



## **SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Somerset County 4-H Center  
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### **SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING April 22, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Mark Kirby, Jim Laine, Matt Loper, Steve Needle, Chad Cherefko, Frank Calo

**ABSENT:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

The minutes of the March meeting were unanimously approved.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The report for March was unanimously approved.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The District received a pamphlet from John Showler, the State Soil Erosion Engineer, on rural planning techniques and strategies. The Board reviewed the pamphlet and found it very informative.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Supervisor Re-Nomination – Frank Calo informed the Board that a meeting of the Somerset County Nominating Committee has been scheduled for Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am for the re-nomination of Board Supervisor Matt Loper. A meeting date for the Union County Nominating Committee has not been scheduled as of yet but should be scheduled within the next two weeks. This meeting is for the re-nomination of Board Supervisor Steve Needle and for the nomination of a new board Supervisor from Union County.

Somerset County Budget Update – Frank Calo reported that he would be attending a meeting with Somerset County next week where details of the County's budget will be discussed. The payroll reimbursement due Somerset County for their 1<sup>st</sup> quarter will be issued by the District as soon as the budget is approved.

Status of the Hydrologic Stormwater Database – The Board discussed the letter received by the District from the Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas Fisher, concerning the status of the hydrologic and hydraulic database. The District Manager gave a status update to the Board and reported that the initial estimate of 2500 basins is high and that at most the District would only be inputting approximately 1750 basins. The Manager also reported that he has devoted more time to data entry and believes that the remaining basin data can be entered prior to the deadline date of June 30<sup>th</sup>. After a review of the original Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Agriculture and much discussion the Board directed Frank Calo, the District Manager, to make a good faith effort in completing the project. Mark Kirby, District Board Chairman, will respond in writing to the Secretary's letter.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

EEO Nondiscrimination Policy – Frank Calo informed the Board that the District had received a directive from the State Department of Agriculture concerning the States EEO Nondiscrimination Policy. Copies of the policy were distributed to all the members of the Board. Frank Calo reported that the District Staff had also received copies of the policy. The Board reviewed and discussed the policy.

NJ Tree Recovery Campaign – This year the District acted as the tree distribution point for the NJ Tree Recovery Campaign. This program was initiated by the State in response to the devastation inflicted by Super-storm Sandy. Through this free program communities can receive up to 2,000 seedlings to distribute to residents. Frank Calo reported that approximately 12,000 trees were distributed to 16 communities within the area.

Conservation Plans – Chad Cherefko, NRCS, presented to the Board 2 EQIP plans for a tracts in Hillsborough and Bedminster Townships. A motion was made and unanimously approved by the Board to move into closed session at 8:02 pm. The regular meeting was resumed at 8:12 pm. The Board unanimously approved the Conservation Plan requests submitted.

District Action on Chapter 251 – (a) The Board unanimously approved the plans on the attached completed list. (b) The Board approved the certified plans on the attached list. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on application: 2015-1607.

#### **REPORTS:**

NRCS – Chad Cherefko reported that the GS 5/7 Soil Conservationist position was cancelled and that a new GS 7/9 position is being developed with a target hiring date of this June. There is also a GS 9/11 civil engineering position opening, this engineer will be serving Hunterdon/Somerset/Union. Christian Bench with NRCS is leaving his position as of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. These include devoting additional time to completing the Basin database entry and to beginning work on the 2016 budget.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, at 7:30 PM at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo  
District Manager