

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

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

ABSENT: Henry Dreyer,

The meeting was called to order at 12:17 p.m.

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

The minutes of the December meeting were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report for December was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The District received an invitation from NRCS to participate in the NJ Cover Crop and Soil Health Forum on February 18th at the Snyder Research and Extension Farm.
- The District received an email from Carrie Mosley, the NJ State Conservationist, concerning the new Soil Health Initiative for 2014 Conservation Program.

OLD BUSINESS:

District Audit – The completed District Audits for the calendar year 2012 and for the six months of 2013, were presented to the Board. Frank Calo reminded the Board that as of July 2014 the District would be following the fiscal year as required by the State. The Board reviewed both the audits and unanimously approved them. They instructed the District manager to forward the approved audits to the State as required.

County and State Budget Updates – Frank Calo reported there was no news as to the Union County Budget. It appears the Somerset County budget will remain flat so no cuts are anticipated.

NEW BUSINESS:

2014 Poster Contest – Frank Calo informed the Board that the 2014 Poster Contest was underway. The theme for this year is “Dig Deeper – Mysteries in the Soil”. The District has sent the contest flyers to the school superintendents of both counties for distribution.

Exempt Municipalities Annual Report – The Board reviewed the status of the exempt municipalities. Frank Calo reported he had met with Bernard’s Township and indicated that, due to the agreement for the District to review and certify plans, the Township is only handling the inspection and enforcement of the erosion control. The process was a smooth one and is working well. Bernards is the only exempt municipality doing erosion control on their own. The Board unanimously approved the annual review and directed the Manager to submit same to the State Committee

2014 Operating Budget – Frank Calo presented to the Board a draft of the proposed Budget for January thru June of 2014. As of July 1st the District will submit a budget for the fiscal year 2015 in following with State guidelines. After a lengthy review by the Board, a motion was made to approve the six month 2014 Budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

Amendments to the NJ SE&SC Standards – Frank Calo reported that the District had been informed by the State, that the adopted amendments to the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act Rules will appear in the January 21, 2014 NJ Register. The effective date for these amendments is February 20, 2014. Frank informed the Board that a link to the amended standards had already been added to the Districts webpage.

Conservation Plans – Chad Cherefko presented to the Board a request for assistance from a farm in Montgomery Township.

District Action on Chapter 251 – (a) The Board unanimously approved the plans on the attached completed list. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on application: 2011-0230. (b) The Board approved the certified plans on the attached list. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on applications: 2013-1115 and 2013-1065.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Chad Cherefko reported on two EWP time extension requests from the City of Summit and the Township of Cranford.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, at 12 noon at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager