



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING May 27, 2015

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Jim Laine, Steve Needle, Frank Calo

ABSENT: Matt Loper

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 April meeting were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report for April was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The District received a news release from the USDA announcing a new online portal where farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners can now do business with NRCS.

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Re-Nomination – Frank Calo informed the Board that the Union County Nominating Committee met on May 8th. At the meeting, the Committee approved the re-nomination of Board Supervisor Steven Needle for an additional term. The Nominating Committee also recommended the nomination of Robert Amberg to fill the vacant Board Supervisor position. The Board was informed that the required documentation has been forwarded to the State Committee for review at their scheduled June meeting. The Board congratulated Mr. Needle on his reappointment.

Somerset County Budget Update – Frank Calo reported that the Somerset County 2015 Budget had been approved at their May 26th meeting. The Budget does include a 2% raise for all employees across the Board. The Board was reminded that this payroll increase was included in the District's 2015 Budget. The payroll reimbursement due Somerset County for their 1st quarter will be paid by the District on June 1st.

NEW BUSINESS:

2015 NJ Envirothon – Frank Calo reported that this year's Envirothon was held on May 2nd at the Cape May County 4-H Fair Grounds in Cape May Court House. Over 30 high school teams from across the State competed in the event. The District was represented by two high school teams, Montgomery H.S. in Somerset County, and New Providence H.S. in Union County. Both teams positioned well in the event.

RFA Reimbursement – The District has received an invoice from the Department of Agriculture for the RFA reimbursement for FY 2015 3rd quarter. The Board reviewed the invoice and unanimously approved the payment.

2016 Budget – Draft – Frank Calo presented to the Board a draft of the FY 2016 District Budget. The Board was informed that the actual budget information included in the draft was based on financial data through May 15th of this year. The proposed Budget draft was reviewed by the Board and a decision was made to have the District Manager present a final draft of the budget at the District's June meeting. This will give the Board members more time to thoroughly review the budget presented and for the District Manager to update the actual budget financial information up to June 15th.

Chapter 251 Policies & Procedures Manual Appendices – The Board reviewed the Chapter 251 Policies and Procedures Manual Appendices presented by the State Soil Conservation Committee. After some discussion, the Board directed Frank Calo to submit to the State Committee the District's comments regarding the appendices.

Conservation Plans – Frank Calo presented to the Board an EQIP plan and a HEL plan for two tracts one in Montgomery and one Bedminster Townships. A motion was made and unanimously approved by the Board to move into closed session at 8:00 pm. The regular meeting was resumed at 8:08 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. (b) The Board unanimously approved the certified plans on the attached list.

REPORTS:

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at 7:30 PM at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager