



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

Council Officers

President – Karen Watt
Orleans County

President-Elect –
County

Secretary/Treasurer – Judy Bennett
Orleans County

March 30, 2009

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 9, 2009.

At

**Orleans County, Workforce Development Center
458 West Avenue, Albion, NY 14411.**

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

Agenda

10:00am Meeting Call to Order

**Guest Speaker – Cool Kids Eco-Fest
Introductions
Quorum Determination
Minutes of Previous Meeting
Treasurer's Report**

10:15am Old Business

**Area Plan
Civil Rights Assessment and Outreach
National RC&D Week**

10:30am New Business

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

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

12:00pm Adjourn

Meeting Dates for 2009 – JUN 11, AUG 13, OCT 8, and DEC 10

Visit the Web Site: www.lakeplainsrcd.org

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
sue.reckahn@ny.usda.gov**

Fax: 585-589-7709

E-mail:

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.

M. Topor called the meeting of the Lake Plains RC&D Council to order at 10:00 a.m., February 12, 2009 at Tillman's Village Inn, 14369 Ridge Road, Albion, NY 14411, 585-589-9151, www.tillmansvillageinn.com.

Attendees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Lake Plains RC&D Area Office		Monroe		Wayne	
J. Hovanesian	NRCS Coordinator	R. Bell	Gvt Rep Alt	H. Kelsey	SWCD
S. Reckahn	NRCS Secretary	Niagara		W. Hammond	Gvt Rep
Erie		C. Heintz	NCCC	NRCS	
M. Gaston	SWCD	M. Topor	At-Lg-Mbr	E. Almodovar	AC
Genesee		G. Walder	Mbr-at-Lg	C. Kesterson	SC
H. Kelsey	SWCD	D. Green		S. Perschke	AE
G. Squires	SWCD	Orleans		C. Wood	DC
		J. Bennett	SWCD	Others	
		M. Paduchak	Mbr-at-Lg Alt	D. Oakes	Guest Speaker
		K. Watt	Mbr-at-Lg		

Welcome Guest Speaker – Darrel Oakes – LynOaken Farms (<http://lynoakenfarms.com/index.htm>), Leonard Oakes Estate Winery (<http://lynoakenfarms.com/loew/index.htm>), Medina New York. Darrel spoke about the Farm, the family history and the reason for diversification into the establishment of the Leonard Oakes Estate Winery. The winery produces most of their own grapes for the wine products produced. Due to the growth of the winery some grapes have to be purchase. The intention is to grow all the grapes needed to produce the wines. The Niagara Wine Trail currently has 10 members with more to come on board soon. The Niagara Wine Trail received funding from I Love NY. The focus is on grape wines and fruit ciders such as apple, pear, and cherry ciders. There is a push to market wines in grocery chain stores. This can be a double edged sword because of the amount of product needed to stock the shelves and the loss of individual identity to produce a large chain product. Currently in the Legislation process there is a 400% tax increase on wine products. This will be tough on the small wineries. The nature is that a winery is established to define its own identity or style. Much more of the focus is tied to the land, location, and the business of an individual winery. The quality is actually different based on location due to the soils and climate. Example: A Chardonnay produced in Medina will taste different than a Chardonnay produced around the Finger Lakes. Darrel see's the need to incorporate the culinary industry to do more with wines. A restaurant establishment may mark-up the price up to 200%. New York State focuses more on white grapes due to the growing conditions. There is a grape from Germany that is doing well in New York State. A suggestion was discussed about partnering with artisan foods, example: cheese, grains, and other foods. The Leonard Oakes Estate Winery has a partnership with Kutter's Cheese, 857 Main Road, Corfu, NY 14036. Darrel's son is now transitioning into being a wine master.

Introductions: Those in attendance introduced themselves. The Lake Plains RC&D would like to welcome new members to the Lake Plains RC&D Council from Monroe County – Rochelle Bell, County Government Representative Alternate; Orleans County Michael Paduchak, Member-at-large Alternate; Wayne County – William Hammond, County Government Representative; and Henry Kelsey, SWCD - District Manager. Also, welcome back Dori Green.

Minutes – *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 4, 2008, made by K. Watt, seconded by G. Walder, and carried by those present.*

Treasurer's Report – A copy of the treasurer's report provided for review. *A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for Audit made by H. Kelsey, seconded by G. Squires, and carried by those present. A motion to pay Rochester Free Net annual web site fee of \$60.00 made by G. Walder, seconded by K. Watt, and carried by those present.*

Old Business

Election of Officers

President – Karen Watt – *A motion to accept nominee Karen Watt as President made by G. Walder, seconded by H. Kelsey, and carried by those present.*

President-elect - There is no nominee for President-elect and no volunteers.

Secretary/Treasurer – Judy Bennett – *A motion to accept nominee Judy Bennett as Secretary/Treasurer made by M. Gaston, seconded by G. Squires, and carried by those present.*

Civil Rights Assessment and Outreach Plan FY09 – The Civil Rights Assessment and Outreach Plan for FY09 is set for final corrections or changes.

New Business

Approval/Cancellation of Project Measures – No Approval/Cancellation of Projects to report at this time.

Coordinator's Report

NY Federation of RC&D Councils (NYFRC&DC) Meeting – The meeting was held Thursday, February 5, 2009, at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices in Syracuse, New York. The Stimulus Bill includes RC&D and NRCS. The NRCS RC&D Coordinators meeting coincided with the NYFRC&DC meeting. The new State Conservationist is Astor Boozer. The RC&D program continues under an unapproved budget at this time. The level of funding for the RC&D program is questionable at this time.

Current Projects

Land Management

- Hilburger Marsh
- New York State Envirothon – The NYS Envirothon has a new web address: <http://www.nysenvirothon.net/>
- Sensor Controlled Spray Tech

Water Management

- Oak Orchard Watershed
- Oatka Creek Watershed
- Black Creek Watershed
- Flight of Five Locks

Community Development

- Brockport Rural Cemetery
- Clean Earth Environmental
- Herman Park
- Lockport Rails To Trails
- SUNY Brockport Culinary Arts
- Venison Donation Program
- WNY Birding Trail

Activities: John has extensively reviewed the position of an RC&D Coordinator and the RC&D Council. The RC&D Council is to task the RC&D Coordinator with what the council wants to do. The pool of funding is drying up.

Plan Materials Center - John is now on the Plant Materials board for New York. This opens up contacts for renewable energy, Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) grants, Bio-fuels consortium between USDA and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC).

Rural Development (RD) – John has contacted Mr. John Durand of the Rural Development office in Batavia, New York. Mr. Durand indicated that through Section 504 Discretionary Funds there is some funding for Rural Business Enterprise Grant (BRBEG - <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm>) and Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG - <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ny/toolbarpages/rbspages/RBOG.htm>). These grants generally go up to \$100,000. There are some funds for setting up buying local. The Section 504 Discretionary Funds can mean a lot for the small business. There is a program for Restoration Grants with certain guidelines. These guidelines deal with health and safety issues. An individual is eligible for a 1% loan to take care of the health and/or safety issue. This does include insulation.

Soil & Water Conservation District(s) (SWCD) – John is now attending the six county SWCD meetings.
Army Corps of Engineers - The NRCS State Office, Lake Plains RC&D office, and Great Lakes Alleghany Watershed Team Area Office and Field Offices are forming a working group with the Army Corps of Engineers. This will be a very important working group to the area.

Workshops – A recommendation is for the Lake Plains RC&D to host a workshop informing the farming community and private land owners about Farm Bill. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) has openings for acreage to be enrolled in the program.

Underserved/Underrepresented – The Native American Tribes are a very important issue to NRCS. The Lake Plains RC&D Coordinator has made contact with an individual at the Tonawanda Seneca Nation. John is working on building trust. “Trust is something that is earned.”

Albion Main Street Alliance – John is working with the Albion Main Street Alliance on the Main Street Revitalization of Albion, Lockport, and Lyons. The target is to revitalize these towns for agtourism, fishing, small industry, and canal heritage. *A motion to task the Lake Plains RC&D Coordinator to assist the Albion Main Street Alliance is made by K. Watt, seconded by G. Walder and carried by those present.*

Other Business

National Association of RC&D Councils -

Funding – The National Association of RC&D Councils (NARCDC) originally heard a positive from President Obama’s Administration about the support that the RC&D program would receive. However, the 2010 budget showed “Zero” for the RC&D program. The NARCDC president Joan Smith Freeman is requesting everyone contact their Congress person in writing of their support for the RC&D program. The following link is to a press release dated February 26, 2009:

http://www.rcdnet.org/Documents/2010%20President's%20Budget%20release_2.doc .

RC&D Week (<http://www.rcdnet.org/>) – Last year (September 21 – 27, 2008) the NARCDC had a week-long recognition of the RC&D program. Individual RC&D Councils hosted one or more events in their area during the week. The Councils then submitted write-ups of the event(s) for publication on the NARCDC web-site. The question to consider is “Does this RC&D Council want to host an event this year?” This year the week is September 20 – 26, 2009.

Lake Plains RC&D

Dues Invoices – There were no 2008 dues collected. The recommendation is to combine last years with this years invoice. A letter explaining the issue will accompany the invoice.

IRS 990 Form – The 990 Form was completed via an e-postcard.

Charities Bureau – All the necessary paperwork is filed with the NYS Attorney General’s Office, Charities Bureau.

Financial Committee – The Financial Committee will consist of J. Bennett, K. Watt, R. Bell, and J. Hovanessian. The Financial Committee will meet on March 16, 2009 at 10:00am at the USDA Service Center, SWCD and RC&D office, 446 West Avenue, Albion NY 14411.

Mid-Atlantic RC&D Dues – *A motion to not pay the Mid-Atlantic dues made by G. Walder, seconded by R. Bell, and carried by those present.*

NY Federation of RC&D Councils – *A motion to pay the NY Federation of RC&D Council’s dues in the amount of \$200 made by R. Bell, seconded by G. Squires, and carried by those present.*

NRCS

Great Lakes Alleghany Watershed Team – E. Almodovar spoke about the Great Lakes Alleghany Watershed Team (GLAWT) and the support for the RC&D program. The GLAWT would like to partner with the Lake Plains RC&D on a workshop concerning the new Farm Bill.

Recycling TVs, Computers, etc. – The Niagara County Environmental Management Council (NCEMC) is looking to host a recycling program. The NCEMC has found that recycling TVs and computers will cost anywhere from \$8.00 to \$25.00 to be accepted at recycling locations. Is there any type of grant(s) to assist in reducing the cost of recycling? Different counties have different programs. A recommendation is to contact the local Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC). *A motion to have the Lake Plains RC&D office research/investigate for grants made by G. Walder, seconded by K. Watt, and carried by those present*

Next Meeting – The next meeting is April 9, 2009 at the Workforce Development Office, 458 West Avenue, Albion NY 14411.

Adjourn – *A motion to adjourn made by G. Walder, seconded by K. Watt, and carried by those present.*

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2009 – JUN 11, AUG 13, OCT 8, and DEC 10

“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.”

Karen Watt	Date	Judy Bennett	Date
President		Secretary/Treasurer	

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



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