

**Oak Orchard Watershed Protection Alliance**  
**Minutes**  
**November 19, 2008**  
**Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Present:** Judy Bennett, Kelly Chase, David Drake, Heidi Kennedy, James Kingston, John Hovanesian, Doug Gorby

**I. Introductions**

**II. End of Year Projects Completed:** James reported on 25 projects that are completed or will be completed by the end of 2008. These included:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Peglow   | 14. 3 Farmers Receive Zone Tillage cost share    |
| 2. Dudley   | 15. Norton                                       |
| 3. Kast   | 16. Post   |
| 4. Toussaint  | 17. Torrey                                       |
| 5. Haylett  | 18. 60 Farms Soil Sampling Completed             |
| 6. Pettit   | 19. Purchase of District Excavator               |
| 7. Mathes   | 20. Slashbuster starting to be used              |
| 8. Miller   | 21. Hurd Grassed Waterway                        |
| 9. Sommerfeldt  | 22. 2 Sprayer Field Demonstrations               |
| 10. Keppler   | 23. 250,000 feet of tile installation – 15 farms |
| 11. Van Lieshout  | 24. Shoreline Cleanup                            |
| 12. CY Farms  | 25. Tire cleanup                                 |
| 13. Stream Segment Analysis of entire Oak Orchard River |  |
- a. There were 6 Chemical Mixing Facilities, 1 Rotational Grazing System, 1 Bunk Silo Leachate Collection System, 2 Manure Storages, 4 Barnyard Projects, and 1 Manure Transfer System.
- b. The stream segment analysis was completed on the entire Oak Orchard River. It turns out that the muck is the problem spot with nutrients being extremely high. The Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge does what it is supposed to do and filters out those excess nutrients. James explained that there is nothing that can be done with the high nutrients coming off the muck because it is because of the soils breaking down. Kelly asked if we have the survey points and James explained that we will have when Brockport College gives us their report.
- c. We did a nutrient management program with 60 farms where we did soil sampling for the farms and gave them recommendations to try and limit the amount of fertilizers going on the fields.
- d. The District did purchase an excavator to be used on drainage problems.
- e. The District also purchased a slashbuster to go on an excavator. This is used to cut down trees and debris in streams.
- f. Doug asked about the tile installation and outlets. James explained.

**III. Current Grants Applying For:**

- 1. Twelve Mile to Oak Orchard Watershed Grant:** James reported that he is working with the district's in Niagara and Monroe Counties to purchase components for Tower Sprayers. We did a pilot project about 2 years ago. This source of funding never funded this type of equipment. We were able to bring the people from Albany out and show them the equipment and it has been added as being eligible.
- 2. Spray Building Grant: Johnson and Oak Orchard Creek Watersheds (8 Farms):** These are for orchard and vegetable farms to keep all their chemicals in these building so that if there is a leak it is contained.
- 3. FL-LOWPA GPS Grant:** This is a grant for GPS units that you can set your tractor and set the spacing and it will tell you where to go. This will cut down on fertilizer usage. We are planning on having a few in the office and a few at the fertilizer distributors in the county. Judy suggested having a charge for taking the unit out and then they will get the money back when they return the unit.

**IV. Next Years Goals**

- 1. Set the Signs up on the Oak Orchard River:** The District Board had passed a resolution to put up signs on the Oak Orchard for Carry In/Carry Out. We plan to get this completed next year. This is in response to people complaining about the trash when canoeing.
- 2. 4 Barnyard Projects:**
- 3. 2 Bunk Leachate Collection Systems:**
- 4. 15 Chemical Mixing Facilities:**
- 5. 1 Fencing Project:**
- 6. 1 Manure Storage:**

**V. AEM Strategic Plan:** The NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee has a program called Ag Environmental Management Program (AEM). This is where the Districts go out and do an inventory on the farms in their county and educate the farmers on water quality concerns. In some cases the District assists the farmers with securing funding for the installation of Best Management Practices. The state wanted us to develop a new strategic plan.

**VI. Other Items (Open Discussion Time):**

1. David reviewed some ongoing projects within the watershed.
2. Doug reported that he is working on some projects in the area. Right now he is trying to learn the topography of the area and find some opportunities to get involved in some projects with the USDA and Districts.
3. Heidi reported that the Refuge is pursuing the possibility of purchasing some more property that is adjacent to state land.
4. Kelly reported that they are still moving forward with everything she reported on at the last meeting. They are moving on with their USGS Study. The study will take about 2 years.

**VII. Next Meeting – Monday, January 5, 2009 at 10:00 am**