



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

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

**PRESENT:** Mark Kirby, Steve Needle, Matt Loper, Bob Amberg, Chad Cherefko, Frank Calo

**ABSENT:** Jim Laine

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

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

The minutes of the June meeting were unanimously approved.

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

The report for June was unanimously approved.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The District received an email from Carrie Mosely, NJ NRCS State Conservationist, making available an opportunity for NJ Conservation Districts to perform monitoring of various farmland preservation easements throughout the state. NRCS would offer training and would pay for staff time.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Status of the Hydrologic Stormwater Database – The District Manager reported that the Department of Agriculture had been informed that the District had completed the basin data entry as per the

Memorandum of Understanding. Also, that the District had been paid the remainder of the total sum owed which amounted to \$6,389.00.

North Jersey RC&D Council Update – The Board reviewed an article in the Musconetcong River News. The article concerned the River-Friendly Farm Certification Program, which is managed by the North Jersey RC&D. This program offers certifications to farms which implement best management practices that protect water quality and enhance efficiencies on-farm. The District is a member of the North Jersey RC&D Council executive committee. Frank Calo also reported that the long-time executive Director of NJ RC&D, Grace Messinger, was resigning her position at the end of July. Ms. Messinger with NJ RC&D has been a conservation partner and strong supporter of the District for many years. The Board unanimously decided to present Ms. Messinger with a gift and card on behalf of the District.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

FY 2015 District Annual Audit – The District Manager reported that the District has contacted the auditor, Mr. Jon Brewer of the firm Vernioia, Enterline, & Brewer. Mr. Brewer will commence the District audit on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August. The District is in the process of collecting the required documentation to complete the audit.

2015 4-H Fair Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, & 14<sup>th</sup> – Frank Calo reminded the Board that this year's 4-H Fair was commencing on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August. The District, as in the past, will be teaming up with the NRCS in a joint display

RFA Reimbursement – Frank Calo reported that the District had received an invoice from the Department of Agriculture for the fourth quarter RFA reimbursement for FY 2015. The invoice was for the amount of \$2,700.00. The Board unanimously voted in favor of paying the invoice.

Liability Bond Renewal – Frank Calo presented to the Board an invoice for the District's liability bond renewal. The Board was informed that the total due, \$389.00, had not increased from last year. Monies to pay this bill have been allotted in the FY 2016 budget. The Board unanimously voted in favor of paying the invoice.

August District Meeting – Due to the time of year, as in the past, the Board unanimously decided to cancel the District Supervisor Meeting for August. This decision was made on the condition that if any pertinent District business did arise which needed Board review or approval, and a quorum could be obtained a meeting would be held in August.

Conservation Plans – Chad Cherefko, NRCS, presented to the Board 2 EQIP & a HEL plan for tracts in Bedminster Township and Far Hills Borough. 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. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on applications 2014-1228, 2013-0841, and 2013-0792. (b) The Board unanimously approved the certified plans on the attached list. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on application 2014-1404.

## **REPORTS:**

NRCS – Chad Cherefko, NRCS, reported that Christian Bench was now working for the Hunterdon SCD and North Jersey RC&D. NRCS received 3 applications under the RCPP announcements. The NRCS Somerset County program total was \$229,180 in 9 contracts on 451 acres and a total of \$600,946 in Hunterdon County in 34 contracts on 1,359 acres. This numbers are slightly down from last year. NRCS was advertising for 3 positions a soil Conservationist, civil engineer, and a technician, in the Frenchtown office.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. The District is also working on getting everything in order for the audit and working on pamphlets for the upcoming 4-H Fair.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo  
District Manager

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