

MINUTES

Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District
USDA Batavia Service Center
Regular Board Meeting February,10,2026

Present:

Christian Yunker, Vice Chair

James Kingston, Farm Bureau Rep

Brooks Hawley, Legislature

Robert LaPoint

Jared Elliott, Senior Field Manager

Laura Bestehorn, District Secretary/Treasurer

Tim Welch, Conservation Technician

Rebecca Olsen, Conservation Technician

Heath Eisele, NRCS Area District Conservationist

I. Call to Order

C.Yunker called the meeting to order at 8:10am.

II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A motion was made to accept minutes from the January 13,2026 meeting by J.Kingston 2nd B.Hawley **Approved.**

III. Open Projects & Staff Reports (Appendix A,B,C,D)

A. J.Elliott reviewed open projects. Staff reports reviewed.

A motion was made to approve hiring a student intern at \$18.00-\$20.00 by B.Hawley,2nd J.Kingston **Approved.**

V. Financial Reports**A. Bank Statements Approval**

A motion was made to approve bank statements for January 2026 by J.Kingston, 2nd B.Hawley **Approved.**

B. Treasurer's Reports (Appendix E)

A motion to approve the treasurer's reports as presented was made by J.Kingston , 2nd B.Hawley **Approved.**

C. Abstract Approval (Appendix F)

A motion was made to approve abstract #2 by B.Hawley 2nd J.Kingston **Approved.**

VI. Unfinished Business**A. Farm of the Year**

A motion was made to approve Bob Wood as Farm of the Year and to do a press release by B.Hawley/2nd J.Kingston Approved. L.Starowitz was an alternate.

B. Celebrate Ag Dinner

A motion was made to approve purchase of tickets for two tables (one for employees and one for winner of Farm of the Year) and spouses could attend for free as well by J.Kingston, 2nd B.Hawley **Approved.**

C. Board Committee Assignments

The review of committee assignments for the Board of Directors was completed by the Board of Directors. B.Hawley will take the place of M.Ethington on Education and the Personnel Committee will be handled by all Board Members.

D. Approval of 2026 Price List

A motion was made to have a 20% margin on all items and to make all service fees \$60.00 by B.Hawley,2nd J.Kingston **Approved.**

VII. New Business

A. Dental Insurance Pretax

A motion as made to make the dental insurance pretax the same as health insurance by J.Kingston,2nd B.Hawley **Approved.**

B. Approval to Open Bank Accounts for Part C and AEM 19

A motion was made to approve opening bank accounts for AEM Rd 19 at Tompkins and Part C at New York Class by B.Hawley,2nd J.Kingston **Approved.**

C. Helen Terry Cooperative Agreement (Appendix G)

A motion was made to approve a cooperative agreement with Helen Terry at \$68.00 and hour by J.Kingston,2nd B.Hawley **Approved.**

D. Remote Pilot Certificate Test/Drone Purchase

J.Elliott asked for approval to take the remote pilot test and would come back to the Board of Directors at a later date to review a drone purchase. A motion was made to approve J.Elliott to the take the test with an exam fee of \$ 175.00 by B.Hawley,2nd J.Kingston **Approved.**

E. Policy Proposal-Unused Sick Leave Credits upon Retirement

This was tabled until directors had time to review and all directors were available

VII. Reports

A. NYSSWCC: V.DiGiacomo – Unable to attend. Report attached(Appendix H)

B. NRCS: H.Eisele- H.Eisele reviewed the attached report. (Appendix I)

C. FISH & WILDLIFE- C. Yunker – Nothing to report at this time.

D. COUNTY LEGISLATURE: - C. Yunker, B.Hawley

B.Hawley talked about the septic grants that are available through the health department.

E. D.CHAIRMEN-D.Phelps unable to attend.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday March 19,2026

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 9:00am

by B.Hawley ,2nd by J.Kingston **Approved.**

Recording Secretary: Laura Bestehorn

Minutes are not official until approved at the March 19th, 2026 meeting.

Chair: _____ Approved ____

Attachments: Appendices A-I