

SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D.
DISTRICT MEETING
June 25, 2014

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

ABSENT: Henry Dreyer

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 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 unanimously approved. Steve Needle abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report for May was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District received a news release from the USDA about extending the sign-up period for the 2014 Soil Health Initiative offered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Services.

OLD BUSINESS:

Union County Budget Updates – The Board was informed by Frank Calo that the Union County Budget approved supporting funds had been received by the District. This included a 5% increase from last year's supporting funds for the District.

40 Hour Work Week – Frank Calo reported to the Board that a letter of intent to Somerset County requesting the hourly work week increase to take effect on July 1, 2014, was forwarded to the County on May 29th. The District had received and completed a request from the County for employee transmittals reflecting this change. The District is awaiting final confirmation from the County before the staff is officially notified.

NEW BUSINESS:

NJ RC&D Update – Frank Calo reported on the current situation at the NJ RC&D. The organization is continuing to move forward with the partnership with the Musconetcong Watershed Association. The governing council's structure was to be discussed at the June meeting, unfortunately this meeting was cancelled. The council make-up and input will be reviewed at the July meeting. An update to the Districts role will be given to the Board as soon as a decision has been made.

H & H Basin Database Update – Frank Calo informed the Board that the District had received an update from John Showler, the State Erosion Control Engineer, on the Basin database project. The database should be back up and running soon. Each District will be notified when the credentials are set up and when they can re-commence to enter data. All data that was previously lost will need to be re-entered. The NJDA will reimburse each District directly for the records that were lost. As under the prior contract, the remaining balance will be received when the agreed upon number of records are entered. All data entered in the future will be charged to the project. Mr. Showler also informed the Districts that he had met with various groups who were interested in our database in regards to stormwater infrastructure management. This could lead to future revenue generating opportunities for the Districts.

District Database Upgrade – Frank Calo reported to the Board that he had spoken to Mike Hill, Assistant Manager of the Freehold District, concerning upgrading the current soil database being used by numerous Districts. The database has not been upgraded for many years and needs to be compatible with various new operating systems. Also, some of the forms need to be upgraded to comply with State regulations. The Board will be kept updated as to the status of any upgrades and what the estimated costs will be.

Conservation Plans – Chad Cherfko presented to the Board 3 Conservation Plans and 3 Requests for Assistance. A motion was made and unanimously approved by the Board to move into closed session at 7:05 pm. The meeting was resumed at 7:23 pm. The Board unanimously approved all the conservation plans 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 #2011-0373 and #2012-0492. (b) The Board unanimously approved the certified plans on the attached list. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on applications #2014-1291, #2014-1266, #2014-1286, and #2014-1274.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Chad Cherefko reported on various NRCS programs and spoke more in depth on the 2014 Soil Initiative.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday July 23, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager