



Lake Plains
Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.
446 West Avenue
Albion New York 14411

Council Officers

President – Carol Culhane
Orleans County

President-Elect – Rochelle Bell
Monroe County

Secretary/Treasurer – Elizabeth Offhaus
Orleans County

March 18, 2010

To: Lake Plains RC&D Council Members, Cooperating Agencies Personnel, and Other Interested Individuals.

**The Lake Plains RC&D Council will meet at 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., on Thursday, April 8, 2010
Orleans County, Workforce Development Center
458 West Avenue, Albion, NY 14411
585-589-5335**

**** All Meetings OPEN to the Public. All those interested are encouraged to attend. ****

Agenda

10:00am Meeting Call to Order

Introductions
Quorum Determination
Minutes of Previous Meeting
Treasurer's Report

- Audit Committee

10:15am Old Business

National Association of RC&D Councils

- Leadership Forum
- Dues

Mid-Atlantic RC&D – Dues

D&O Insurance

Lake Plains RC&D

- Form a By-laws Committee – Terms of Office
- Policies – Travel, Contract Execution, Sexual Harassment, Procurement, Code of Conduct, Employee Handbook
- Circle of Diamonds
 - Policies – Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action, Conflict of Interest and Procedures
 - Quarterly Outreach Materials (Workshops, News Articles, Brochures, Pamphlets)
- Meeting Schedule and Location

11:00am New Business

Approval/Cancellation of Project Measures

- Salamaca Estate Winery
- AmeriCorps
- Revamp Project Measures

Coordinator's Report

11:30am Other Business

NRCS Performance Criteria

Lake Plains RC&D

- Logo – Design New Logo
- Council to Connect with County Legislature through Liaison

11:45am Next Meeting, Date, Time, Place

12:00pm Adjourn

Meeting Dates for 2010 – JUN 10, AUG 12, OCT 14, and DEC 9

Visit the Web Site: www.lakeplainsrcd.org

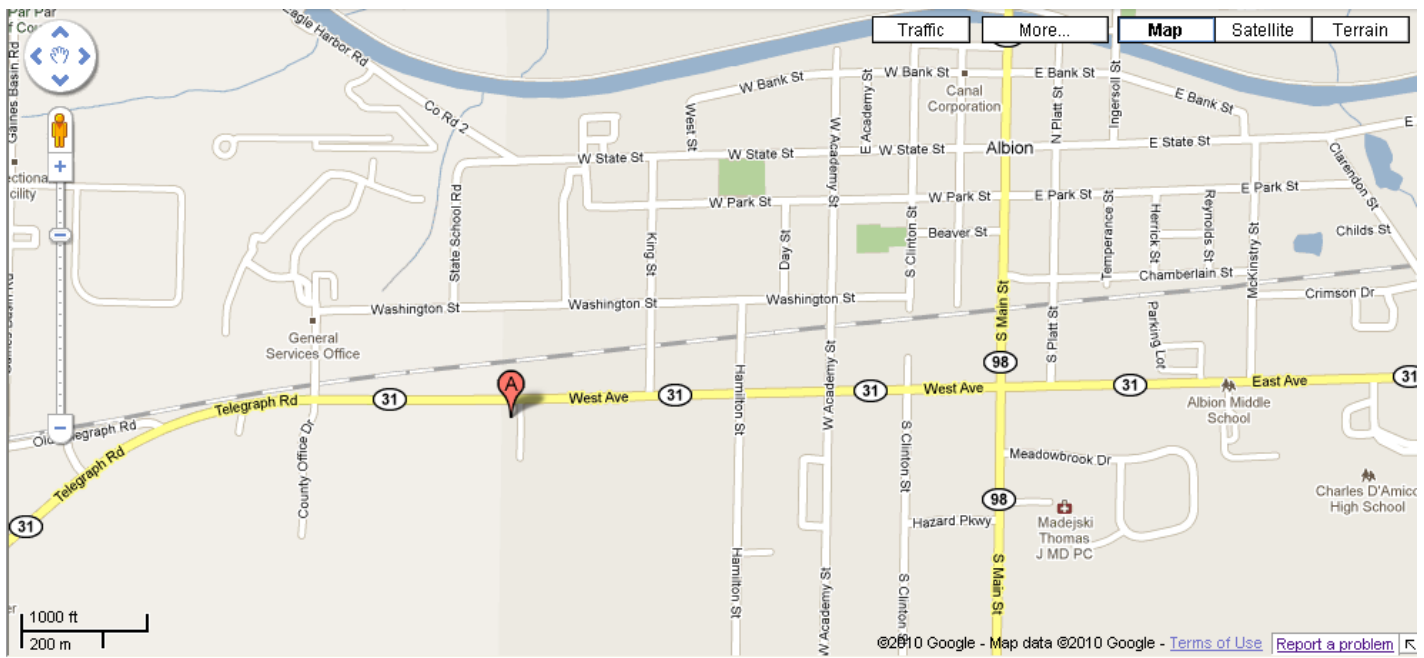
“For information on facilities or services, or to request sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids at the meeting, please contact John Hovanesian, RC&D Coordinator at 585-589-5320 x4, at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.”

Our vision is a prosperous diverse community that is effectively utilizing, conserving, and sharing the natural resources of the region.

Telephone: 585-589-5320 ext. 4 Fax: 585-589-7709 E-mail: sue.reckahn@ny.usda.gov

All programs and services of the RC&D Council are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, disability or political beliefs.

Directions



From the South – Thruway (I90) (Batavia)

Turn **RIGHT** onto Route **98 North** - to Albion
Turn **LEFT** onto Route **31 West**
Turn **LEFT** at sign for Genesee Community College

From the East – Route 531 (Rochester)

Take Route **531 West**
Turn **LEFT** onto Route **31 West**
Continue onto Route **31A**
Turn **RIGHT** onto Route **98 North** – to Albion
Left onto Route **31 West**
Left at sign for Genesee Community College

From the West (Lockport)

Take Route **31 East**
Right at sign for Genesee Community College

K. Watt called the meeting of the Lake Plains RC&D Council to order at 11:30 a.m., February 11, 2010 at Tillman's Village Inn, 14369 Ridge Road, Albion, NY 14411, (Routes 98 and 104, Childs NY), www.tillmansvillageinn.com, 585-589-9151.

Pratt Theater Tour – The Lake Plains RC&D Council offered a tour of the Pratt Theater before the Councils business meeting. Those that attended were given a very informative tour of the building with all its history and possible opportunities to come. The revitalization of the building and Theater is underway with many individuals volunteering their time, services and even donating historic artifacts. Some of the artifacts will be incorporated back into the building with replicas to fill in the rest of the space to make it look like it was originally. Without the donation of the artifacts some items would be replicated from pictures with little accuracy. The building will not be able to be fully restored to its original state due to current safety and accessibility codes.

Introductions: Welcome to Richard Rudolph representing Genesee County as a Lake Plains RC&D Government Representative.

Quorum Determination – YES

Minutes – *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 10, 2009, made by G. Walder, seconded by G. Squires, and carried by those present.*

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's Report for February was presented. *A motion to accept the December 10, 2009 thru January 31, 2010 Treasurer's Reports for Audit made by G. Walder, seconded by G. Squires, and carried by those present.*

Old Business

Lake Plains RC&D

- **By-laws – Changes resulting from the Secretary/Treasurer Stepping Down** - There was the possibility that if an individual could not perform both the Secretary/Treasurer positions that the position would have to be separate positions. This would require a change in the By-laws. Since an individual has offered to participate as Secretary/Treasurer there is no need to change the By-laws.

- **Election Committee**

President - The Vice-president (C. Culhane) moves into the position of President.

Vice-president - R. Bell has agreed to participate as the next Vice-president.

Secretary Treasurer - E. Offhaus has agreed to participate as the next Vice-president.

A motion to approve all positions made by T. Belling, seconded by Ha. Kelsey and was further discussed with another motion by G. Walder.

A motion to have K. Watt and M. Topor share the Presidents position and have C. Culhane continue as Vice-president was made by G. Walder and further discussed.

This motion would cause a change to the structure of the officers in the By-laws. The view is that it would be better to keep the individuals on as officers that have been part of the council longer to give newer individuals more time to understand RC&D. There was also discussion because of the reduction of members with newer members coming on board that it would be good for the newer members to participate as officers. The By-laws show the Vice-president automatically moving into the Presidents position. With this discussion K. Watt stepped down from running for the President position as proposed by G. Walder. The discussion of the President position then went to M. Topor. M. Topor indicated that she is willing to assist but can not fully be an officer. G. Walder then withdrew her motion.

The previous motion to approve the President as C. Culhane, Vice-president as R. Bell, and Secretary/Treasurer as E. Offhaus offered by T. Belling and seconded by Ha. Kelsey was reopened and carried.

- **Audit Committee** – The Audit Committee is the Executive Committee (K. Watt, C. Culhane, and J. Bennett) plus one other Council Member. The Audit Committee did not meet. The new Audit Committee will now be President - C. Culhane, Vice-president - R. Bell, Secretary/Treasurer – E. Offhaus and past Secretary/Treasurer - J. Bennett. This item will be discussed at an Executive meeting and reported on at the next meeting.

Council Member Reports from the New York Federation of RC&D Councils and National Association of RC&D Council Training Conference

- **Policies to Consider for Circle of Diamonds** – A draft of several policies was handed out for review and further discussion at the next meeting. (Travel, Sexual Harassment, Employee Handbook, Contract Execution, Procurement, Code of Conduct)
- **Lake Plains RC&D Name Change** – The NRCS State Office is requesting letter with a request for the name change of the Lake Plains RC&D Council (the Council). D. DeWeese, Assistant State Conservationist, Resources, indicated that this letter is needed in order to complete the Process of the Council's Area Plan. Even though the Council officially changed its name the NRCS currently has no record of the name change. Once the letter requesting the name change is received at the NRCS State Office the Council will receive the already approved Area Plan.

NARC&DC Circle of Diamonds – Participating in the National Association of RC&D Council's Circle of Diamonds gives the Council accreditation. The Circle of Diamonds certification shows that you are a legitimate organization. The Council needs to produce a quarterly report showing activities in workshops, news articles, brochures, and pamphlets, and include certain policies in order to qualify for Circle of Diamonds. Sample policies were developed and handed out for review.

New Business

Approval/Cancellation of Project Measures

- **Forrestel** – M. Herbert and M. Darroch of Forrestel Riding & Sports Camp (Camp), Medina NY, 585-798-2222, www.forrestel.com, gave a presentation with a handout about the fifth (5th) generation on the farm. The Camp is an American Camp Association (ACA) (<http://www.acacamps.org/>) accredited overnight summer camp for ages 7-16, with one, two, and four week sessions, on 800 acres. The March/April 2010 issue of the national publication "Young Rider," has a 4 page write-up about the Camp. The Camps web site has a video. A brother took on the agricultural part of the farm. The Camp would like to include a handicap and therapeutic operations. Most clients come from the east coast. There are some clients coming from other countries. The possibility to expand is credited to the web site and the DVD. The expansion would include facilities as a convention center; individual 2/3 day events for parties, weddings, and anniversaries; adult riding camp, an indoor arena for year round riding, and therapeutic riding. The food service capabilities are already established that would not need further adjustments to accommodate the future uses. An established clientele would welcome the expansion of the facilities. There is a concern about the surrounding historic buildings that are in need of assistance due to decay. The local community is in support of saving the buildings such as the old Church next door to the Camp. The community is in the process of setting up a nonprofit to deal with the historic buildings starting with the Church and the old School House. Forrestel will be working with the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) (<http://www.narha.org/>) to develop a therapeutic riding program for the handicapped individual.

A motion to approve assisting the Forrestel Riding & Sports Camp as a project measure made by G. Walder, seconded by G. Squires and carried by those present.

- **DeWitt Park Wildlife Planting Project** – G. Briggs, Genesee County AmeriCorps, Earth Team volunteer (ETV) at the Batavia Area Office, presented a Wildlife Plant Restoration project at the Genesee County Park on Cedar Street in Batavia, New York, which used to be a gravel pit. Mr. Briggs is working in cooperation with Paul Osborn of the Genesee County Parks. The Wildlife Planting would increase the wildlife value of the park, reduce soil erosion, and add value to the aesthetics of the park. Parts of the park would be set up for invasive plant removal. Plants to replace the invasive plants are native plants of value to wildlife. Other plants will be included for the wildlife value. This project will take place on April 24, 2010 and needs about 50 volunteers. Bird and bat boxes will be displayed to increase the population for insect and mosquito control. This collaboration assists the Genesee County Park with part of its 10 year goals. The partnership between AmeriCorps, NRCS, and SWCD is a great opportunity that can achieve great goals for future projects. A suggestion for this project is to partner with US Fish & Wildlife. The initial funds needed for this project is between \$600 and \$1,200 to purchase trees, shrubs, buckets, shovels, and other supplies. The Genesee County Parks will care for the plantings after April 24, 2010.

A motion to accept DeWitt Park Wildlife Planting Project as a project measure made by G. Walder, seconded by G. Squires, and carried by those present.

Coordinator's Report

- **Completed Projects**
 - **Intergrow, Inc. Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Registration** – Through the efforts of the Lake Plains RC&D Council, Intergrow Greenhouses, Inc. of Albion, New York was awarded a grant of \$285,000.00 from the USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP); based on their projected needs. Intergrow Greenhouses, Inc. is a hydroponics tomato production company in Albion, New York. Intergrow Greenhouses is now able to cost-share the purchase of biomass product to use for heating the greenhouses. <http://www.intergrowgreenhouses.com/>
 - **Saint Mary's Athletic Club** – The Saint Mary's Athletic Club of Albion New York is an asset to the town and community sponsoring athletic events and teams. The Club also raises funds for community members in need of medical assistance. The Club required assistance from the Lake Plains RC&D Council to locate and secure funding for building repairs and improvements. The Club received a loan guarantee in the amount of \$100,000.00 from Rural Development.
- **Active Projects**
 - **Tonawanda Seneca Native Language School** – The Tonawanda Seneca Native Language School completed the application for non-profit status as a 501 (c) (3), but upon further review decided the 501 (c) (3) was not needed to meet their goals. The need for a building to house the school still remains. There is possible funding through the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP), a department within the Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Tonawanda Seneca Nation can apply for the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program (ICDBG). This information was communicated to the Turtle Clan Mother through a tribal liaison.
 - **Albion Main Street Alliance (AMSA)** – As part of the Community Service component of Mary Kesterson's AmeriCorps grant/NRCS Earth Team Volunteer, her time will be available to assist with the AMSA and Pratt Theater Project Measures.
- **Potential Projects**
 - **Wetland/Stream Bank Restoration** – The US Fish & Wildlife (USFWS) Cortland office contacted the Lake Plains RC&D office to identify wetland and stream bank restoration projects

for funding in the Lake Plains RC&D Area. The RC&D Coordinator contacted the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices to submit potential projects. Potential projects were identified in Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, and Wayne County's. A USFWS representative has toured some of the potential projects. The USFWS will receive \$125,000 funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) for wetland and stream bank restoration projects in New York State.

- The Orleans County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (OCWQCC) has suggested revising a proposal to the US Fish & Wildlife for the Wetland/Stream Bank Restoration project(s).
- **Salamaca Winery** - The Salamaca Brothers would like to present a possible project at the next meeting. The Salamaca Brothers currently have a grape farm and are working with LynOaken Farms and Leonard Oaks Estate Winery to learn how to make wines.
- **Rigoni Farms Biomass Heating Project** – A spring workshop and tour of Rigoni Farms is progressing nicely. Mr. Rigoni will demonstrate the different grass species grown for fuel purposes with the corn drying boiler on the farm. A Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) is being developed for Rural Development (RD) in the amount of \$99,999.
- **Partnership with Seneca Trail RC&D** – The Coordinators of the Seneca Trail RC&D and the Lake Plains RC&D will meet in March to discuss a partnership on a potential project.

Lake Plains RC&D Award - The Lake Plains RC&D Council received a New York NRCS award for its efforts with Earth Team Volunteers (ETV) at its annual Employee Awards and Training Session in December 2009. The award is now on display at the office. The New York NRCS submitted the Lake Plains RC&D efforts for consideration of a national award.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Performance Criteria

- **7 Criteria to Describe what a “Meritorious Performing Council” is.**
- **Performance Improvement Team (PIT)** – There is a \$0 budget for RC&D. Congress suggests strongly that in order to qualify for funding a team be put together to certify that councils are performing. The issue is that RC&D Councils work so well that the RC&D program no longer needs coordinators.

Other Business

National Association of RC&D Councils – Leadership Forum and Training, March 1-3, 2010 – C. Culhane's name was submitted to the New York Federation of RC&D Councils (NYFRC&DC) for representing the Lake Plains RC&D and the NYFRC&DC at the NARC&DC Leadership Forum and Training in Washington DC from March 1-3, 2010. There was discussion about the costs of attending this Forum and Training. The NARC&DC will cover the cost of flight and two nights lodging. The NYFRC&DC is assisting with \$300, with the rest covered by the Lake Plains RC&D.

A motion to send C. Culhane to the NARC&DC Leadership Forum and Training and cover the expenses not covered by the NARC&DC and NYFRC&DC made by T. Belling, seconded by B. Offhaus and carried by those present.

Cool Kids – Last year J. Hovanesian and S. Reckahn represented the NRCS Lake Plains RC&D, and M. Posey and G. Reckahn represented NRCS at the Cool Kids recycling project at Genesee Community College (GCC), 1 College Road, Batavia NY 14020. A request for attending the event came into the office. The Lake Plains RC&D Council requested that the NRCS RC&D staff reserve a table and attend the event to represent the Council.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is April 8, 2010, at Workforce Development, 486 West Avenue, Albion NY 14411, and phone 585-589-5335.

Adjourn – A motion to adjourn the meeting made by G. Walder, seconded by C. Culhane, and carried by those present.

****Proposed Meeting Dates for 2010 – JUN 10, AUG 12, OCT 14, and DEC 9****

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Carol Culhane
President

Date

Elizabeth Offhaus
Secretary/Treasurer

Date

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