

SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
MCCARTY, KENNEDY, KOUTNIK, LAPIN, FARWELL
July 22, 2019

Absent: Representative Koutnik

PLANNING- KAREN SULLIVAN

Karen Sullivan requested a motion to award the geothermal low bid to Comprehensive Home Energy for the agency housing project. Representative Farwell disclosed that she formerly had a business relationship with the company, however it is no longer current. Representative Farwell moved to award the bid. Seconded, Kennedy. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 1,478. Absent: 375-McCarty, 348-Koutnik. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested a motion for a letter of support for the City and Town of Oneonta's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for their Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). Representative Lapin moved to approve the letter of support. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 1,478. Absent: 375-McCarty, 348-Koutnik. Motion carried.

Patricia Szarpa, Executive Director of Otsego Land Trust, presented information regarding upgrades to Brookwood Point. The scope of the project includes constructing two new bridges and creating ADA compliant trails on the north side of the park. Brookwood Point serves about 1,500-2,000 residents and visitors, the project has funding in the amount of \$150,000 raised through private donations, and is seeking an additional \$150,000 through the CFA application.

Representative McCarty entered during the above discussion.

Karen Sullivan requested approval to provide a letter of support for Otsego Land Trust's CFA application to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation for upgrades to Brookwood Point. Representative Farwell moved to approve the letter of support. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 1,853. Absent: 348- Koutnik. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested approval of a letter of support for the County's CFA application for the Community Energy Plan. The program income is \$50,000 and the application is seeking an additional \$50,000. Representative Kennedy moved to approve the letter of support. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 1,853. Absent: 348- Koutnik. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested a motion for approval for Karen Sullivan and Shane Digan to participate in the NYS Recycling Association Conference in the

amount of \$375 on November 4, 5, and 6, 2019 in Cooperstown, NY. This item is budgeted in the 2019 budget. Representative McCarty moved to approve the conference expenses. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 1,853. Absent: 348-Koutnik. Motion carried.

OTSEGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (OCSWCD)- JORDAN CLEMENTS

Jordan Clements reported the following program updates, including but not limited to the following:

- Otsego County Buffer Project, Lower Wharton Creek Heavy Use Area Protection & Buffer Project, and the Upper Schenevus Watershed Prescribed Grazing & Buffer Projects are either all completed or will be completed in the near future
- Ag Non-Point Source Round 25 applications are due today, July 22, 2019; OCSWCD will be submitting applications for 5 projects
- Climate Resiliency grant was not funded
- funded by Upper Susquehanna Coalition RCPP on two projects for buffer projects and site maintenance
- NRCS CIG grant submitted for cover crop machinery
- working with OCCA on NYSDEC AIS grant to provide an emergency response team for invasive species in forested buffers and also within the County
- interns are working to identify buffer mortality rates and do weeding
- meeting monthly with Ag & Farmland Protection Committee
- working with Emergency Services to place flood gauges throughout the County
- planning Fall Safety Day calibration class with the Highway department
- hydroseeding occurring in Cherry Valley, Edmeston, and Worcester
- Butternut Creek Watershed Plan kick-off meeting on July 17, 2019, writing plan for financial opportunities for the project
- parking spaces on County owned forests should be in place by the end of summer

Jordan Clements noted that the Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District does not utilize Roundup in any of its herbicide applications and/or does not use Roundup at all.

Representative McCarty inquired about ag plastics. Mr. Clements and Ms. Sullivan said it's still an issue, they continue to seek ways to dispose of it, and currently collection of ag plastics is on hold. Mr. Clements is seeking collaboration with Montgomery County to possibly share their buyer.

Jordan Clements distributed copies of OCSWCD proposed 2020 budget for the Committee's review. OCSWCD proposed 2020 budget requests a County allocation in the amount of \$200,000. Mr. Clements and the Committee discussed various parts of the budget, including inquiring about the County Ag & Plastics program totals in the amount of \$18,000 and Social Security and Medicare totals increases. Mr. Clements said he would research those items and provide additional information. Mr. Clements noted the County is charged with meeting certain EPA targets and the OCSWCD works to meet those goals. Representative Lapin moved in support of the proposed OCSWCD 2020 budget as listed. Seconded, Kennedy. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 1,853. Absent: 348- Koutnik. Motion carried.

Representative McCarty inquired about money that DEC has not paid to the County. Representative Lapin said further inquiries should be made by the County. Mr. Clements said he would inquire about the funds again.

SOLID WASTE- KAREN SULLIVAN AND SHANE DIGAN

Karen Sullivan presented and reviewed the following reports:

- Solid Waste Totals—3,377.07 tons of solid waste was collected in June (down 260.97 tons from last year), \$1,589.94 credit to the County
- Recycling Costs for Otsego County—360.76 tons collected in June at an average of \$131.97 per ton (down 86.27 tons from last June), total costs of recycling including labor for June is \$47,610.84
- Mattress collection for June 2019 was 243 mattresses
- E-Waste Totals- have spent approximately \$24,000 this year, the County will need to charge users for this service in the future

Karen Sullivan and the Committee discussed the following, including but not limited to: ways to reduce the cost of recycling, switching back to dual stream (sort) recycling, there is no longer a market for recyclables as there once had been, the public is putting garbage into recycling bins causing contamination which leads to more recycling becoming garbage, creating additional solid waste costs for the County.

Shane Digan reported that he attended the City of Oneonta Environmental Board meeting July 9, 2019. Mr. Digan said the Environmental Board of the City is considering imposing a fee for paper bags in response to the March 2020 NYS-wide ban of plastic bags, and the Board will bring the issue to the full City Council. Mr. Digan said the City Council may be waiting to make

their decision until the County decides whether or not to impose a fee on paper bags.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of plastic bag ban and its impact on the use of paper bags.

Karen Sullivan reported that the permits for the Northern Transfer Station and the Southern Transfer Station have received approval from NYS and the permits are now good through July 18, 2024.

Karen Sullivan reported that the paint stewardship legislation is still pending in NYS.

Karen Sullivan presented a letter from Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society (DOAS) to Governor Cuomo regarding the Bluestone Wind Project proposed in Broome County. Ms. Sullivan and the Committee discussed Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society's findings that significantly higher numbers of Bald and Golden Eagles were observed and will be impacted in the project area than has been estimated by Bluestone Wind's consultant. Representative Lapin said the issue is whether or not local data can be used to challenge a consultant's findings, and that is the more important issue. Leslie Orzetti, Executive Director of Otsego County Conservation Association, said her agency commented, however the comment period has passed at this time.

Karen Sullivan reported that Shane Digan has purchased 200 reusable tote bags and 100 are planned to be distributed at the department display at the County Fair.

Karen Sullivan reported that the department received \$50,000 check for the foam densifier.

Karen Sullivan and the Committee discussed the solar array at the Corning plant in Oneonta.

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee adjourned until August 20, 2019 at 9:00am at the County Office Building.