SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ULSTER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5 PARK LANE
HIGHLAND, NY 12528
October 26, 2026

1. **OPENING MEETING** - The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by Chairman L. Tantillo at 9:06 AM. Directors Present: L. Tantillo, F. Wilklow, J. Delaune, J. Kovacs (joined remotely from 255 Fair Street, Kingston, NY) and K. Nolan (joined remotely from 5321 Route 28, Mount Tremper, NY). SWCD Staff in attendance: J. Wedemeyer - Executive Director and C. DeGroodt – Office Manager.

2. **New York State Department of Labor Unemployment Insurance Notice of Potential Charges** - Wedemeyer updated the Board about an unemployment claim that the District received in the mail for Bobby Taylor, the prior CSBI Program Coordinator at the Ashokan office. The deadline to respond to the claim if we contest it is October 26, 2026. Wedemeyer said that although alot of Districts pay into NYS Unemployment insurance, many don't. This office has never paid into it, and this is the first time they've received an unemployment claim. Wedemeyer said that the District could use Part C funds to pay for this unemployment claim (a total of $22,594.00 for six months of unemployment).

   Nolan stated that she did not know that the District did not pay into unemployment insurance and feels the District should correct this, especially since we have highly paid staff. But since the District is looking into hiring a HR service, this decision can be put aside for now. She asked if the amount off $22,594.00 is the cost to have unemployment insurance for all staff or just covers the cost of Taylor's unemployment claim, and is the total length of the claim for six months. Wedemeyer said it is just for Taylor, it covers the cost for six months and added that a lot of the Districts are self-insured. Kovacs agreed with Nolan and said going forward that the District should look into unemployment insurance and he recommends that the District pay the unemployment claim for B. Taylor. Wedemeyer said that he spoke with the Ulster County attorney, and that the attorney recommended that the District not deny the claim, although it's up to the Board. Nolan said that she thinks the District is obligated to pay this. Nolan said she was under the impression that today's meeting was to approve paying into unemployment insurance. Wilklow asked Wedemeyer if the District was self-insured and Wedemeyer stated that it is.

   DeGroodt said that she will research the cost of unemployment insurance for the District.

   2026-10-26-1 Delaune made the Motion, Wilklow seconded, to pay the unemployment claim for $22,594.00 for Bobby Taylor. Tantillo-aye, Wilklow-aye, Delaune-aye, Kovacs-aye, Nolan aye.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

   2026-10-26-2 A Motion was made by Kovacs to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:12 AM, seconded by Delaune. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine DeGroodt
Office Manager