



# AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD MINUTES

201 West Third Street, Suite 115, Jamestown, NY 14701

May 4th, 2017 from 8:30 am – 10:00 am

**PRESENT:** Brian Aldrich, Jim Caflisch, Fred Croscut, Jay Gould, Chairman Stephen Kimball, Dan Steward, and Katelyn Walley-Stoll.

**ABSENT:** Jim Joy, Dennis Rak, Kevin Sanvidge, and Heather Woodis,

**OTHERS:** Seth Krull (Clark Patterson Lee), Patrick Gooch and Michael Longley (Chautauqua County Planning & Economic Development)

## ADMINISTRATION

### MINUTES

#### **Review September 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Pat Gooch – Are there any issues with the minutes for our last meeting?

Katelyn Walley-Stoll – The only thing I noticed is that Heather Woodis is listed as present but was actually absent for that meeting.

Pat – Thank you for noting that.

Fred Croscut – Motion to approve the minutes.

Jim Caflisch – I second that motion.

Steve – All in favor say aye.

Approved by unanimous consent.

### PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR

Mike Longley introduced himself as the new Junior Planner of the Department of Planning & Economic Development.

### CORRESP.

Notice of Intents – Re: North Chautauqua County Water District and the Water Extension in the Town of Westfield

## NEW BUSINESS

### NOTICE OF INTENT:

#### **North Chautauqua County Water District**

Pat – Most of you are aware of this project, you previously received the materials, I'd like to start the discussion of the NOIs received for the North Chautauqua County Water District (NCCWD).

Fred – Will there be any disruption of agriculture and croplands?

Pat – I believe the work will be done within the ROW as much as possible but the maps that we've been provided with aren't at a scale where that can be verified. I'm not comfortable saying that is true but I'm sure that Seth, one of the engineers from Clark

Patterson Lee, could speak to that.

Seth Krull – Yes, construction will be done within the ROW as much as possible. I', Seth Krull, and Engineer with Clark Patterson Lee who is working on this project. Funding was obtained for the NCCWD several years ago and the project has evolved over time. The extent of work has changed slightly compared to what we expected a few years ago. The maps provided show Phase I of the improvements to the water district. The NOI in question involves Phase I water main as shown on the regional water system map. Seth explained maps to the Board and shared details of water main proposals. These improvements are meant to resolve issues of low water volume, not low water pressure. Town has determined main water line would be along Willow Road (16 inch main in Town of Dunkirk and City of Dunkirk).

The Village of Brocton is currently served by a water treatment plant south of village. This plant will be decommissioned and water mains will replace service. A meeting will be held next Thursday (May 11) to wrap up design and send project out to bid. Future NCCWD projects will be extended into other municipalities after funding is secured.

Jay Gould – The water main must pass through agricultural land in some place.

Seth – I can submit more specific construction documents to show larger scale cropland details.

Brian Aldrich – Will any water mains go through fields? Or will they mainly go along the roadway?

Seth – It's mostly land along the roadway and some within agricultural districts. There are some areas that require creek-crossings and other connections.

Chairman Stephen Kimball – The question is whether, for example, grapevines and other particular crops will be disrupted.

Brian – Going through headlands is not the problem but obviously bringing up any grapevines could be detrimental. There must be coordination to construct outside of the harvest season (September/fall for grapes). There must be coordination between contractor and landowner/farmer. In addition to harvest season, it's also important to be mindful of spring and the rest of growing season.

Fred – The letter from Agriculture and Markets must be addressed as well.

Pat – Can this be sent as a digital file (possibly compatible with Google Earth) so that board members can zoom in to specific areas of concern?

Seth – That might be possible down the line but figures can also be prepared in PDF format at a larger scale.

	<p>Katelyn – It would be helpful if a list of affected crops could be created. This will give a better overall picture of the impact of the proposals.</p> <p>Seth – We only currently have property owners listed.</p> <p>Brian – I’m assuming these lines have about a 40 year life?</p> <p>Jim – It should be a lot longer than that.</p> <p>Seth – It’s typically longer at about 70 to 80 years. There is pipe in the ground now that’s 100 to 120 years old.</p> <p>Seth – This could also support growth in population over time.</p> <p>Jim – The population is actually steadily decreasing.</p> <p>Pat – Just to wrap up, we should include comments on timing construction according to the growing and harvesting seasons?</p> <p>Fred – I motion to approve letter with revisions related to the comments on growing and harvesting seasons and disruption of croplands.</p> <p>Jim – I second the motion.</p> <p>Steve – All in favor say aye.</p> <p>Motion approved by unanimous consent.</p> <p><b>Westfield Extension</b></p> <p>Pat – The water main in Westfield would be a small extension to provide water to some commercial properties in Westfield. Is there any discussion?</p> <p>Fred – I would say we have the same concerns as we do with the other project.</p> <p>Jay – I make a motion to approve a letter with similar changes as noted in the NCCWD letter?</p> <p>Jim – I second the motion.</p> <p>Steve – All in favor say aye.</p> <p>Motion approved.</p>
<b>OTHER:</b>	<p>Pat – There is a CFA workshop today at the Williams Center at SUNY Fredonia and a solar and land use workshop next Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 PM in Mayville. Also, a Lake Erie Rally will be on Saturday, May 13 in Dunkirk.</p>

	<p>Katelyn – Cornell Cooperative Extension has 2 events in August. The Chautauqua County Farmers Neighbor Dinner will be on August 15 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM at The Grandview in Ellington. Saturday, August 26 will be “Visit a Farm Day” at Kidder Dairy Farm in Busti. Volunteers are needed to help give tours.</p> <p>Pat – Also, on Monday, May 15 there will be a UB grad student presentation for Growing Food Connections at BOCES in Ashville. It will be a whole day event with other GFC presentations in the afternoon.</p>
<p><u>OLD BUSINESS</u></p>	
<p><b>AG. DISTRICTS REVIEW</b></p>	<p>Fred – We have nine districts now, right? What would we consolidate to?</p> <p>Pat – Four</p> <p>Katelyn – None of us here (Katelyn, Pat, Mike) have been through and Ag. district review before, so it will be a learning process for all of us.</p>
<p><b>POSSIBLE FARMLAND PROT. PLAN UPDATE</b></p>	<p>Pat – County Executive Horrigan has expressed support for an update of the plan. There is potential for grant money for the plan update. But we would need to allocate some County monies for the match.</p> <p>Fred – What would be changed with an update?</p> <p>Pat – Potentially we could include a wider view of the food system as a whole. This could be an overview of agriculture and farming, as well as concerns of food access and public health. Additionally, we could look at this through the lens of Ag as Economic Development. There are a variety of ways to approach this, I think we should be strategic about how we shape a plan.</p> <p>Dan Steward – That notification from the Governor regarding money available for farmland preservation caught my eye. There are examples of this in Livingston and Wyoming Counties. An updated plan should include a strategy to protect farmland and decide what areas would be good for farm and non-farm development. I don’t think we should just secure property rights without a strategic plan.</p>