

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
January 20, 2017 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Dibbell; Ken Ryan; Ken Smith; Steve Harris; Sup. Lawrence Wilcox;
Donna Jones; Sup. John Lawrence; Stan Davis; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Canice Paliotta

Reorganization

At 10:00 am, **Mr. Dibbell made a motion to make Donna Jones temporary chair, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.**

Ms. Jones asked for nominations for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Sup. Lawrence nominated Terry Ives as Chairman, seconded by Mr. Dibbell. Mr. Dibbell nominated Stan Davis as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Mr. Ives nominated Ken Ryan as Secretary, seconded by Mr. Harris.

With no further nominations, members voted all ayes, nominations carried.

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:06 and asked for any additions or corrections on the December 16, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Dibbell stated in paragraph three, FAA should be FFA. On the back, the US has approved, not shut down beef imports with hoof and mouth disease. Mr. Dibbell made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Smith. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Sup. Lawrence asked if hoof and mouth disease is a problem after processing and what the life span is. Mr. Dibbell stated it is and the disease can stay alive even after being frozen. Sup. Wilcox suggested talking with a staff member in the Clerk of the Board's office. Once the disease is contracted it can have deadly consequences.

Ag Education Sub-Committee

Chairman Ives stated the meeting went well. There were two representatives from the New York FFA program who gave a timeline for starting a program, recommendations for supporting existing programs, etc. Minutes from the meeting were passed out. Many schools like the idea of the FFA program for the leadership component, not so much for the agriculture.

Mr. Butler received an email from Bradd Vickers this morning. Mr. Vickers spoke with Senator Akshar about this topic and funding may be available in the Governor's budget for agriculture education this year. Senator Akshar attempted to include the Greene CSD in the Broome Tioga trial FFA program but for some reason they did not respond. We should investigate this issue. Chairman Ives stated the Oxford FFA materials used to say Greene on them because Greene had a program originally.

Mr. Ryan asked what our next steps are. Mr. Butler stated another meeting will be held in early February where we will be coming up with a list of topics to discuss at the Lobby Days in Albany in March. Mr. Smith stated there are two main goals right now, growing and supporting new and existing programs, and revising the NYS Teacher Certification rules. The certification rules were changed making it harder for teachers and schools. A student becoming certified as a Science Teacher could take the exact same classes as a student being certified as an Agriculture Teacher. Despite this, an Agriculture Teacher could not teach in a Science classroom because they have to choose which certification they want to hold. We would like to see cross-certification for teachers. We have had success in the past with Farm Bureau lobbying.

Chairman Ives stated we also need to work on funding. FFA is not required by NYS. Teachers want more options for their students. The Board of Regents make up the rules on certifications. A change would free up the school budget money for other teachers. There has also been a 30% decline in student enrollment in NYS.

Ms. Jones asked if the FFA's do a cattle show. Hamilton used to clear out the highway garage and have a judged competition in a fenced in area of the parking lot. Mr. Butler stated the Oxford FFA has a school fair. Sup. Lawrence stated the Afton FFA attends the Afton Fair with an exhibit.

Sup. Wilcox asked if there were other entities who could help. Mr. Smith suggested sending a letter to other AFPB's across the state. There is no price tag for the change of certification. Sup. Wilcox sits on the Standing Agriculture Committee at NYSAC and would like to share this issue. The meeting is on January 30th. Chairman Ives suggested asking Perry Dewey if the list of goals and ideas could be completed prior to January 30th.

Chairman Ives stated we will need 20 new Ag Teachers per year due to retirement and new programs. 27 teachers were placed in 2015 and 2016.

Industrial Hemp

Chairman Ives welcomed a guest, Canice Paliotta, and asked if she wanted to bring up a topic. Ms. Paliotta stated she is part of a Live and Link Local group who is interested in the production of hemp in NYS. Assemblywoman Lupardo has been influential in this program. She attended the recent Ag, Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting and wanted to learn more about farming in Chenango County.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated there were no major developments at the last meeting. The Farm to Fork event is planning to expand the number of days at the fairgrounds. After the Board of Supervisors meeting, the ADC would like to connect more with Supervisors to gather input on economic development ideas. One success from the grazing position were the Amish families who have moved to the area.

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler passed out a map of potential sites for the Ag Tour this year. We need to prioritize the list so these places can be asked if they are interested.

Chairman Ives asked what Egg-Low provided. Mr. Harris stated they produce an egg concentrate for baking and other purposes. Sup. Wilcox stated it is a locally started business in Chenango County. Mr. Ryan commented on how it is possible for farmers to make money when eggs are sold for 99 cents a dozen. Mr. Smith stated the poultry business has been going up since the 90s.

Mr. Smith suggested Rogers Conservation for a lunch stop. A lot is happening there. Mr. Ives suggested Baillie Lumber would be a different stop than we have done previously. Mr. Ryan suggested Walling's Maple which is just off the map on Whaupanaucaw Road.

Members decided Baillie, Walling's, Rogers Conservation and Van Althuis Dairy should be the priorities with the possibility of Egg-Low depending on interest and whether they could handle the number of guests.

Ag Inclusions

Chairman Ives stated we need to decide on a date for the Ag District 30-Day Inclusion period. Historically it has been February 1st to March 2nd. **Sup. Lawrence made a motion to make the 30-Day Ag District Inclusion period from February 1st to March 2nd, seconded by Mr. Harris. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.**

Open Discussion

Sup. Wilcox stated the board is working on staying under the mandated tax cap. The Treasurer has already started working on the 2018 budget.

Mr. Ryan stated the Branagan's came and tapped his maple trees already. The sap is running slow but may start boiling this weekend. The tubing for the taps has been reduced to 3/16ths of an inch compared to 5/16ths in the past. This creates a better vacuum.

Mr. Davis stated it is interesting that the State wants to start growing hemp since the Grange and other organizations have been promoting it. Mr. Smith stated hemp demands the same nutrients as growing corn silage but is not as profitable. It will grow the best in the same lowland loamy soils as corn. The topic was brought up numerous times at the Ag Development Council meetings. Ms. Jones stated a resolution was passed by Chenango County previously in support of the program.

Mr. Ryan asked how many acres were approved in Madison County for growing hemp. Mr. Smith stated NYS would have

to legalize recreational marijuana and require a NYS supply for it to have an economic impact.

Sup. Lawrence stated any farmers interested in putting their land into the riparian buffer conservation program should do so quickly. The price depends on the type of land put into the program. Grasslands can bring \$1,000 per acre. Anyone interested should contact Brian Sheridan at the FSA.

Ms. Jones stated the Sherburne Slaughterhouse project is on hold until Spring. Sup. Lawrence asked what the biggest concern is, smell or jobs? Ms. Jones stated they have indicated line workers would be paid \$15 an hour. Mr. Smith stated new slaughterhouses don't have the smells association with them anymore.

Sup. Lawrence asked if it looks promising. Basically it sounds like the townspeople are saying their concerns aren't being listened to. Ms. Jones stated they have to follow the Site Plan Review law and other regulations. Mr. Harris stated there is a lot of misinformation circling. The Planning Board has certain requirements they have to follow. They are restricted to what they can do based on the laws they must follow.

Mr. Ryan stated it is interesting how many people resist GMO's but yet use other products such as toothpaste which have chemicals by far worse than the GMOs. Mr. Ives stated most people are not educated on the topic. Ms. Paliotta stated GMO's are messing with nature. You are changing the genes of the animal and therefore changing the genes of people. Nettles have never been messed with and she harvests them for various reasons.

Mr. Ives stated the American Dairy Association has the dairy pageant next month. A report sent out last week was optimistic on the dairy industry and so were the milk checks. Current pay price was \$18.00 per 100 weight. The report cited a decline in production for Europe, New Zealand, Australia, a mixed bag for China, and US production is up. Mr. Dibbell stated the European government pushed farmers to lower quotas and therefore lowering the price. Mr. Ives stated weather is also a driving factor.

Mr. Dibbell stated cost of production, calculated by the government, was \$32.67 in New York and \$24.85 / 100weight in California. The pay price is around \$14 or \$15. The big farm virus has killed rural America along with the mismanagement by the Government and cooperatives. The Batavia site sits idle.

Mr. Ives stated some milk was dumped at Southtown Dairy because it contained antibiotics. Mr. Dibbell stated the public does not want GMO and we need to get out of the global market. We need to feed ourselves first. The FDA never completed the testing of BsT.

Mr. Harris stated tax bills are out and he is waiting on the Governor's budget to take a look at. The NYS Commissioner of Agriculture & Markets will be in Norwich today at the Car Museum to talk about the budget. He also encouraged anyone with a new farm building to file for the exemption. He also updated everyone on the status of the various rebate checks.

With no further discussion, Mr. Dibbell motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Ryan at 11:05 AM.

The next meeting will be held on February 17, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board February 17, 2017 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Ryan; Ken Smith; Steve Harris; Sup. Lawrence Wilcox;
Donna Jones; Sup. John Lawrence; Stan Davis; and Shane Butler.

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:06 and asked for any additions or corrections on the January 20, 2017 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Harris. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Education Sub-Committee

Chairman Ives stated the meeting had been rescheduled due to the weather to this afternoon at 1:00pm.

Mr. Vickers stated the objective is to promote FFA and vocational classes in Chenango County. Many across the state are willing to help. The FFA budget at the state level has increased and, depending on if it is approved, could be over \$800,000. Senator Ritchie is pushing this.

Mr. Butler passed around a resolution drafted by himself, Mr. Vickers and Mr. Smith recommending a change to the career technical education certification to address the shortage of agricultural education teachers. Mr. Vickers stated Farm Bureau has passed a similar resolution and will be going to Albany in March to lobby.

Mr. Vickers made a motion to refer the resolution to the Ag, Buildings & Grounds Committee, seconded by Mr. Davis.

Discussion;

Mr. Ryan stated there is a bill in Indiana to offer FFA in all schools across the state. Chairman Ives stated a lot of schools are interested. We may still lose the program in Otselic Valley as Ms. Robinson may decide to retire. Mr. Vickers suggested we stay on top of this and should invite the Superintendent to our meeting. Mr. Ives stated Ms. Robinson brought him to the National FFA convention where the Supt asked why some of the other programs were not offered at OV. She stated it was because of the students interests.

Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Smith asked what other states offer different certification provisions as referenced by Terry Hughes and included in the resolution. This may help sway legislators.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated there were no new developments. ADC has also passed the resolution. Mr. Butler stated the Donald Franklin Memorial Scholarship will again be available this year. The family has donated an additional \$200 for this year and will continue to do so for the next 10 years.

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler spoke with Egg-Lo and they are interested in being a stop on the Ag Tour as long as corporate agrees. The Walling's were not interested in being a stop. Mr. Butler provided a calendar with other county meeting dates and asked for a confirmed date on the Ag Tour. Based on suggestions, the tour will be held on July 21st in place of the AFPB meeting.

Mr. Harris suggested asking Heartwood Forest Products in place of Wallings. They make cabinets and also have a maple operation. Mr. Lagoe is the owner and has connections to Gilligans if we ask them to sponsor lunch.

Ag Inclusions

Mr. Butler has received one application and another is pending. The deadline is March 2nd.

Open Discussion

Ms. Jones stated the slaughterhouse proposal in Sherburne is no longer an option. The railroad should be completed in 2017.

Sup. Lawrence asked what businesses plan to use it. There is a company who makes self-pedaled railroad cars. This business could be attracted to Chenango County to make them and provide tours as long as it didn't interfere with rail traffic. Ms. Jones stated there were multiple businesses who could use it and there are some already interested. Mr. Butler stated it is one of the only North-South railways.

Mr. Smith stated the rail company uses a ROW along the river. He will be approaching them to see if river access for canoes is an option. This could help with tourism around the area. NYS likes to work with municipalities on these projects rather than individual landowners. A request has been sent to the rail company regarding a location in South Oxford and Chenango Forks.

Sup. Lawrence stated the hiring freeze has stalled replacing the NRCS representative for Chenango County. Our current representative has agreed to stay until a replacement is found. A lot of time was spend on in-house reorganization.

Mr. Vickers went to AZ for the American Farm Bureau conference. NYS was well represented and many FFA students attended. There are seven (7) states enrolled at New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH). There was a speaker who talked about the disability issue. Agri-bility needs to be pushed in NYS. There will be a Central New York QDMA Seminar on March 2nd at the Morrisville College – Norwich Campus.

Mr. Vickers stated there is a lot going on in NY regarding agriculture. He was pleased to see the EPA backing off on the Waters of the US (WOTUS) issue. There is also a lot of discussion about the Farm Bill. Agencies need to work together to get approval for cleaning out the streams without a flood event.

Chairman Ives stated the Dairy Day pageant, Farm Show, and the ADA meeting are all next week.

Mr. Davis stated the Dairy Day committee awarded their scholarship from the Duck Derby to Victoria Pila. There is an article in the Progressive Dairyman, "Flavored milk pilot program reducing waste, cutting budget deficit in Los Angeles schools," relating to flavored milk. Sales have increased 10% and waste is down since bringing flavored milk back into the schools.

Mr. Harris received information on the Governor's budget and new proposals. STAR increases have been froze for 2018. Assessors are trying to change the STAR program back to how it was before. Now it is part of the income tax state budget. It would become more of a nightmare to change it back.

There is a proposal to make the veterans exemption into a tax credit. The proposal has been around since the late 1980s but never passed. This is the first time in years it has had a matching bill. There is also a proposal to allow farmers to pay back taxes chronologically. Chenango allows four years for anyone to pay back taxes. Broome County only allows one year. We need a good definition of what a farm is. Chairman Ives recommended it relate to the sales being over \$10,000.

Another proposal is the 480-B program – "Empire Forest Program" which would replace the 480-A program. This is supposed to cut down on the carbon emissions. It would devastate our county where there are already 260 landowners who receive the exemption. The program would be changed to allow a lot of 25 acres + with at least 10 acres of forest. A large number of landowners in Chenango County would qualify.

With no further discussion, Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Davis at 11:08 AM.

The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
March 17, 2017 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Bradd Vickers; Ken Ryan; Ken Smith; Steve Harris; Sup. Lawrence Wilcox;
Donna Jones; Sup. John Lawrence; Stan Davis; Ken Dibbell and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Sandy Pierce and Canice Paliotta

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:01 and asked for any additions or corrections on the February 17, 2017 meeting minutes. Mr. Ryan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Dibbell. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Education Sub-Committee

Chairman Ives stated there wasn't much of a meeting last month because not many were there. Mr. Vickers went to Albany and let the legislators he spoke with know a resolution would be coming with suggestions. The resolution should also be sent to the Ag Education Commissioner. There are some good indications something will be done.

Chairman Ives referenced an email from Mr. Butler talking about matching Senate and Assembly bills to create a "Young Farmer Advisory Board". Mr. Dibbell recommended putting butterfat back into milk for brain development.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated asked ADC members to attend today's meeting because of recommendations from John Brennan from NYS Ag and Markets. Mr. Brennan had asked why the two meetings were separate and suggested they be held at the same time. Mr. Butler stated the two meetings overlap but serve two separate functions. Mr. Vickers stated it took a long time to form the ADC and it is not state mandated.

Mr. Smith met with Mary Weidman to discuss the Chenango County Fair. They would like to grow the Farm to Fork event to two days this year and potentially expand to a full week eventually. Exhibition hall will have Chenango County products. It is helpful for farmers if they can have a booth but not commit staff. Chairman Ives stated it would be more educational versus trying to sell products.

Mr. Butler spoke with the owner of Autumn Meadows in McDonough and they would be interested in horse trails. They have sponsored similar events starting at their facility. The hardest part is to find an entity to maintain the trails during the summer. Some of the snowmobile trails go across farmland and may not be accessible in the summer. Chairman Ives stated he doesn't mind if they go around the outside of the field.

Mr. Smith has been working with the NYSDEC to identify a site near the South Oxford Bridge and Chenango Forks for boat access. Both sites are owned by the IDA/Railroad. He has spoken with Steve Craig at Commerce Chenango who sent a letter to the railroad but did not receive a response. Mr. Smith spoke to Supervisor Nabinger and she suggested bringing the topic up at Ag, Buildings & Grounds Committee where it could be referred to Planning & Economic Development Committee for referral to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Harris stated the railroad has not paid property taxes in 20 years and should be supportive of the idea to help the county.

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler has received confirmation from Egg-Low and Heartwood Forest Products to be stops on the Ag Tour. Baillie Lumber has also been contacted but needed to talk with corporate headquarters. We will have lunch at Rogers Conservation Center, tentatively sponsored by Gilligan's. NBT Bank has sponsored \$500. Mr. Dibbell will ask Chobani for a sponsorship as well.

Mr. Smith spoke with Assemblyman Crouch about how to get more downstate legislators on the tour. Assemblyman Crouch suggested working with his office and other local legislators to invite the downstate legislators. Sup. Wilcox also suggested using the Farm Bureau "Adopt a Legislator" program to get in contact with some of them.

Ag Inclusions

Mr. Butler has received three applications for six parcels to be included. All of the contact information has been stripped to prevent any conflicts although some are probably obvious. Chairman Ives asked why the 0.23 acre parcel was included. Mr. Butler stated it was part of a larger farm operation.

Mr. Vickers made a motion to approve the Ag District Inclusions, seconded by Mr. Dibbell. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Open Discussion

Sup. Lawrence stated there was no Soil and Water meeting yesterday due to the recent weather. The new building renovations are nice. Mr. Smith stated they are also rearranging the CCE offices along with some renovations.

Ms. Jones stated they did not have County Planning Board or Committee on Tuesday due to the weather.

Mr. Ryan asked about farmland protection programs. Mr. Butler read a portion and passed around a copy of a letter received from NYS Ag and Markets Commissioner Ball relating to money being offered in the NYS budget. Mr. Smith stated ag lands are more valuable in other areas making them more prone to protection. He will work with Mr. Ryan to submit an application for his property. Some of this money may be for properties previously accepted due to a back log. Chenango County residents do not want spaghetti lots and keeping farmland protects this. Some organizations will charge landowners to keep the property in perpetual agriculture.

Mr. Ryan asked if the County Fairgrounds were insured. Part of the exhibition hall collapsed due to the snow. Mr. Davis stated the insurance adjusters had visited.

Mr. Harris stated it is exemption time and now is a good time to talk with your assessors prior to updating the tax rolls. The Senate and Assembly passed matching bills to bring back the old STAR program. There is also more information coming out about the potential 480-B program. Governor Cuomo referenced an "Empire Forest Program" in his speech. Rural counties would be devastated by this because it would allow for a 40% tax exemption on lands greater than 25 acres with at least 10 acres of timber. The rules for the program are not completely available yet.

Sup. Wilcox stated exemptions are just reassignments of the taxes. Mr. Smith stated the impression he gets from the program is to take marginal farm land and turn it back into forest.

Mr. Vickers went to Albany for the Taste of NY event. Chobani represented Chenango County with yogurt. Other counties had maple, wine, and other ag producers. They touched on a variety of topics with the legislators while they were there. Currently NYS has 35,500 farms covering 7 million plus acres with a market value of \$5.33 billion. This is down from 2014 where it was \$6.3 billion. NYS is 1st in cottage cheese and sour cream production and 2nd in apples, among others. There have been a lot of fires in the Midwest and barns, land, and livestock has been burned. Beef prices may increase.

March 21st is Ag Day. The Senate and Assembly have introduced and/or passed proclamations. Farmers work every day and we need to support them.

Mr. Davis stated he is on the Dairy Building State Farm Task Force for the NYS Fair. They have no money to run the building. A milk price increase was applied for, approved, and then denied again.

Sup. Wilcox stated they are working on a municipal cooperation plan. These are being pushed by NYS. They have come up with a number of thoughts on this.

Mr. Smith stated the Governor and State have made money available for agriculture economic development in the Northern Country and Western NY but the Southern Tier is absent. There is a proposal this year from CCE asking for money for wine and craft breweries for our region. CCE also provides food stamps education for people to learn the best ways to use them for good food. This money may go away as part of the new administrations proposed \$20 billion cut to the farm bill.

The Governor created a proposal requiring breweries and distilleries to use NYS products. If this same requirement were given to state facilities like jails, healthcare centers, schools, etc., to use local foods, it could have a huge impact. Mr. Harris suggested talking with BOCES to see who supplies foods to the schools.

Chairman Ives attended the Dairy Promotion Advisory meeting in Florida last week. He sat next to Secretary Vilsack. Currently we do not have a Secretary of Agriculture at the Federal level which means nobody is representing farmers at the budget table. He asked if the Board of Supervisors could send a letter to legislators asking them to push the issue.

A report was read stating one out of seven milk truck trailer loads are being exported. Milk flows to demand and there isn't enough demand in NYS. He also spoke about the GEN Youth program. Alex Glick manages the program and met with CEO's of businesses representing \$5 trillion in annual sales. They donate money towards the program which brings healthy items to youths and gets them more active.

Mr. Dibbell referenced an article in the March 2017 Milkweed talking about a product made in India with the label "GOT MILK?" on it. The product contains powdered milk inside. The beef market is being crippled because the US is importing beef from countries with hoof and mouth disease. Prices for beef cows were once \$2000 per head and are now around \$1200. Milk prices are currently \$10 less than the cost of production.

With no further discussion, Mr. Smith motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Vickers at 11:08 AM.

The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
April 21, 2017 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Bradd Vickers; Ken Ryan; Ken Smith; Steve Harris;
Sup. John Lawrence; Stan Davis; Ken Dibbell and Shane Butler.
Guests Present: Rainy Vickers; Sandy Pierce and Canice Paliotta

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:01 and asked for any additions or corrections on the March 17, 2017 meeting minutes. Mr. Ryan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Education Sub-Committee

Mr. Butler stated the support resolution was passed by the Board of Supervisors and copies were sent to our area legislators along with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commissioner of Education. Sup. Lawrence asked if we could check to make sure they received the resolution and put it on next month's agenda.

Mr. Smith suggested inviting a representative from the Commissioner of Education's office to attend our next meeting to talk about the issue and what their feelings on it are. Mr. Vickers stated the NYS Association of Agriculture Educators also passed a similar resolution. They were in Albany lobbying for it. We should get a copy of their resolution. Mr. Harris stated the Governor's budget includes increases for ag education. Mr. Vickers added that some of it is for FFA start-ups.

Mr. Butler received a phone call from the Otselic Valley Superintendent regarding their FFA program. Ms. Osborne will be teaching part-time agriculture, part-time science, but no classes or programs will be impacted.

Mr. Vickers made a motion to write a letter to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commissioner of Education asking for a representative to attend an Ag Education Sub-Committee Meeting after the Ag and Farmland Protection Board meeting, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Discussion: Mr. Lawrence suggested adding the resolution again to the letter to make sure they received it. **Members voted all ayes, motion carried.**

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated there was no new information from the ADC. Farm to Fork is moving forward and microgrant applications are coming in. Senator Schumer came to Chenango County to talk about storm damage and Mr. Smith talked to him about taking action on the milk fat content in schools. CCE has been trying to get nutritionists into the schools. We should resent the resolution regarding milkfat in schools.

Mr. Smith met with Chobani and Marty Broccoli from Oneida CCE. There is a bill in the Assembly, "NY 25-Bill", encouraging schools to buy 25% of their food from NYS. Mr. Vicker stated this has been stuck in the Assembly for a number of years. Mr. Smith stated the Curtain Brothers farm has their own slaughterhouse and submitted a bid to put meat into NYS prisons. Their bid was not approved as a bid from Canada was lower. Mr. Smith recommended writing a resolution next month regarding the bidding process.

Sup. Lawrence asked if NYS could temper bids based on best quality. Mr. Harris stated you have to write a very specific bid as it pertains to quality and other specifications.

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler received a notice from Baillie lumber and they are not going to participate in the Ag Tour. After discussion, the Lathrop Farm was suggested. Mr. Dibbell also asked to include three members of Chobani on the tour as part of their sponsorship.

Horse Trails

Mr. Butler contacted NYSDEC regarding horse trails and shared the information he received. Mr. Butler asked if this was something we should continue to pursue. Mr. Ives stated he didn't think it was something the AFPB should pursue itself but suggested contacting Mr. Palmatier and some horse associations.

Sup. Lawrence suggested and provided information on a number of possible grant opportunities including the NYS Recreational Trail Program, NY Works and the Environmental Protection Fund.

Mr. Paliotta asked about using Camp Pharsalia as a possibility.

Open Discussion

Mr. Ryan suggested an agenda item for next month. Chenango County needs a better mechanism for people who aren't feeding their livestock well during winter months. He also suggested a well written letter regarding alternatives in agriculture in Chenango County including hemp, hops, etc. There will soon be big changes in agriculture.

Mr. Davis stated the dairy building at the state fair is in financial trouble. They want to increase the price of the milk cups but the state has refused. The state is going to take over the program.

Mr. Ryan asked how the County Fair Exhibition Hall is. Mr. Davis stated they are waiting for the insurance company. A quote was received for a new steel building for \$60,000 but it was slightly smaller.

Mr. Vickers stated the Governor was at Cornell talking about hemp. There are still federal regulations on it. The Unadilla Valley CSD had an ag plastic collection recently. They collected 8 bales, approximately 4.26 tons, of plastic. The burn ban is in effect until May 14th. Earth Fest on May 7th at Rogers Conservation.

Mr. Smith stated the low oil price has made the ag plastic hard to sell. Sup. Lawrence stated it is still good to keep it out of the landfill. Henry Drexler has been looking for information on NYS Dairy Info. NYS no longer pays for analyzing data stats by county, a disadvantage to our area. The statewide numbers mask the slump our area is in with the increases in western NY.

Mr. Butler stated the NYS Ag Census will be starting later this year.

Sup. Lawrence passed around information on Whole Farm Nutrient Balance. There are currently four universities who are authorized to study hemp. It is through Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo's program.

Ms. Palliotta stated there are over 25,000 uses for hemp, one of which is as a rotational crop. Nanticoke Gardens is being used by Binghamton University as a research center. Senator Akshar will be in the Town of Guilford tomorrow for a town hall type meeting. Ms. Palliotta would publish information about our concerns if we would like her to in the Chenango Links newsletter.

Mr. Dibbell stated there are three big farms doing expansions. The Hanehan Farm is getting a new building. Grazing cows doesn't use diesel fuel. There is a large farm in Wisconsin where 20 Mexicans quit despite the farm doubling their pay. We need to do a better job recycling ag plastics. Only family farms show cows anymore. Only family farmers know how to work. We need to push for country of origin labeling on our products.

Chairman Ives stated farms continue to add cows despite the price. The ground is very wet still and farmers may be late this year getting corn in the ground.

With no further discussion, Mr. Smith motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Vickers at 11:12 AM.

The next meeting will be held on May19, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
May 19, 2017 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Bradd Vickers; Ken Ryan; Steve Harris;
Sup. John Lawrence; Stan Davis; Ken Dibbell; Donna Jones; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Rainy Vickers and Canice Paliotta

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:02 and asked for any additions or corrections on the April 21, 2017 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Dibbell. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Education Sub-Committee

Chairman Ives advised every one of the meeting to be held at 11:30 today. Raquel Gonzalez from NYS Ag and Markets would be in attendance to talk about the Ag Education resolution.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Butler stated the Don Franklin Memorial Scholarship was awarded. Planning is continuing on the Farm to Fork event during the Chenango County Fair.

NY 25 Bill

Mr. Vickers passed around language from Senate Bill 3918 "Buy from the backyard act". The bill usually passes the NYS Senate but fails to receive traction in the NYS Assembly. We should pass a resolution to support the bill and encourage our Assembly to take action. Mr. Butler and Mr. Vickers will work on a resolution.

Mr. Vickers made a motion to write a resolution supporting Senate Bill 3918 and forwarding it to the Ag, Buildings & Grounds Committee, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Ryan stated we need some kind of response to the rapidly changing dairy industry. We need a position statement to promote alternative forms of agriculture.

Chairman Ives stated supply management would help dairy. Farmers need to stop adding more cows because they end up dumping more milk due to oversupply. Mr. Dibbell promoted the Casey-Specter bill. Mr. Ryan spoke to Don Macintosh who received letters encouraging farmers to cut back on organic because of over production.

Mr. Ryan suggested asking the Ag Development Council to help with alternative agriculture. They had not done this in the past. Mr. Butler stated they supported a project recently on different types of seeding options and what crops grew best. Mr. Vickers stated farmers won't try something new without knowing what will come of it. Chairman Ives added farmers are already in debt. The latest milk price was \$16.47 per 100 weight before trucking and other deductions were taken out. Mr. Dibbell spoke about custom breweries and how only a few in Chenango County are growing hops.

Mr. Ryan asked who takes the call from farmers who want to get out of farming and try something else. We should work with the ADC on recommending alternative agriculture opportunities. Mr. Ryan suggested hops, hemp and apples.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to write a resolution supporting alternative agriculture opportunities in order to improve the health of small communities and all of the businesses farming supports, seconded by Mr. Vickers. After discussion, members voted all ayes, motion carried. Discussion:

Chairman Ives stated big farmers don't want to farm the small fields. Renting land to a farmer doesn't always pay the taxes at \$100 per acre. Big farmers are expanding now because they are worried supply management is coming. Canada has marketable quotas which hasn't allowed innovation.

Chairman Ives stated there needs to be better markets for the alternative crops. Mr. Harris stated microbreweries have to buy local hops. There are a lot of hops farms in Madison County. Mr. Ryan suggested we wait to talk about this more when Mr. Smith can be in attendance.

Ms. Palliotta suggested solar. Mr. Vickers expressed concern over the commercial nature of solar installations.

Open Discussion

Mr. Davis stated exhibition hall will be coming down but the little pole barn will stay. The side walls are not heavy enough to support the trusses. Fixing underneath the grandstand is a possibility. They will need a tent for Dairy Day and the Chenango County Fair. Ms. Jones stated the IRT is finishing the last side of the cattle barn this year.

Mr. Dibbell stated \$16.39 per 100 weight is the statistical government price. He spoke about the Progressive Agriculture Organization in Pennsylvania. There are less than 100 farms in New Hampshire and about 120 in Chenango County. Rural America is supported by family farms.

Mr. Harris stated the tax sale list is now available. Grievance days start next week.

With no further discussion, Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Davis at 10:42 AM.

The next meeting will be held on June 16, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board June 16, 2017 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Bradd Vickers; Ken Ryan; Steve Harris;
Sup. John Lawrence; Stan Davis; Ken Dibbell; Donna Jones; and Shane Butler.
Guests Present: Canice Paliotta and Sandy Pierce

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:05 and asked for any additions or corrections on the May 19, 2017 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Vickers. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Vickers made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2017 Ag – Education Subcommittee, seconded by Mr. Harris. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Education Sub-Committee

Mr. Vickers stated it was an excellent meeting last month with Raquel Gonzalez from NYS Ag and Markets. She was pleased with the efforts our county has done so far and talked about NYS Budget items relating to agriculture education. Previously there were 30 credits teachers could receive for their Agriculture Degrees. They have added another 30 to bring the total to 60.

Mr. Vickers stated the Sherburne-Earlville School District has started an agriculture program but does not have an FFA yet. Chairman Ives added the Bainbridge-Guilford School District is talking about adding a program. The school has noticed a problem with food waste and would like to raise pigs at the bus garage. Mr. Davis added Bette Robinson is retiring.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Butler stated a couple of microgrants were passed including a project from the Sherburne-Earlville School FFA program for a greenhouse.

Mr. Vickers stated there was a broadband presentation as well. Mr. Butler stated the resolution supporting broadband applications to the NYS Broadband Initiative was passed by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Harris stated the Attorney General is suing Time Warner.

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler stated everything is set and will be confirming again soon. He has around 20 people signed up including a couple of State officials, representatives for Congress-members and local legislators.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Ryan spoke with a farmer in Coventry who used to sell cows and now sells pheasants. There is a market for pheasants, canola, and fish. He asked what the next step was on promoting alternative agriculture in Chenango County. He suggested the Ag Development Council would have money for this. Sup. Lawrence stated there used to be a fish farm in Afton. Ms. Jones stated SUNY Morrisville had an aquatic agriculture program.

Mr. Vickers referenced the Buy from the Backyard Bill, Assembly Bill 2185/Senate Bill 3918, and suggested we pass a resolution in support. He will call the legislators if passed.

Mr. Vickers made a motion to support Assembly Bill 2185 and Senate Bill 3918, supporting bill to require schools to buy local products, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Ryan suggested evaluating different agricultural ideas to see if they are profitable. A Cornell Graduate student could work on it. Sup. Lawrence stated pheasants could bring tourism. The problem would be predators. Mr. Vickers stated farm hunting leases could be an opportunity for landowners but would need insurance, restrictions including bag limits, etc.

Chairman Ives asked about the market for canola. Mr. Vickers suggested biodiesel although current diesel prices are low. NYC has

requirements for biodiesel usage.

Chairman Ives recalled the business in Wells Bridge turning hay into fuel pellets. The company is now for sale. Sup. Lawrence suggested this may be a sign the business was not profitable.

Mr. Ryan stated we need a technique to evaluate the ideas and then push forward. We need a template to show which ideas are the best. He suggested asking Mr. Smith if there is a list. Mr. Ives asked members to bring criteria items to the next meeting.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Ryan suggested tabling this until Mr. Smith was in attendance.

Open Discussion

Mr. Dibbell spoke about current milk prices and Progressive Agriculture. The Board of Supervisors recently passed a resolution in support of changing the milk pricing system.

Mr. Butler made members aware of the NYS Methane Reduction Plan and advised it could be found online.

Mr. Ryan attended the public hearing regarding shared services. Not much left to combine. Mr. Vickers stated very few towns could do this in Chenango County. Sup. Lawrence stated towns have to have a memorandum of understanding and would lose control of the services to some extent. The County already does bridge maintenance on roads.

Mr. Davis gave an update on the County Fairgrounds. The cattle barns are nearly complete and the grandstand siding is coming along. The NYS Grange Legislative Conference will be held at the Chenango County Grange on July 15th from 9:30am to Noon.

Mr. Vickers is working on the last and new farm bills. There are even dollars for broadband included. American Farm Bureau has a representative from New York on the working committee. The Farm Food Bank passed giving a tax credit for donations at 25% of market value. He also referenced Senate Bill 1152A/Assembly Bill 559A regarding limited liability protection for farm tours.

Ms. Palliotta suggested everyone keep an open mind on hemp. Lilley Farm wants to put in 60 acres of hemp and solar panels.

No July Meeting Due to Ag Tour

With no further discussion, Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Davis at 10:58 AM.

The next meeting will be held on August 18, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board August 18 2017 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Bradd Vickers; Steve Harris; Ken Smith; Rob DeClue;
Sup. John Lawrence; Ken Dibbell; Donna Jones; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: George Phillips; Rainy Collins-Vickers; Todd Dreyer; Canice Paliotta and Sandy Pierce

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:05 and asked for any additions or corrections on the June 16, 2017 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Dibbell. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Reclaim New York

Mr. Smith met with Mr. George Phillips a few months ago and thought the AFPB may want to listen to his presentation.

Mr. Phillips is the Regional Director of Reclaim New York and a former teacher in Binghamton whose family comes from farmers in Western NY. New York is in an affordability crisis. People need to engage their government and ask if they are getting a return on the taxes they are paying. There is a calculator on their website (www.reclaimny.org). What is the cost of basic necessities in Chenango County? (See handout – New York Affordability Crisis) At the end of the day, the family in the example is in the red at the end of the year. New York is ranked 49th in doing business and has the 2nd highest cost of living.

Mr. Phillips stated his organization opposes corporate cronyism and central planning. The government is picking the winners and losers in business with economic development money. He referenced the corruption of the Buffalo Billions. NY Medicaid is 69% higher than in Florida, equaling about 36% of property taxes in Chenango County. NY pays two times the national average to schools.

Mr. Phillips stated the voter rate in New York is 28.8%, the 4th lowest in the nation. (See handout – Transparency Project) Transparency is important. Reclaim New York has foiled municipalities for every expense from the highest to the lowest. Reclaim NY believes in term limits, simplifying the tax code, reforming pensions to a 401K style, etc.

Ms. Pierce asked what funding structure Reclaim NY used. Mr. Phillips stated they are a 501c3 and 501c4 with a board of directors. They do not disclose who their funders are. Reclaim NY started in NYC following corruption in Oyster Bay where government officials were withholding FOILED information.

Mr. Smith stated Upstate NY has very little influence with little capacity to make change. We have the same load of expenses but fewer people to pay those expenses. Millions of dollars are spent weekly for food at schools, jails, colleges, and NY farmers should be given an advantage for providing the food.

Sup. Lawrence asked how NYS became the only state to pass Medicaid costs down to the county level and asked if there was any movement to change the imbalance. Mr. Phillips stated it started in the Rockefeller era. If you look at NYS history from 100 years ago, government has grown larger. An amendment to the healthcare bill would help but not enough in NY.

Ms. Paliotta suggested we should start thinking more about hemp because it will help with taxes and employment.

Ag Education

Mr. Vickers stated Terry Hughes is still working on the issue. The changes in criteria for ag education is moving forward. Chairman Ives stated the new FFA teacher at Otselic Valley has left and they are searching for a new one.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated Farm to Fork was held with mixed success due to the collapse of exhibition hall. They weren't sure about what space they would be able to use which was a big challenge. Attendance was low overall for the fair the first two days. We need to think of an idea to not rely on fair attendance like making it a stand-alone event. The fair would like it to be held all week.

Mr. Vickers stated the other agriculture portion of the fair should be closer rather than across the midway. Ms. Pierce stated the few

visitors they had were very pleased with the event. Mr. Smith is looking for a grant for a portable evaporator which may be a draw.

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler stated the Ag Tour went very well although no State or Federal legislators attended. Chairman Ives felt Deb El Foods was very interesting. Mr. Butler spoke with B-G Superintendent Tim Ryan about some of the byproducts at Deb El Foods. B-G would like to start raising pigs and this may be a food source. Discussion of Members: One of the points made was the turnover of employees. Concerns could be the change of temperatures between the different areas, noise, drugs, etc. A lot of brine is going into the village water treatment plant which could be a concern.

Sup. Lawrence suggested the Riverbend Golf Course on State Route 8 next year. Mr. DeClue stated the facility has reclaimed many of the wetlands in the area and sell wetland credits to businesses who have destroyed them.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Smith has spoken with Mr. Ryan about the topic. Kevin Gano and a livestock specialist will be attending the meeting next month to discuss some of this. Mr. DeClue passed around a recent publication from NYS regarding industrial hemp.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Smith spoke with Mr. Ryan about this topic as well. There are laws on the books to protect animals but law enforcement can be quick to say they can't do anything about it. An idea would be to host an event/training for law enforcement to educate them on what can be enforced.

Sup. Lawrence stated many of the area dog control officers don't understand the dog laws. The courts sometimes do not understand them either and it can create a lot of hostility with residents.

Water

Mr. DeClue stated large farms are under the microscope for animal waste application. (See wet weather manure application handout) In our area this would mean about six to nine months of manure storage because it would restrict from spreading manure on saturated, snow covered or frozen soils, depending on the land base. Farmers are looking for more ground to apply it on.

Mr. Smith asked how corn was growing this year. Mr. DeClue stated many farmers used the no-till method this year. More farmers are planting soy beans this year. Many farmers didn't plant this year because the timeframe they needed was too short due to the weather this year.

Open Discussion

Mr. Vickers stated the legislators are out of session and at home. Take this opportunity to contact them. The EPA is proposing to eliminate the 2015 Waters of the US rules and go back to the drawing board but another group is bring it back. The USDA has partnered with SCORE. Visit the USDA website for more information.

Mr. Dibbell stated the cost of production numbers have been reduced by the government because they took out unpaid labor and outside income from the numbers. Farmers are surviving from off-farm income.

Sup. Lawrence stated NRCS at the Federal level will see a 22% cut in budget along with 30 positions unfilled in NYS. Any employee leaving between now and October 1st will not be refilled. On September 21st there is a Water Quality meeting in Binghamton.

Mr. Dreyer reached out to Mr. Phillips previously on taking a position to make a tentative Board of Supervisors agenda available to the public prior to the meeting and allow for a time period for the public to speak at the meetings. Three organizations have submitted resolutions to support this. Mr. Smith stated the resolutions were read as a communication but didn't believe it was referred to a committee.

With no further discussion, Sup. Lawrence motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Dibbell at 11:37 AM.

The next meeting will be held on September 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board September 15, 2017 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Smith; Ken Ryan; Stan Davis; Chairman Wilcox; Rob DeClue; Sup. John Lawrence; Ken Dibbell; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Ashley McFarland, Kevin Ganoë, Marge Davis; Canice Paliotta and Sandy Pierce

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:01 and asked for any additions or corrections on the August 18, 2017 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Davis. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Smith asked Kevin Ganoë, Regional Field Crop Specialist at CCE, and Ashley McFarland, Regional Livestock Specialist at CCE to give a presentation on alternative agriculture based on discussion at previous meetings.

Mr. Ganoë stated there are typically 3 or 4 types of crop rotations in Chenango County. The first, the standard rotation (corn – alfalfa/grass/clover – grasses), second, corn/soy – hay, third, corn – soy, and the last isn't really a rotation but it stays in grass where it is harvested either mechanically or through grazing. Mr. Smith stated this makes up approximately 85-90% of the economy.

Mr. Ganoë stated Chenango County is mainly hills and valleys which is good for forage crops. Current crops for the land well and markets are readily available. Much of the crops go to feed and the rest go to the ethanol plant north of here. Some of the hay is sold for horses and whatever isn't used here will be sold to other areas. If all this is going well, why do we need alternatives? Chairman Ives stated there isn't enough income to pay expenses. Mr. Ryan added it is hard to harvest hay with the current weather.

Mr. Ganoë stated quality is always an issue. Sugar beets, sunflowers, canola, and switchgrass used to be considered as alternatives. Chairman Ives asked about green beans and their market. Mr. Ganoë stated the farmer would need a contract with the company and you need to meet the contract. Many of these alternatives don't pan out because of economics/lack of market. You need a critical mass and specialized machinery.

Mr. Ganoë used the examples of Malting Barley and Hemp. Both need the best land to grow on. There is increasing demand for malting barley for beer. Farmers need to understand the barley must be sent to a malt house and then sent to the brewery. In NYS, Assembly Bill 10694 was passed requiring breweries to use 20% NY grown ingredients with the percentage increasing over time. There are two types of malting barley, two row and six row. Two row has more alcohol and tends to be the preference. Six row has more enzymes. Winter barley yields more but does not over-winter well unless it is near the valleys. Barley and corn need the same rotation and therefore aren't good together due to diseases. Fungicides are also needed. The barley must be combined and stored properly because you don't want the barley to germinate early.

Mr. Ganoë referenced he is not an expert on hemp but asked other Cornell staff for their input on research being done. Cornell is working with NYS for best management practices on growing hemp. There were some farmer demonstrations this year where farmers were paid \$350 per acre, minus seed. They grew a dual purpose variety (seed and fiber). Hemp needs well drained soil and does not fare well in compacted soil. Hemp does not have enough growth to prevent weeds and would need to be planted in April or early May. It also needs to be planted early for fiber and later for seed. In the program, farmers are able to sell the hemp they grow but it is hard to find a market currently and still need a critical mass.

Chairman Ives asked how you harvest hemp. Mr. Ganoë stated there isn't good equipment around to bale it. You would need a sickle bar mower. For grain you would be able to combine it but the hemp doesn't like rough handling. You would want to combine it when it is fairly dry or it would quickly deteriorate.

In summary, Mr. Ganoë stated quality matters and there isn't a quick fix for profitability when it comes to alternative agriculture. Alternatives are good to reduce market risk as long as you can find a market. Forage production is still our strength.

Ms. McFarland stated there are more dairy farmers going out of businesses due to age, economics, etc. Some have decided to move to

raising beef, sheep, goats and/or hogs. Consumers want consistency in the quality of the meat. Sheep is a growing industry because of ethnic markets and the fast gestation time. Sheep can go to market in about 20 weeks. Sheering can be one challenge and wool is sold for about 10 cents per pound since there is no good way to process it. One idea is to turn it into household insulation. Dairy farms can be easily converted to raise hogs which grow fast and can go to market within 6 months. Goats have a large ethnic market and there is a growing demand for the meat as well as milk for soap and other products. Beef is also growing although it takes about 18 months to get them to market and you need a consistent quality of product. Beef prices may increase soon due to large sell offs recently in the Midwest.

Ms. Pierce shared concerns on the wait time at a processing facility can be 9 months or longer. Ms. McFarland stated there is huge demand in the Fall and not as much in the Spring. Farmers should consider trying to process the animals in the Spring but would need to feed them on forage longer.

Mr. Smith asked how beef markets compare between grass finished and grain finished. Ms. McFarland stated there is a company from the Midwest who comes to Chenango County and pays about \$1.40 per lb for grass finished and \$1.15 for grain finished. Most of the meat is going for ground beef. Mr. Ganoe stated grass finishing takes a longer amount of time, approximately 24-30 months compared to 18 months on grain.

Mr. DeClue asked if there is economic data on which is better. Ms. McFarland stated grass fed is hard to track using paperwork. When a farmer purchases grain there is a bill they can refer to. Mr. Dibbell referenced beef import issues from other countries caused havoc on the beef market.

Mr. Ryan asked if we should be concerned with the loss of farmland. Mr. Ganoe stated it is always a concern but we need to fix the root cause which is making farms more profitable. If farms are profitable the land will be used.

Ms. Pierce asked about biofuels and stated they could meet the energy needs of Chenango County. She referenced a plant in Bainbridge using sunflower oil. Mr. Ganoe stated there are environmental issues with burning the grasses compared to using them for cellulose. It is economically cheaper to use fossil fuels still. Mr. Smith stated one problem is economics because sunflower oil is already worth \$30 a gallon. You can't convert it into something else for only \$2 a gallon.

Agriculture Education

Chairman Wilcox attended the recent NYSAC meeting. Four resolutions were sent relating to agriculture education. They also talked about the school lunch programs. He also told the group they need to be cautious to realize that government isn't always the solution.

Mr. Butler received a phone call from Mr. Vickers who could not attend as he is in Washington DC. He spoke to members of the Governor's staff who have an office there. He also met with Tenney's office regarding agriculture and the education topic. He also asked anyone who has policy for the annual Farm Bureau meeting to send it to him as soon as possible as the meeting will be in October.

Chairman Ives read a farm magazine which talked about having a requirement for every student to take a class relating to agriculture. Agriculture affects everything through clothes, food, medicine, etc. He met with Congresswoman Tenney with a group of mostly large dairy farmers and Norwich Meadows. Obviously immigration was a big issue and milk pricing. We need to look at base pricing. Farming is not sustainable unless you get more cows. Another issue is other products being called milk. Mr. Dibbell added supply management.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated they are working on a new farm to fork model so as not to be dependent on fair attendance. We should invite Congresswoman Tenney to speak to the AFPB and ADC at a joint meeting. Ms. Pierce stated that a resolution was passed by the ADC to request Ag & Markets to amend the FMNP requirements for Chenango County FMNP farmers to allow them to accept FMNP checks at any location in the county regardless of whether or not it is at a non-authorized farmers market or any event in which other vendors are present.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Ryan stated he was happy with the progress today. Sup. Lawrence asked if farmers have land they are not using that they could use for alternative agriculture. Mr. Dibbell stated they do but not good ground.

Sup. Lawrence asked if farmers should take over the supply and processing of alternatives. He asked if it would be economical. Mr. Butler used Cascun's as an example with their chickens. Mr. Smith stated some due but would need USDA approval or an unconventional way to bring the product to market.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Ryan asked to move this to next month until Mr. DeClue can attend.

Open Discussion

Sup. Lawrence passed around two handouts relating to the Upper Susquehanna Watershed. There is a forum on September 21st at Binghamton University to discuss water related issues. He asked Mr. Ives if there is support between small and large farmers. Chairman Ives stated the problem is resentment. Big farmers only want the best land and small farmers will use even the marginal land.

Mr. Davis stated the Chenango County Grange has sent a resolution to the State Grange to have all students take an agriculture education class.

Mr. Dibbell passed around a petition to support family farms and asked everyone to sign it. Family farms are getting destroyed by the government.

Ms. Palliotta attended a hemp festival in Vermont. Vermont has a lot of different projects relating to hemp. One is "hemp-crete" where hemp is used as a building material that is mold and fire resistant. She would like to see a cooperative in the county. Farmers need to come together.

With no further discussion, Sup. Lawrence motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Dibbell at 11:34 AM.

The next meeting will be held on October 20, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
October 20, 2017 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Smith; Ken Ryan; Bradd Vickers; Steve Harris;
Sup. John Lawrence; Ken Dibbell; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Rainy Vickers, Canice Paliotta and Sandy Pierce

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:00 and asked for any additions or corrections on the September 15, 2017 meeting minutes. Mr. Ryan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

NOTE: (After the meeting, an email from Ms. Pierce regarding the September 15th minutes to correct an error under the ADC section.) It should read: "Ms. Pierce stated that a resolution was passed by the ADC to request Ag & Markets to amend the FMNP requirements for Chenango County FMNP farmers to allow them to accept FMNP checks at any location in the county regardless of whether or not it is at a non-authorized farmers market or any event in which other vendors are present."

Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG)

Ms. Pierce attended a workshop on Monday regarding the program. She is a 3rd generation farmer in Plymouth. Her grandfather was a dairy farmer and the property was passed down to her through other family members. She turned the farm into a not-for-profit 501c3 with a board of directors. The intent is to train disabled individuals including veterans on how to become farmers.

Ms. Pierce attended the workshop because she has interest in putting a farmland easement on the property. She spoke with the Chenango Land Trust but they do not allow farming with their easements. American Farmland Trust was not interested in Chenango County land and the Finger Lakes Land Trust stays closer to the Finger Lakes Region.

The FPIG workshop was put on by the New York Agricultural Land Trust (NYALT). This is the 13th Round for FPIG. The deadline for this year is November 1st. Ms. Pierce has started the Site Plan for her farm but still needs additional mapping assistance. There are four entities who can apply for the FPIG funds; Counties, Municipalities, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Land Trusts. Farmers are advised to talk with their local Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board. Chenango County Soil and Water was not interested in applying because the process would take about four full-time staff members however they would offer mapping assistance. Pre-applications are due March 1st. Each eligible entity can apply for up to six farms. The farmers have to upfront \$10,000 to \$20,000 when working with a land trust because there are administrative expenses such as yearly visits to make sure development has not occurred on the property. Landowners can be sued for development on the property. The FPIG program does not require funding. Ms. Pierce stated NYALT is going to assist her in the process.

Mr. Butler stated the program is intended to protect viable agricultural lands that are at risk of conversion to non-farm uses. An example of properties the program is meant for is south of Walmart in Norwich. The property is being sold for over \$20,000 an acre. There is also a 25% match required and you can request up to \$15,000.

Sup. Lawrence asked if Ms. Pierce's property was considered viable and what does the program consider viable. Ms. Pierce stated the property is considered viable. There are fruit and nut trees, and other forms of agriculture on the property. There are more than just dairy farms and cropland in Chenango County. Mr. Smith stated some of the factors include whether or not there are prime soils or soils of statewide importance on the farm. In the end we can't change the requirements of the FPIG program. Mr. Vickers stated there was a movement towards conservation easements years ago and the feedback they received was there is already a lot of vacant farmland in Chenango County.

Mr. Harris stated the program is very competitive. Another concern is that farmers don't want to commit because they don't know what the future holds as far as estate planning. If someone doesn't want to continue farming, they have lost development opportunities for the property.

Mr. Ryan stated we are losing alarming amounts of farmland every year around the country. All farms are under threat. We dump a lot of money into welfare and social services programs. Mr. Ryan has been trying to contact the Otsego Land Trust as suggested

previously by Mr. Smith but hasn't received a reply to his emails or calls. Chenango County needs more land use management.

Mr. Vickers made a motion to support an application to the Farmland Preservation Implementation Grant for Ms. Pierce's farm, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Vickers asked Mr. Butler to draft a letter. Chairman Ives stated he would sign it once it is completed.

Ms. Pierce suggested talking to other farmers who may be interested in the program or creating a land trust of our own with volunteers in the area. There may be many retired and/or wealthy individuals who may volunteer to be part of the program.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated there was no major business to report.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Butler stated this topic was tabled from last month's meeting because Mr. DeClue was unable to attend. He received an email from Mr. DeClue stating he was unsure of when he may be available to attend again.

Mr. Ryan stated Mr. Butler has been sending out articles and videos about hemp production. The YouTube videos are very interesting. Sup. Lawrence stated it didn't show what the processing looks like after the harvest. Chairman Ives stated the equipment was about \$500,000.

Mr. Ryan stated there doesn't seem to be a magical solution to help farming in Chenango County but it seems the easiest form to transition to from dairy is raising goats. He wondered what the market was for goat's milk. Ms. Pierce stated there was a large farm in Horseheads but was unsure if they were still in operation. Mr. Dibbell stated the grass fed dairy market had a high price at first but oversaturation caused it to fall dramatically.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Ryan stated nobody is managing animal welfare. Mr. Vickers stated it used to be something the SPCA handled. Chenango County would need to hire a humane officer who was knowledgeable enough on farm and animal health.

Mr. Smith stated it is a legal matter. We need to train law enforcement officers. Farm Bureau and CCE could sponsor a session to educate them on what can be done.

Sup. Lawrence asked if a dog control officer would be able to hold to do this for the towns if they had training. One problem is neighbors don't want to give their name in fear of making a neighbor mad. Chairman Ives stated you could train a few of the officers which would give other officers someone to call if there were concerns or reports.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to create an education and awareness training for law enforcement officers about what legally can be done regarding animal welfare complaints, to refer the resolution to Ag Buildings & Grounds and the Board of Supervisors, and ask that Law Enforcement Officers be encouraged to attend, seconded by Mr. Smith. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Paliotta stated we also need the public to be aware too. Mr. Smith suggested an article in The Evening Sun after a training was held. Sup. Lawrence stated we need law enforcement to enforce the current NYS Ag and Markets laws.

Open Discussion

Sup. Lawrence stated there was discussion about the lack of agenda and quorum at some committee meetings. With committees of six or seven, you need four to have quorum. The idea is to disband the Ag, Buildings & Grounds Committee and adjust the number of Supervisors on the other committees. The Ag, Buildings & Grounds Committee did not meet in January or February due to lack of agenda or members. The functions of the committee would be moved to other standing committees and the Planning & Economic Development Committee name would be changed to Agriculture, Planning & Economic Development although not all functions would go to them. The request was brought up at the Safety and Rules Committee.

Mr. Smith asked if we should give any support either way. After discussion it was decided not to do offer support either way.

Mr. Ryan asked if members saw the news of State taxpayers dumping money into Unison. Is any money going to go to agriculture?

Mr. Vickers stated the 62nd annual Farm Bureau meeting will be held at the Silo Restaurant on the 24th at 6:30pm. Members of the FFA and Dairy Princess will be there. He recently went to Washington DC. Congresswoman Gillibrand's Office held a NY Farms program. Chobani and others were there with their products. Some of the topics addressed in Washington DC were the Farm Bill and how some legislators are trying to separate out food stamps with the purpose of cutting funding. They also talked about the H2A program and Zaid from Norwich Meadows prepared him for the discussion with some information on his business. Tax reform and trade issues were also discussed. On November 7th, make sure you vote No for the constitutional convention.

Mr. Dibbell read parts of various articles from the most recent Milkweed relating to BsT and how it is close to no longer being used, milk dumpage rates, and more.

Mr. Harris stated he wonders how the tax reform will effect tax educations for property taxes. He also wonders what effect it will have on the real estate market and whether people will stay in New York.

Mr. Butler stated the Planning Department is working on a Transportation Study and asked members to pass out the survey.

Mr. Smith asked if members thought it would be useful to tour the Newton Farm to see the robotic milker. Chairman Ives thought it might be better for CCE to create a video about it and bring it to the meeting.

Ms. Paliotta applauded Sup. Lawrence on his calmness when talking about the changes at the Committee level. She stated the committee was told only the day before. The chairperson was defending agriculture when they learned of the proposed changes. Planning & Economic Development has been looking at five goals for the county as a whole. Agriculture has to be one of them. They spend about 30 minutes at each meeting discussing the airport. They may have too much on the agenda.

For hemp, Morrisville is working with farmers to do research on how to grow it. If farmers work with Morrisville they don't have to pay the \$500 fee. Nanticoke Gardens is also working on research for growing hemp although they are working more on medicinal aspects.

Mr. Vickers asked for an update on broadband. Mr. Butler stated Frontier applied for the most recent round but Plexicomm did not but still may be a viable option for Chenango County. He was unaware of any others who applied.

Sup. Lawrence asked if farmers are dependent on imported labor. Chairman Ives stated it is harder to find people who are willing to work and pay isn't an issue.

With no further discussion, Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Dibbell at 11:55 AM.

The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board November 17, 2017 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Smith; Ken Ryan; Bradd Vickers; Steve Harris;
Sup. Lawrence Wilcox; Sup. John Lawrence; Ken Dibbell; Donna Jones; Stan Davis; and Shane Butler.
Guests Present: Canice Paliotta and Sandy Pierce

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:05 and asked for any additions or corrections on the October 20, 2017 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Dibbell. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated the ADC is looking into offering microgrants for forest related businesses like maple, mushrooms and firewood. They may decide to require a business plan to make sure the project is serious. Sup. Lawrence asked if someone can use someone else's property to grow mushrooms. Mr. Smith stated they could. Mushroom growers don't always use rotten wood but hop horn beam or iron wood are good sources of wood because they are commonly cut while thinning a woodlot.

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler asked members to think about destinations for the Ag Tour. One idea was to visit the wetland reserve in New Berlin. Mr. Ryan stated there are three large additions on State Route 8 including Southtown Dairy, Hanehan's and Barnes', of which only Hanehan's is in Chenango County.

Sup. Lawrence asked if it would be feasible to visit an Amish farm and allow questions on their farming tactics. Sup. Wilcox questioned whether this would be something they would allow. Mr. Smith stated he could ask them. The families seem very easy going and would probably be receptive.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Butler stated this has been tabled until Mr. DeClue can attend.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Butler stated the resolution is to be presented at the Ag, Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting on Tuesday. Chairman Ives stated the officer would have to take the animal away and the County would be required to feed and house the animal until the court case was finalized, which could take a long time to settle.

Mr. Smith stated there are already laws on the books but the officers need to be educated. Mr. Vickers stated we need enforcement before it gets to the point where the animals are taken away.

Open Discussion

Mr. Vickers stated there is a Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program and is looking for support. Chenango County would have to be recognized by the State to be a part of the program. The program would pay, with State funds, for part of their educational loans as long as they work within the county. At the Annual Farm Bureau meeting, a few of the proposed policies were passed and will be sent to the State meeting on December 5th and 6th and if passed there goes to the American Farm Bureau meeting in Nashville in January. Albany has also passed the inherent risk legislation. There was a meeting yesterday with the Chobani Foundation to talk about some good things coming. Chobani indicated their Norwich office is considered their "World Office" and are here to stay. The NYS Veterans Home in Oxford has a wing shut down with 70 open beds. There are veterans who want to get in. Senator Akshar and Assemblyman Crouch are working on this along with the issue of the Vets Home still ordering the same amount of food despite less clients.

Sup. Wilcox spoke about the efforts to streamline the committee process by merging the Ag, Buildings & Grounds Committee with some of the other committees. The Planning & Economic Development Committee would become the Agriculture, Planning & Economic Development Committee. Twelve years ago two committees were merged into Public Works which evened the number of Supervisors on each committee to six which can create problems with ties. Absenteeism at committee meetings has been part of the

problem including about 80-90 absent Supervisors per year. Adding more members to the committees won't fix absenteeism but adds to the quorum pool. CCE and Soil and Water mainly only come to the ABG Committee for budgetary items and the Planning Department already handles the Ag District. Overall it is estimated the streamlining could save around \$8,000 - \$10,000.

Mr. Vickers asked if it would make the meetings longer. Mr. Smith stated many times the items are referred to Planning anyways so this would save time. Mr. Butler stated the Ag Tour already goes through Planning Committee and would only change who is reported to for the Ag District.

Sup. Wilcox stated due to State regulations, Supervisors cannot be punished for being absent but some have suggested publishing absentees in the newspaper although it wouldn't differentiate between someone who was sick versus someone who didn't feel like coming. By being absent, constituents aren't being represented. In the committee structure, the weight of each Supervisors' vote is the same, 1 to 1. Once it gets to the Board is when they are weighted based on population. Mr. Ryan stated the voters need to know.

Mr. Davis encouraged members to watch the recent sawmill video by CCE. A former mall near Homer is being turned into a farmers market. Mr. Davis did not attend last month because he was at the State Grange meeting. The Dairy Pride Act resolution was passed. Other resolutions included something about cultured meat and the school lunch program among others.

Mr. Ryan stated his power had been off for two days recently among other times and the technicians who arrived were from downstate. The technicians stated the NYSEG infrastructure in our area is some of the worst they had seen. He wondered if having the Supervisors putting pressure on them would be helpful.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to have Chenango County encourage the NYS Public Service Commission to put pressure on NYSEG to upgrade existing electrical infrastructure in Chenango County in order to provide reliable electricity to farmers, seconded by Mr. Vickers. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Ives asked if Mr. Ryan would attend the Ag, Buildings & Grounds meeting to discuss this.

Sup. Lawrence attended the Soil and Water meeting and Brian Sheridan talked about the Margin Protection Program and how there were a lot of complaints. Producers can opt out of the MPP for 2018. The program took in about \$150 million and only paid out \$40 million. Mr. Sheridan also talked about the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and how it is only triggered when the national marketing year average price falls below the reference price in the 2014 Farm Bill.

Chairman Ives stated the PLC is flawed because not all farmers are making yield reports. Mr. Smith stated only two farmers reported in Broome County.

Mr. Harris stated people who haven't paid their school taxes have until Wednesday to pay them or they are re-levied. The 480-B program could be pushed again this year and would have a significant impact on Chenango County. With the program, 40% exemptions would be given to properties of 25 acres or more with at least 10 acres of woodlot. There could be a reimbursement for highly impacted areas. The program would have less penalties and would be less restrictive. NYS Farm Bureau supported the program. Chairman Wilcox stated these exemptions are only a redistribution of taxes.

Mr. Smith asked if we should have a resolution. Mr. Harris suggested waiting until it is being pushed on the Governor's agenda. It may end up being more of a tax credit. More discussion on tax implications ensued.

Mr. Smith is working with Zaid at Norwich Meadows in developing a food hub. Food collected here would be sold in NYC and Washington DC.

Mr. Dibbell stated there are currently 38,000 active dairy farms in the US. There are a lot of delinquent taxes in Chenango County and a lot of idle farmland turning into golden rod. Chairman Ives stated beef prices went down recently and were getting about 39 cents per pound due to a plant being shut down because rats were present.

Chairman Ives attended the ADA North East meeting in Scranton yesterday. In May, Chenango County had 158 dairy farms, Broome

had 34 and NYS had 4,413. They watched a movie relating to GMO's and the food evolution. GMO's were outlawed in Hawaii until a disease started killing all of the papaya. They ended up rescinding the law. There is a lot of emotion rather than science driving this. New milk products were shown at the meeting. We aren't moving enough milk. They are also working on better nutrition labeling. More research is being done on low-fat milk because the original studies were done by sugar companies.

Sup. Lawrence asked if apples are considered GMO. Mr. Smith stated they are still considered a natural breeding.

Ms. Pierce passed around a handout regarding her concerns of the Ag, Buildings & Grounds Committee being broken up and mainly putting it into Planning Committee. She stated it would be a conflict of interest. One of the Supervisors stated the property down by Walmart would be better for the county if it were developed. A separate entity is needed otherwise agriculture will continue to go downhill.

Ms. Paliotta stated the way the dissolving of the committee was done was not fair. She would have wanted more discussion with the Ag and Farmland Protection Board and more discussion in general about it. We are losing an important voice.

With no further discussion, Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Dibbell at 11:12 AM.

The next meeting will be held on December 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner