

SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D.
DISTRICT MEETING
May 28, 2014

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Jim Laine, Henry Dreyer, Matt Loper, Frank Calo

ABSENT: Steve Needle

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 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. Matt Loper abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report for April was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District received an email from the Department of Agriculture confirming that the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees, has been found in Somerset County.

The District received a notice from the American soybean Association advertising the 2015 Conservation Legacy Awards program which recognizes good stewardship and conservation practices of farmers.

The District received a news release from the USDA about the new conservation program, called the Regional Conservation Partnership Program which was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill.

The District received a copy of a new publication, NJ Agricultural Mediation Program Handbook. The handbook, distributed by the State Agriculture Development Committee, is intended to help farmers, neighbors, and municipalities in resolving agriculture related disputes.

The District received Governor Christie's proclamation of Soil and Water Stewardship Week. The proclamation emphasizes the importance of the Conservation Districts and the many volunteers who support the program.

OLD BUSINESS:

NJ 2014 Poster Contest – Frank Calo reported that the Districts Grades 11-12 poster contest winner had gone on to win third place in this group at the State level. The winner Chunya Lai was awarded a \$50 savings bond at the 2014 Conservation Education Awards Ceremony on May 22nd in Trenton.

District Supervisor Re-Nomination – Frank Calo informed the Board that the Union County Nominating Committee met on May 6th to consider the re-nomination of Henry Dreyer Jr. to the Somerset-Union Board of Supervisors. The Nominating Committee unanimously approved the re-nomination of Henry Dreyer Jr. for an additional term to the Board of Supervisors. The required supporting documents were forwarded to the State Soil Conservation Committee.

Somerset/Union County Budget Updates – The Board was informed by Frank Calo that the Somerset County Budget had been approved. The Budget included a 2% payroll increase for all employees. In the past the District has always followed the County's lead as far as pay increases. The Board unanimously approved the 2% raises for the District employees. The Union County Budget has also been passed and included a 5% increase in the supporting funds for the District.

NEW BUSINESS:

NJ Envirothon – Frank Calo reported that the 2014 NJ Envirothon was held on May 3rd at the NJ School of Conservation in Branchville. Three teams from Somerset County, two from Watchung Hills Regional HS and one from Montgomery HS were in the top ten of the final results.

40 Hour Work Week – Frank Calo presented to the Board a request for a return to a 40 hour work week from the current 35 hour week. The main reason for the hourly increase is due to the increase in workload. The District cannot continue to maintain the current level of service without either increasing the hours worked or hiring a new employee. The Board reviewed the information submitted and after much discussion decided to unanimously approve the return to a 40 hour work week. Frank Calo was directed by the Board to submit a letter of intent to Somerset County requesting the hourly work week increase to take effect on July 1, 2014, the commencement of the State's fiscal year.

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 #2012-0518 and #2012-0566. (b) The Board unanimously approved the certified plans on the attached list. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on application #2014-1174.

REPORTS:

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. This included an update on the Bernards Field project and a subdivision project on Foothill Road in Bridgewater in which John Showler, the NJ State Erosion Control Engineer, was brought in to help with the technical review.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday June 25, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager