

SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D.
DISTRICT MEETING
April 23, 2014

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Jim Laine, Henry Dreyer, Steve Needle, Chad Cherefko, Carrie Mosley, Frank Calo

ABSENT: Matt Loper

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 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:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Regional Meetings-Carrie Mosley, NRCS – Frank Calo, District Manager, and the entire Board welcomed Carrie Mosley, State Conservationist with NRCS to the meeting. Ms. Mosley continued the discussion concerning possible NRCS programs which had begun at the Supervisor Regional Meeting held back in March. The discussion centered on a possible certification program for farms which had, and were implementing, their conservation plans. Also discussed was possibility of the District's becoming involved in the planning and certification process for farm conservation plans. Ms. Mosley thanked the Board for all their suggestions and input as to how these programs could be administered efficiently to aid both the State and local farmers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Joint District Cooperation-Grants – Frank Calo reported that he had spoken to Sandy Meyers, the District Manager for the Warren County Soil Conservation District. The Warren SCD was interested in seeing if the District was interested in a joint District cooperation between three or four Districts in applying for various grants. After some discussion by the Board, it was decided that the District would be willing to participate but only after the careful review of the specific grant opportunity and what the Somerset-Union District's actual responsibility would be in satisfying the grant.

North Jersey RC&D – Frank Calo informed the Board that he had received the annual dues request from NJ RC&D. The Board was given an update on some of the initiatives RC&D had underway. Currently RC&D was working on a moving to the Musconetcong Watershed Association office in Hunterdon County. The Board unanimously approved paying this year's NJ RC&D dues.

District Supervisor – Term Expiring – The District has been notified by the State Soil Conservation Committee that the term of Henry Dryer as a supervisor, will expire on June 30, 2014. Mr. Dryer informed the Board that he would like to continue for another term as a District supervisor. The Board thanked Mr. Dryer for his continued service. Mark Kirby, the District chairman, directed the District manager to call together the nominating committee to consider the nomination. Also discussed was the possibility of combining the two nominating committees, Somerset and Union, into one. Frank Calo will contact current committee members to determine if this would be feasible. In the interim the current members of the nominating committees are approved and will continue to serve.

District Action on Chapter 251 – (a) The Board unanimously approved the plans on the attached completed list. (b) The Board unanimously approved the certified plans on the attached list.

Conservation Plans – Chad Cherefko presented to the Board two EQIP plans for farms in Montgomery and Hillsborough Townships.

Executive Session – A motion was made and unanimously approved by the Board to move into closed session at 8:31 pm. The regular meeting was resumed at 8:40 pm. The Board unanimously approved the Conservation Plan requests submitted.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Chad Cherefko reported on the new Farm Bill, soil initiatives, and on a strategic watershed plan in the works for Hunterdon and Somerset Counties.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. This included his work with the State Training Committee, an update on the Bernards Field Project and the possible return to 40 hours for the District.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday May 28, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager