



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING November 18, 2015

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Jim Laine, Steve Needle, Frank Minch, John Showler, Rosalynd Orr, Frank Calo

ABSENT: Matt Loper, Bob Amberg

The meeting was called to order at 12.00 p.m.

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

The minutes of the October meeting were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report for October was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District received the received the 1st quarter SE&SC Statistics from John Showler, the State Erosion Control Engineer. The information was reviewed and discussed by the Board.

The District received an announcement from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders concerning a 29 acre land addition to the Sourland Mountain Preserve.

The District received an email from the NJDEP concerning a new website, New Jersey Yards, for homeowners. Property owners can access the site and learn how to create a beautiful landscape that is environmentally friendly.

The District received new fact sheets for the NJ Right to Farm Act and Agricultural Mediation Program from the State Agricultural Development Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

FY 2015 District Annual Audit – The Board was informed by the District Manager that the final FY 2015 Audit had been received and that a copy had been forwarded to the State Soil Conservation Committee. Frank Calo also informed the Board that the District had received the invoice for the audit. The Board unanimously approved paying the auditors invoice.

December Luncheon Meeting – The Board was reminded by the District Manager that this year's December luncheon meeting would be held at the Girasole Restaurant in Bound Brook. The venue has been reserved and invitations will be sent out. The Luncheon Meeting will be held on the 9th of December.

NEW BUSINESS:

Soil Restoration Standard – John Showler, State Erosion Control Engineer, and Frank Minch, Executive Secretary NJ Dept. of Agriculture, updated the Board on the proposed revisions to the NJ Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Standards concerning soil restoration. The status report was followed by a lengthy discussion between the Board and the State representatives. Mr. Minch reported that the earliest the new standard would become effective would be probably next summer. Mr. Minch also updated the Board on the status of the Permit Extension Act and how the District would be affected if the Act is not extended beyond December 2015. There was also some discussion on the Avian Bird Flu Epidemic and its impact on poultry operations in NJ.

1st Qtr. FY 2016 Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee – Frank Calo reported that the District had received an invoice from the Department of Agriculture for the first quarter Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee for FY 2016. The invoice was for the amount of \$3,175.00. The Board unanimously voted in favor of paying the invoice.

2016 NJ Conservation Poster Contest – Frank Calo informed the Board that the District had received the flyer for the 2016 NJ Conservation Poster Contest. This year's theme is "We All Need Trees". The flyer will be posted on the District's website. Copies will be sent to the School Superintendents of both counties so that they can be distributed to the various school districts.

Union County Annual Report – The District Manager presented to the Board the 2015 Union County Annual Report. The District forwards this summary of programs and activities annually to Union County detailing the work the District has performed throughout the previous year. The Board reviewed the report and decided to authorize the District to request a 5% increase from Union County in their annual donation.

2016 District Meeting Schedule – The District Meeting Schedule for 2016 was reviewed by the Board. After some minor discussion the Meeting Schedule was unanimously approved.

District Action on Chapter 251 – (a) The Board unanimously approved the plans on the attached completed list. (b) The Board unanimously approved the plans on the attached certified list.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Rosalynd Orr, Soil Conservationist, reported that NRCS had received 70 EQUIP/AMA applications FY 2016. Also NRCS had hired Jillian Stark in a partnership with NJWSA to focus on conservation planning. NRCS is still looking to fill an engineering and engineering technician position in the Frenchtown office.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on the District's Chapter 251 activities. Also, that the District is beginning to prepare for the possible end to the Permit Extension Act at the end of the year.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, at 12 Noon at the Girasole Restaurant in Bound Brook, NJ.

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager