



**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

**May 24, 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, June 10, 2010**

**Long Acre Farms  
1342 Eddy Road  
Macedon NY 14502  
315-986-4202**

**\*\* 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**

- NY Federation of RC&D Council - Dues

**10:15am Old Business**

**Lake Plains RC&D**

- Annual Report
- Terms of Office
- Newsletter Committee
- Circle of Diamonds
  - Policy Committee
  - Quarterly Outreach Materials - Brochures
- Logo – Draft Design Presentation
- Council to Connect with County Legislature through Liaison
- Economic Sustainability Committee (Fundraising)
- Meeting Schedule and Location – August - Erie, October - Niagara, December - Genesee

**11:00am New Business**

**Approval/Cancellation of Project Measures  
Coordinator's Report**

**11:30am Other Business**

**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](http://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.”**

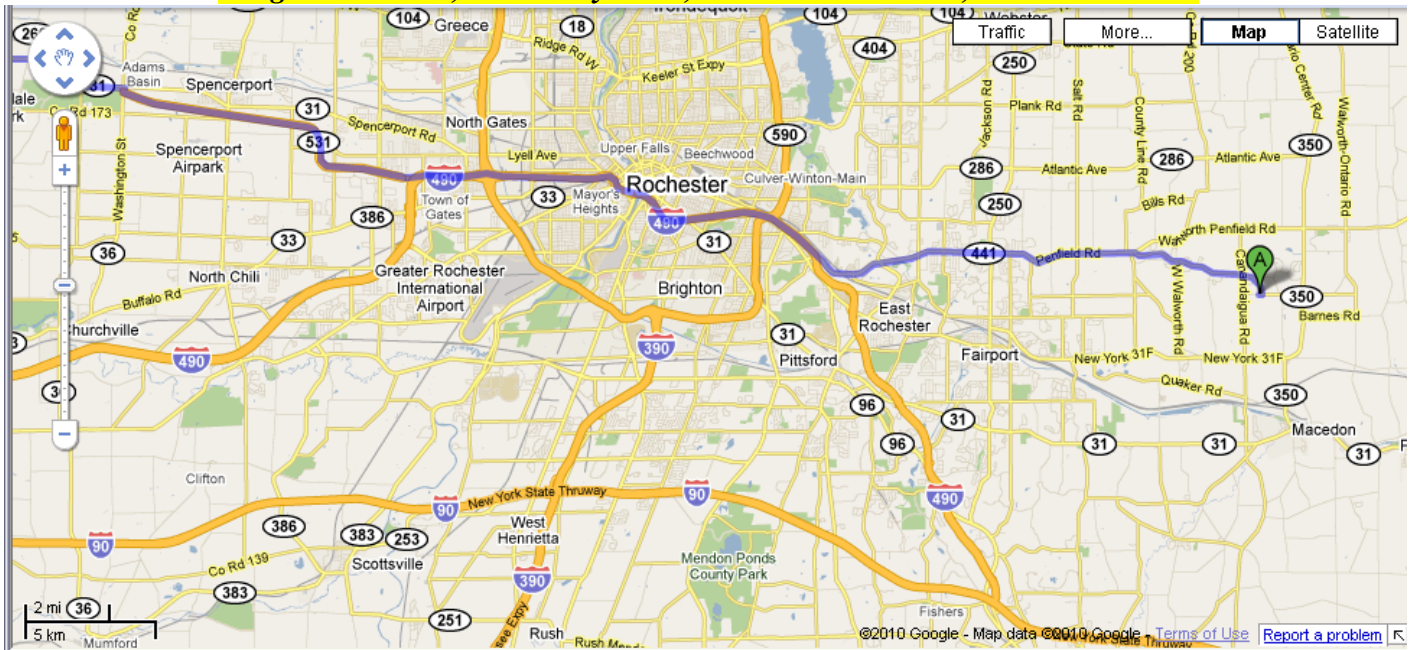
Our vision is a prosperous diverse community that is effectively utilizing, conserving, and sharing the natural resources of the region.

Telephone: 585-589-5320 ext. 4      Fax: 585-589-7709      E-mail: [John.Hovanesian@ny.usda.gov](mailto:John.Hovanesian@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

**Long Acre Farms, 1342 Eddy Road, Macedon NY 14502, P: 315-986-4202**



Picture of map from <http://maps.google.com>

### From Albion (1 hour, 11 minutes)

Route 31 East  
Route 531 East  
Route 490 East to Exit 23  
Left onto Route 441 East  
Right onto Gananda Parkway/County Road 205A  
Right onto Eddy Road  
Destination on Left

### From Batavia (1 hour, 3 minutes)

Take Route 98 North  
I90 East (Toll Road - \$0.55) to Exit 47 (Le Roy)  
Bear Left onto Route 490 East to Exit 23  
Left onto Route 441 East  
Right onto Gananda Parkway/County Road 205A  
Right onto Eddy Road  
Destination on Left

### From East Aurora (1 hour, 48 minutes)

Take Route 400 North  
I90 East (Toll Road - \$2.00) to Exit 47 (Le Roy)  
Bear Left onto Route 490 East to Exit 23  
Left onto Route 441 East  
Right onto Gananda Parkway/County Road 205A  
Right onto Eddy Road  
Destination on Left

### From Lockport (1 hour, 44 minutes)

Route 78 North  
Right onto Route 104 East  
Right onto Route 390 South  
Bear Left onto Route 490 East to Exit 23  
Left onto Route 441 East  
Right onto Gananda Parkway/County Road 205A  
Right onto Eddy Road  
Destination on Left

### From Lyons (30 minutes)

Route 31 West  
Right onto Route 350 North  
Left onto Eddy Road  
Destination on Left

**C. Culhane called the meeting of the Lake Plains RC&D Council to order at 10:05 a.m., April 8, 2010 at Orleans County, Workforce New York, 458 West Avenue, Albion, NY 14411, 585-589-5335.**

**Attendees**

| <u>Name</u>                             | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Name</u>    | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Name</u>                  | <u>Representing</u>      |
|---|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Lake Plains RC&amp;D Area Office</b> |                     |                |                     |                              |                          |
| J. Hovanesian                           | NRCS Coordinator    | <b>Monroe</b>  |                     | <b>NRCS</b>                  |                          |
| S Reckahn                               | NRCS Secretary      | <b>Niagara</b> |                     | C. Moore                     | District Conservationist |
| <b>Erie</b>                             |                     | C. Heintz      | NCCC                | C. Kesterson                 | Soil Conservationist     |
|   |                     | G. Walder      | Mbr-at-lg           | <b>Earth Team Volunteers</b> |                          |
|   |                     | <b>Orleans</b> |                     | M. Kesterson                 | AmeriCorps/ETV           |
| <b>Genesee</b>                          |                     | J. Bennett     | SWCD                | <b>Others</b>                |                          |
| Ha. Kelsey                              | SWCD Alt            | C. Culhane     | At-Large            | A. Salamaca                  | Salamaca Estate Winery   |
| R. Rudolph                              | Gov Rep             | E. Offhaus     | At-Large            | T. Salamaca                  | Salamaca Estate Winery   |
| G. Squires                              | SWCD                | K. Watt        | Mbr-at-lg           |                              |                          |
| K. Frank                                | AmeriCorps          | <b>Wayne</b>   |                     |                              |                          |
| L. Paluta                               | AmeriCorps          | O. Rothfuss    | Mbr-at-lg           |                              |                          |
| J. Kingston                             | Mbr-at-lg           |                |                     |                              |                          |

**Absent**

| <u>Name</u>    | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Name</u>    | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Name</u>    | <u>Representing</u> |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Erie</b>    |                     | <b>Monroe</b>  |                     | <b>Orleans</b> |                     |
| M. Gaston      | SWCD                | J. Seil        | Gov Rep             | W. Eick        | Gov Rep             |
| D. Stribick    | SWCD Alt            | C. Myers       | SWCD                | G. Bower       | Gov Rep Alt         |
| Vacant         | Gov Rep             | J. Colby       | Mbr-at-lg           | J. Neal        | SWCD Alt            |
| Vacant         | Mbr-at-lg           | R. Bell        | Gov Rep Alt         | M. Paduchak    | Mbr-at-lg Alt       |
| Vacant         | Gov Rep Alt         | C. Colby       | SWCD Alt            | M. Chavez      | Non-vtng Mmbr       |
| Vacant         | Mbr-at-lg Alt       | D. Sweet       | Mbr-at-lg           | <b>Wayne</b>   |                     |
| <b>Genesee</b> |                     | <b>Niagara</b> |                     | W. Hammond     | Gov Rep             |
| Vacant         | Gov Rep Alt         | G. Farnham     | Gov Rep             | H. Kelsey      | SWCD                |
| Vacant         | Mbr-at-lg Alt       | B. Butski      | SWCD                | Vacant         | Gov Rep Alt         |
| S. Hyatt       | Non-vtng Mmbr       | T. Belling     | Gov Rep Alt         | D. Buisch      | SWCD Alt            |
|                |                     | V. DiGiacomo   | SWCD Alt            | Vacant         | Mbr-at-lg Alt       |
|                |                     | Vacant         | Mbr-at-lg Alt       |                |                     |
|                |                     | M. Topor       | At-Lg Mbr           |                |                     |

**Introductions:** Welcome to Alexander and Taras Salamaca, Salamaca Estate Winery, 2900 Kendall Road, Holley NY 14470, 585-638-2220 and Kathy Frank, Genesee County Youth Bureau, AmeriCorps, County Building II, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia NY 14020, 585-344-5335, <http://co.genesee.ny.us/dpt/youthbureau/ameriCorp.html>.

**Quorum Determination – YES**

**Minutes – A motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 11, 2010 with a correction under the Election Committee, made by Ha. Kelsey, seconded by R. Bell, and carried by those present.**

**Treasurer’s Report –** The Treasurer’s Report for April was verbally presented. Niagara and Orleans Counties have paid dues for the 2010 Fiscal Year. There was a small amount of interest.

*A motion to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for Audit made by Ha. Kelsey, seconded by O. Rothfuss, and tabled until the next meeting when a printed report can be presented.*

- **Audit Committee –** The Audit Committee was unable to meet to review the past years treasurers’ information.

**Old Business**

**National Association of RC&D Councils**

- **Leadership Forum –** C. Culhane spoke about her report on the Leadership Form she attended March 1-3, 2010 in Washington DC. There is hope that the funding for the RC&D program will be reinstated. A brochure was developed about the New York Federation of RC&D Councils. Each of the eight RC&D Councils was able to submit two projects for inclusion in the brochure.

- **Dues** – An invoice from the National Association of RC&D Councils came in for dues. *A motion to pay the National Association of RC&D Council's dues was made by R. Bell, seconded by G. Walder, and carried by those present.*

**Mid-Atlantic RC&D – Dues** – An invoice for the Mid-Atlantic dues was received at the office. It is felt that the Mid-Atlantic RC&D is duplicative. *A motion not pay the Mid-Atlantic dues made by K. Watt, seconded by G. Walder, with further discussion and carried by those present.*

**D&O Insurance** – The issue of Directors & Officers (D&O) Insurance was brought to the table again due to the training at the NARC&DC Leadership Forum and Training in March. The NARC&DC legal council (Andrew Gordon) spoke about how important it is for Council's to have this insurance. It is very, very important that Councils have D&O Insurance especially with the myriad of possible law suites. An example was given of a Council accepting a project measure, the Council assisting in an application for a grant, and the client/customer not being approved or awarded the grant. The Council was sued along with every individual member being separately sued. Every Council member is liable, and the judge was harsher on the members that did not attend meetings to know what was happening within the Council. It affects the individual's personal financial assets.

**Beehive Insurance** is the insurance company that NARC&DC recommends. Beehive Insurance is very knowledgeable about RC&Ds where local insurance companies are not familiar with RC&Ds and would have to do more work to understand RC&D before being able to offer insurance to the RC&D. Some research has been done with local insurance companies starting at \$850 per year and going higher to include insurance for travel, while Beehive Insurance is \$650/year. A local insurance company recommends that the Council go with an insurance carrier that is familiar with RC&D. Coverage is based on the funds in the Council's treasury. It is recommended that if the Council does not acquire D&O insurance that they resign from the Council.

*A motion to purchase D&O Insurance made by O. Rothfuss, seconded by G. Squires, further discussion because of funds available.* Once again it was brought up that individuals should be covered by their home owners insurance. Some individuals have already contacted their insurance company and found that their home owners insurance does not cover this issue and recommend the individual resign from membership.

Maybe not having this coverage is limiting the growth of this council. The other difference is that some individuals maybe covered under an employer. An individual that is self-employed does not have this kind of coverage. If the council does not get D&O Insurance the current council president has indicated they will have to resign based on recommendations by the NARC&D and personal insurance carrier. Every RC&D in New York except Lake Plains has insurance. A coordinator in New York State also purchases his own insurance on top of the council's and his employer. There are possible projects that can bring in funds to cover the cost of the D&O Insurance.

*A vote on the motion to purchase D&O insurance was taken again with 3 yeas, 1 nay, and 5 no response. There was further discussion with an Action Item: G. Squires and R. Bell to further investigate D&O Insurance with the NY Federation of RC&D Councils. There was further discussion which resulted in a revote of the motion above by show of hands with 8 yeas, 1 nay, 1 no response. The motion is carried. The Action Item is cancelled.*

## **Lake Plains RC&D**

- **Terms of Office** – The executive committee has done some research on the length of Terms of Office and recommends that officers should have three year terms. The average is one to three years.

*A motion to have the executive committee review the By-laws on the terms of office made by R. Bell, seconded by G. Squires, with further discussion, and carried by those present.*

- **Fundraising Committee/Economic Sustainability Committee** – Is there a need for a Fundraising Committee? One way that some of the RCD's that don't have infrastructure for acquiring funds is fundraising. Another way is by taking overhead costs from grants. Overhead costs are D&O Insurance, rent on a building, staff, etc. A Fundraising Committee would organize opportunities to raise funds for the council. Some fundraising possibilities are recycling, hosing workshops with a small fee. *Action Item: G. Squires and R. Bell to research with the NYFRC&DC about fundraising.* What can be done to make this Council self sustainable? If funding for the RC&D program is cut will this council disband because of the loss of the NRCS staff (coordinator and secretary)? *Action Item: NRCS Coordinator to contact other coordinators to inquire about what other councils do to raise funds.* As of May 1, 2010 the RC&D Councils will be required to have one to one match of funds. A recommendation is to change the name from Fundraising Committee to Economic Sustainability Committee. Another recommendation is to send O. Rothfuss' letter to the Council.
- **Newsletter Committee** – Send any news information with pictures to Earth Team Volunteer M. Kesterson – [mary.kesterson@hotmail.com](mailto:mary.kesterson@hotmail.com) until she has completed her AmeriCorps hours.
- **Policy Committee** – *Action Item: R. Bell O. Rothfuss to develop draft Policies for Travel, Contract Execution, Sexual Harassment, Procurement, Code of Conduct, Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action, Conflict of Interest and Procedures.* Including these policies is a requirement to be considered for the National Association of RC&D Council's – Circle of Diamonds.
- **Meeting Schedule and Location** – The June 10, 2010 meeting will be hosted by Wayne County with a location to be determined. The August 12, 2010 meeting recommendation is to have Erie County be the host. The Lake Plains RC&D is invited back to Niagara County Community College for the October 14, 2010 meeting, with a lunch presented by the students. A recommendation is to have another viticulture representative as a guest speaker for the October meeting.

## New Business

### Approval/Cancellation of Project Measures

- **Salamaca Estate Winery** - The Salamaca Estate Winery is looking for technical and financial assistance. The Salamaca Estate Winery is a recent addition to the Viticulture industry in Orleans County. Over the past two years, the Salamaca Estate Winery has established 750 vines for edible produce and wine products, plus blackberries and raspberries as produce and wine products. The 2010 growing season will be the first season that produce can be harvested for the production of products. An estimate of 1,500 to 2,000 cases of wine can be produced in 2010. A representative from the Leonard Oaks Estate Winery is training the Salamaca's on wine production. The Leonard Oaks Estate Winery is in its third year of operation. This year an additional two acres will be planted with 800 vines for future production. They plan to increase the number of vines over the next five years, until there are approximately 8,992 vines. The estimate of production within five years is 5,000 to 6,000 cases of wine. The establishment of this winery is tax revenue for New York State, Orleans County and the town of Murray. The projected increase of vines and products will add an additional two employees, with more employees needed as the business expands. A unique 1920's barn built by Gordon Wells is slowly being restored with the purchase of batten from an Amish family in the area. New York State is in the process of trying to incorporate wine products into local grocery stores. This will have a major impact on local producers.

*A motion to accept the Salamaca Estate Winery as a project measure made by G. Walder, seconded by E. Offhaus, with further discussion, and carried by those present.*

- **AmeriCorps** – K. Frank gave a presentation about the AmeriCorps program and the current volunteers working for NRCS in Albion and Genesee/Niagara Counties. Currently the Lake Plains RC&D has a project measure called DeWitt Recreation Area – Planting, developed by AmeriCorps volunteer G.

Briggs. For further information on the Genesee County AmeriCorps contact the Genesee County Youth Bureau at County Building II, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia NY 14020, 585-344-3960, [youthbureau@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:youthbureau@co.genesee.ny.us) or visit the web site at <http://co.genesee.ny.us/dpt/youthbureau/americorp.html>

- **Path Stone** – Path Stone is a not-for-profit community development and human services organization with its headquarters at 400 East Avenue, Rochester NY 14607, 877-424-7037, [www.pathstone.org](http://www.pathstone.org). The organization offers many services to low income families and economically depressed communities. The organization has received \$5,000,000 from Bank of America. Some of the funds can assist agriculture related small businesses.
- **Revamp Project Measures**
  - Due to the time this subject will be discussed at the next meeting in June.

**Coordinator's Report** – The Coordinator's Report will be sent electronically in the future for your review.

- **Potential Projects**
  - *Ragoni Biomass Workshop* – A biomass workshop is in the development process for demonstrating biomass products developed for heat use. A small fee will be charged for the workshop. There is a possible grant that can assist with this project.
  - *Grasses for Mushroom Composting* – There is a possible business being developed for Mushroom Composting in Genesee County. There is potential to work with the Genesee County Economic Development Center on this project.
  - *Potential projects outside the Lake Plains RC&D area* – The Lake Plains RC&D Area office has been contacted from individuals outside the Lake Plains area for projects assistance. Some projects have the potential to be implemented. Does the Council want to continue looking into these projects?
  - *Farm Market Facility* – The Genesee Valley Development Council is discussing funding opportunities for Farm Markets. There is a difference between a Farm Market and Farmers Market. A Farm Market is a market/business on the farm. A Farmers Market is a public market open a few days a week or month.
  - *Great Lakes Innovative Stewardship through Education Network (GLISTEN)* – GLISTEN is a program through the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement ([www.ncsce.net](http://www.ncsce.net)), “funded by the Learn and Serve America Higher Education ([www.learnandservice.gov](http://www.learnandservice.gov)) program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. ([www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)).” The contact in this area is J. Haynes, SUNY Brockport, Department of Environmental Science & Biology, Brockport, New York. (NCSCE.net – GLISTEN.”NCSCE.net – National Center for Science and Civic Engagement – Home. Web. 07 May 2010. <http://www.ncsce.net/Initiatives/GLISTEN.cfm>.) A GLISTEN stewardship would work well with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Other Business

**NRCS Performance Improvement Team (PIT)** – The PIT is to certify that councils are performing in order to qualify for funding. The seven criteria are 1. Area Plan, 2. Annual Plan of Work, 3. Annual Report, 4. RC&D Program Review, 5. Nonprofit Status, 6. External Financial Audit or Review, and 7. Dollars Leveraged from NRCS Investment at Least at a 1:1 Ratio.

## Lake Plains RC&D

- **Logo** – Design New Logo – There is discussion about redesigning the logo. C. Culhane will develop some proposals for the next meeting.

- **Council to Connect with County Legislature through Liaison** – The concern is that legislative representatives are not coming to meetings. The Council is requesting an individual member to contact the legislative representatives. The by-laws have an attendance requirement. The legislative representative is still culpable as a board member and possibly more culpable about projects and events concerning the Council. It is time to get these individuals attending or have the County appoint someone that will attend meetings.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting is June 10, 2010, at Long Acre Farms, 1342 Eddy Road, Macedon NY 14502, 315-986-4202, [www.longacrefarms.com](http://www.longacrefarms.com).

**Adjourn** – A motion to adjourn the meeting made by G. Walder, seconded by Ha. Kelsey, and carried by those present.

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

**“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.”**

|                      |             |                            |             |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Carol Culhane</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Elizabeth Offhaus</b>   | <b>Date</b> |
| <b>President</b>     |             | <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> |             |

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**Lake Plains RC&D Council, Inc.**  
**446 West Avenue**  
**Albion, New York 14411**