



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING February 25, 2015

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

ABSENT:

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m.

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

The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report for January was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The District received an announcement from the NJ State Conservationist, Carrie Mosley for USDA; NRCS has initiated a second application period for the EQIP program.
- The District received an announcement from the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board concerning an event celebrating National Agriculture Day – 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

County Budget Update – Frank Calo reported that the District had received Union County’s annual yearly contribution. The contribution did include an increase of 5% as requested by the Board. There was still no news as to the Somerset County Budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Stormwater Reimbursement FY 2015 2nd Quarter – Frank Calo informed the Board that the District had received an invoice from the Department of Agriculture for the FY 2015 2nd quarter RFA reimbursement. The total due the NJDA-SSCC is \$1,770.00. The Board unanimously approved the payment of the invoice.

Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee FY 2015 1st & 2nd Quarters – The Board was presented with two invoices for the Chapter 251 Surcharge fees for FY 2015 1st and 2nd quarters. The invoices were in the amounts of \$2,800.00 and \$2575.00 respectively. The Board unanimously approved the payment of the two invoices to the NJDA-SSCC.

2015 NJ Envirothon – Frank Calo informed the Board that this year’s NJ Envirothon would be held on May 2nd at the Cape May County 4-H fair Grounds. It is also the time of year when the District makes its annual donation in support of the Envirothon. The District’s budget, for FY 2015, does include a contribution of \$500 dollars for the Envirothon. The Board unanimously approved making a donation of \$500 dollars to this year’s NJ Envirothon.

SE&SC Program Statistics – The Board reviewed the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program Statistics for the first and second quarters of FY 2015. The statistics showed that a majority of the Districts were beginning to recover from the previous years of recession. They also clearly reflected the disparity between some of the Districts.

2015 NJ Conservation Regional Meetings – Frank Calo reminded the Board that this year’s Regional Meetings have been scheduled for the 19th, 24th, and 26th of March. The Board decided to attend the Central Region Meeting which will be held on the 24th of March in Hamilton, NJ. The Board instructed Frank Calo to proceed with the registration of the entire Board for this meeting.

Bank Account Resolution – Frank Calo informed the Board that due to increases in application funds, the two bank accounts the District currently utilize have reached the maximum amounts for FDIC insurance. The District will need to open an additional bank account for future financial business. The board discussed the matter and unanimously approved the resolution permitting Frank Calo to open an additional bank account with the TD Bank, NA.

District Nominating Committees- Somerset & Union Counties – The Board reviewed the member lists for both the Somerset and Union County Nominating Committees. After a brief discussion both nominating committees were unanimously approved. Frank Calo reported that he had spoken to a potential candidate from Union County for the current open Board position. He will continue searching for additional candidates.

Conservation Plans – Chad Cherefko presented to the Board 2 Conservation Plans and 1 Request for Assistance. A motion was made and unanimously approved by the Board to move into closed session at 12:50 pm. The meeting was resumed at 1:00 pm. The Board unanimously approved all the conservation plans submitted. Matt Loper abstained from voting on the Request for Assistance tract in Branchburg Twp.

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: 2015-1577.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Chad Cherefko reported on the NRCS, March 20th, 2nd round applications for EQIP funding. AMA will have funding this year which will also include irrigation projects. The new soil conservationist position will close on the 25th of March. The position should be filled within a month. The NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday the 26th of March.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities, which included the continued search for a new District Supervisor from Union County. He reported that the District has inputted approximately 1000 basins in the State Hydrologic database. The District will continue entering basin data until it has fulfilled its commitment to the NJ DEP. The District aided in the construction of the NJACD display at the 2015 NJ Flower Show. The exhibit won numerous awards. The District will serve as a distribution center for the NJ Tree Recovery Campaign, a joint effort between the NJ DEP forestry service and the Arbor Day Foundation, distributing trees to neighborhoods impacted by super storm Sandy.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 12 noon at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager