

# ONTARIO COUNTY Agricultural Enhancement Board

MEETING MINUTES: November 14, 2018  
Acting Chairman Fred Lightfoote

**Members Present**

Megan Webster, OC SWCD  
Maria Rudzinski – for OCPD Tom Harvey  
Frank Fessner  
Tim Davis, CCE  
Jason Weykman

**Members Excused:**

Ben Lowe  
Erin Bullock  
Elizabeth Newbold  
Bob McCarthy  
Fred Lightfoote  
Robin Johnson, OCRPT

**Call to Order:** Megan Webster served as Chair in Sup. Lightfoote’s absence. M. Webster called the Agricultural Enhancement Board (AEB) meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Minutes:**

Minutes from the October 2, 2018 meeting were reviewed.  
Motion to approve the minutes: Made by F. Fessner. Seconded by: M. Webster. Motion carried.

**Consideration of OC Agricultural Plan Implementation Funds Project Applications**

M. Rudzinski reported that six applications were received for a total of \$19,500. Only \$15,000 in funds was available. The Board reviewed the projects and found that all were important and advanced the goals of the plan and deserved some level of funding.

After discussion, consensus was reached on the funding level to be recommended to the Ontario County Board of Supervisors:

Applicant	Proposed 2019 Implementation Projects	Requested AEB Share	In-Kind/Other	Recommended AEB Share
Geneva CSD	Development of Agricultural Education Program for GCSD	\$4,000	(Support Ag Education staff position)	\$4,000
OC CCE	Adult Tractor & Farm Safety Education	\$1,500		\$1,250
OC CCE	Finger Lakes Ag Website	\$4,000		\$3,000
OC Planning Dept.	Farmland Owner Land Protection Training Workshops	\$3,000	(Staff time - \$500 in-kind)	\$2,500
OC SWCD	Promoting Healthy Soils/Ag Practices	\$2,000	\$3,000 (CLWA cash/SWCD in kind)	\$1,250
OC SWCD	Agricultural Tire Clean-Up Project	\$5,000	\$15,000 In Kind	\$3,000
	Total	\$19,500.00		\$15,000.00

**Information Item: Draft Town of Canandaigua Transfer of Development Rights Local Law**

No additional information was available at this time.

**Update on Board of Supervisors (BOS) Meeting on Agricultural Enhancement Plan Implementation**

T. Davis reported on the special workshop session held before the October 25, 2019 BOS meeting. As a follow up to a farm tour sponsored by CCE for the BOS, members were interested in knowing more about implementation actions and scheduled the workshop session. At the meeting, T. Davis reviewed the plan’s strategies and asked Board members for issues that they see as important to them. Amongst issues mentioned were agricultural tire recycling, support for smaller farm operations, conflicts that arise regarding zoning and consistency with NYS Department of Agriculture and Market’s oversight of local regulation.

**Other Business/Agency Reports**

**CCE:** T. Davis reported that Ag In Service training will be held for staff in late November. New requirements for ag producers to provide sexual harassment training. CCE will help producers to meet the training requirement with information, materials, etc. CCE received five applications for the ag economic development educator position.

**OC SWCD:** M. Webster reported that the District cosponsored a workshop on agricultural land conservation easements with the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) on November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Wood Library in Canandaigua. The Soil Health Workshop which the District cosponsors with the Yates County SWCD and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at King's Catering. The FLLT will also present a session on agricultural conservation easements at this workshop.

**Other:**

Frank Fessner reported that NYS DOT road improvements in the Village of Bloomfield have not been designed to accommodate large farm equipment and will cause farmers to take long detours. By the time the public is aware of a road improvement project it is too late to make a difference in the design. There is a need to include these issues earlier in the NYSDOT project planning process so these needs can be addressed.

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Maria Rudzinski, Senior Planner