

**SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D.
DISTRICT MEETING
November 19, 2014**

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Henry Dreyer, Steve Needle, Jim Laine, Chad Cherefko, Frank Calo

ABSENT: Matt Loper,

The meeting was called to order at 12:22 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 an invitation from the Leadership Somerset Group to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Exchange Field Rain Garden Project. Frank Calo, the District Manager, did attend. The District was thanked for the assistance with the project.

The District received an email from Mr. Kevin Nini, a new farmer, looking for assistance in some land management issues. Mr. Ninni was directed to Chad Cherefko, Conservationist with the NRCS.

OLD BUSINESS:

2014 NJ Conservation Conference – Frank Calo reminded the Board that this year's NJ Conservation Conference will be held this coming Monday, November 24th at the Rutgers Eco-Complex in Columbus NJ. The Board was informed that at the meeting, Henry Dreyer, District Supervisor, would be receiving the 2014 NJACD Outstanding Supervisor Award. The Board congratulated Henry on receiving the award.

December Luncheon Meeting – Frank Calo informed the Board that various venues had been contacted concerning this year’s December Luncheon Meeting. The Board reviewed the information presented and after some discussion, decided to hold the meeting at the Triestina Ristorante in Cranford. The Luncheon Meeting will be held on December 10th, at 12 noon.

Union County Annual Report – Frank Calo presented to the Board the Union County Annual Report which is sent every year to the county detailing the work the District has performed throughout the previous year. Frank Calo also informed the Board, that as per the Boards authorization, the District was asking Union County for a 5% increase in their annual donation. Steve Needle, District Supervisor, asked that the report also include what the cost savings to the county were for 2014.

Fee Schedule Review – Frank Calo reported to the Board that the District had received notification from the State Soil Conservation Committee that the review of the proposed fee schedule had commenced. The District manager informed the Board that he had spoken directly to Frank Minch, Executive Secretary for the State Committee and was told that the proposal would probably be on the agenda for the January meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

2014 District Audit-Draft – Frank Calo presented to the Board the draft of the 2014 District Audit. The audit was reviewed by the Board and after some discussion was unanimously approved. The final draft should be ready by the December District Meeting, where it will be re-reviewed before it is forwarded to the State Soil Conservation Committee.

NJDA FY 2015 1st Quarter RFA Reimbursement – The Board was informed that the District had received an invoice for the FY 2015 1st quarter RFA reimbursement. The invoice was in the amount of \$2,835.00. The Board approved the paying of the invoice.

2015 District Meeting Schedule – The District Meeting Schedule for 2015 was reviewed by the Board. After some minor discussion the Meeting Schedule was approved, with Henry Dreyer abstaining.

State Outside Activities Form – Frank Calo informed the Board that the District had received the NJ State Ethics Commission’s Outside Activities Questionnaire. The forms had been completed by the staff, reviewed by the District Manager and approved. Only one staff member had any outside activities to report and in no way were these activities in conflict with any of the NJ State Ethics Commission policies. The District Manager’s questionnaire was reviewed by the Board and approved. The Board directed the Manager to forward the completed forms to the State Committee.

Conservation Plans – Chad Cherefko presented to the Board a Request for Assistance from Norma Norz in Hillsborough Township. The request was for help with a watering and grazing system for beef cows. The Board unanimously approved the request 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:

NRCS – Chad Cherefko reported on a Cover Crop Field Day which is scheduled for the 1th of December at the DuFosse and Nance Farms.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday December 10, 2014, at 12 noon at the Triestina Ristorante in Cranford, NJ.

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager