



## Central Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District

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Est. 1942

### DISTRICT MEETING Tuesday, 18 May 2010 USDA Service Center, Presque Isle MINUTES

**Supervisors Present:** Leigh Morrow, Dotty Dudley

**Associate Supervisors Present:** Mike Bragdon, Gary Belyea

**Absent:** Bruce Wilkins, George Howe, Brian Edgecomb, Larry Park, Bruce Roope, Brent Flewelling, Jon Durepo, Steve Sutter, Ray Harris, Tim Scott

**Staff:** Ben Lynch

**Others:** Joe Weber, Skip Babineau

**Minutes for January 19, 2010:** *The minutes were approved with a motion from Dotty Dudley and second from Gary Belyea upon revision indicating vote on changing flag prices.*

**Treasurer's Report:** *Approved after a motion from Dotty Dudley and second from Mike Bragdon with note regarding receipt of grant money from Dept. of Agriculture for updating the Maine Irrigation Guide.*

**NRCS Report: Joe Weber.** NRCS has finished obligating EQIP funding for the year, which totaled 26 contracts and over \$1 million, and is now working on implementing conservation practices. Reminder that the next round of EQIP funding deadline is 1 July 2010. WHIP Forestry Initiative in Maine has received \$1 million towards implementation of wildlife practices of forestland limited to 16 specific practices and the deadline is 15 June 2010. PI office has processed 6 applications for WHIP for grassland bird habitat that represent 186 ac and \$38,328 in funding requests. Joe gave a presentation and handout on Board Diversity.

**St. John & Aroostook RC&D Report: Skip Babineau.** SJ-ARC&D has received \$250 from the Rotary club to support the Envirothon, half of which will go to CASWCD for the fall field day and half will go to SASWCD for the 2011 Regional Envirothon. Skip informed the Board that he assisted the SJVSWCD with a grant proposal to MOHF to plant riparian buffers on Eagle Lake and, along with all other SWCD proposals, was not funded. Skip also updated the Board on RC&D's work with Wesgut Sipu, NMDC Brownfields grants and loans, UVEC trails mapping, and Presque Isle Downtown Revitalization "Get Down to Business".

#### **Executive Director's Report: Benji Lynch.**

- Christina Watershed 319 Projects: Grant proposal has been submitted to MEDEP for installing BMPs on three landowners' properties, which two have confirmed and the third is awaiting contact.
- Irrigation Guide: Benji asked individuals from the DEP, DAFRR, LURC, UMCE, UM Economic Dept., MPG, MPB, NRCS, and USACE as recommended by John Harker at DAFRR.
- Williams Brook Watershed Survey: Field survey completed late April/early May and data has been entered into database. Now working on GIS analysis and writing a draft report.
- Prestile Stream Storm Watchers: Stakeholder meeting scheduled for 2 June at 6:30 PM to update interested members of public and to recruit volunteer storm watchers.

**Williams Brook Watershed Survey:** The subject of landowners' objection and/or rejection to allowing the CASWCD and NRCS personnel on their property to complete the survey was discussed. Skip Babineau mentioned that the District may want to consider how the information collected during the surveys is presented to the public and that it is done in a way that will protect landowners from that information being used against them in any way.

**No-Till Seeder:** *The Board voted not to charge Gary Belyea for seeder rental in exchange for labor and services provided with a motion from Leigh Morrow and a second from Dotty Dudley.* Leigh requested that a NO FERTILIZER sign be put on the seed hopper and that copies of the rental agreement be kept with the seeder.

**District Camera and GPS:** *The Board voted that Benji purchase a Garmin GPS unit not to exceed \$150 and a digital camera no to exceed \$200 for the District with a motion from Dotty Dudley and a second from Gary Belyea.*

*Motion to adjourn from Gary Belyea and a second from Dotty Dudley.*