businesses.

Brian Aldrich: I'll reach out to NCCF for support.

*Old Business*

**Agricultural District Review**

Fred Crosut: The consolidation plan is no longer a proposal.

Don McCord: Right, the proposal was approved by a resolution. The previous plan was to consolidate to eight districts with one review a year to keep agriculture in front of the legislature.

Steve Kimball: Do we have a schedule for the reviews?

Don McCord: No, right now we are short staff and resources.

*Adjournment*

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Motion carried.