



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING June 24, 2015

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Jim Laine, Matt Loper, Bob Amberg, Chad Cherefko, Frank Calo

ABSENT: Steve Needle

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

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

The minutes of the May meeting were approved. Matt Loper and Bob Amberg abstained from voting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report for May was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- New Jersey.Com Suburban News ran an article on the 2015 NJ Conservation Poster Contest. The article featured two of the District's winners in the 4 - 6 and 7 - 9 grade divisions. Both Helen Zhang of Mountainside, and Katherine Ge of New Providence, won third place in their respective grade class at the state level.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Supervisor Introduction – Frank Calo introduced to the Board Mr. Bob Amberg, whose appointment to the District's Board, was formally confirmed by the State Committee on June 15, 2015. After introductions by the Board members, Mr. Amberg was given a copy of the Supervisor Performance

Standards and a schedule of the Districts meetings. The Board congratulated Mr. Amberg on his appointment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee – Frank Calo reported that the District had received an invoice from the Department of Agriculture for the third quarter application surcharge fee. The invoice was for the amount of \$3200.00. The Board unanimously voted in favor of paying the invoice.

2016 Budget – Final Draft – Frank Calo presented to the Board a final draft of the FY 2016 District Budget. The Board was informed that the actual budget information included in this final draft was based on financial data through June 15th of this year. The FY 2016 Final Budget draft was reviewed by the Board. After some discussion, the District's FY 2016 Budget was unanimously passed by the Board. The Board directed Frank Calo to forward a copy of the approved budget to the State Soil Conservation Committee. A copy of the FY 2016 Budget will also be posted on the District's webpage.

2016 Annual Plan of Work – Frank Calo presented to the Board a draft of the District's Annual Plan of Work for 2016. The plan was reviewed by the Board and after some discussion, was unanimously approved.

Status of the Hydrologic Stormwater Database – The District Manager gave a status update to the Board and reported that all basin data had been entered into the H & H Database. The Manager also reported that the number of basins actually entered was approximately 1,400. The Board was reminded that the original Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Agriculture stated the District would be paid a total of \$14,459.00 to perform this data entry. The District was previously paid \$7,229.50, 50% of the total sum, and is now due the remaining 50%.

Conservation Plans – Chad Cherefko, NRCS, presented to the Board an EQIP & a CREP plan for a two tracts in Hillsborough Township. A motion was made and unanimously approved by the Board to move into closed session at 8:01 pm. The regular meeting was resumed at 8:16 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 2012-0651 and 2012-0485. (b) The Board unanimously approved the certified plans on the attached list. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on applications 2015-1707, 2015-1661, and 2015-1720.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Chad Cherefko, NRCS, reported that Christian Bench has stayed on with NRCS on a part-time basis. NRCS is still funding EQIP, CAP, Soil Health and Socially Disadvantaged applications. Tony Kramer, Regional Conservationist visited the State in June and toured various local farm operations. EQIP funding under the RCPP initiative has been announced, and applications are due by July 10th. There will be a State Technical Committee tour of Jim Laine's farm to view their spelt operation. The Resource Stewardship Pilot program is almost complete.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. The District is beginning to prepare for this year's 4-H Fair. There has been no word from the state as to the possibility of the District hosting the 2016 NJ Envirothon along with Duke Farms. The District will delay the upgrading of the soil database until the State Committee officially adopts the new forms in the Policy and Procedures Manual Appendices.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2015, at 7:30 PM at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager