

SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D.
DISTRICT MEETING
October 22, 2014

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

ABSENT:

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 September meeting were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report for September was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District received a notice from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders announcing the open space acquisition of the Trap Rock Quarry property totaling 187 acres.

The District received an email concerning the NJ Agribusiness Association 2014 Annual Edward A. Platz Memorial Scholarship.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fee Schedule Review – Frank Calo resubmitted to the Board a draft of a proposal for a District fee schedule increase. This proposal had been previously reviewed by the Board at the September meeting and tabled until this meeting. The Board reviewed the proposal at length and after much discussion decided to put the proposal to a vote. The proposal was passed by the Board with a majority vote, 4 supervisors in favor and 1 against. The Board directed Frank Calo, the District Manager, to forward the required documentation to the State Soil Conservation Committee. The Board instructed Frank Calo to

research the possibility of a fee reduction for non-profit and church organizations and to report his findings at the next Supervisors meeting.

2014 NJ Conservation Conference – Frank Calo reminded the Board that this year’s NJ Conservation Conference will be held on Monday November 24th at the Rutgers Eco-Complex in Columbus NJ. The draft agenda was re-reviewed and discussed. The Supervisors were reminded that they must attend at least 1 annual State Conservation Conference during their term. As of this meeting, 4 of the 5 Board members did confirm their attendance. The Board also decided to permit the District Manager the use of the District vehicle to attend the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Somerset/Union County Budget Update – Frank Calo reported that he had attended a meeting at Somerset County concerning the 2015 County Budget. It appears from comments made at the meeting that there will be no cuts to the District budget. Frank Calo also informed the Board that he would be sending Union County the Districts annual report at the end of November. After some discussion the Board authorized the District Manager to ask Union County for a 5% increase in their donation to the District.

2015 NACD Membership Invoice – Frank Calo informed the Board that the District had received the membership invoice for the National Association of Conservation Districts. Frank Calo reminded the Board that last year the District had decided to drop the membership to the silver level, which meant a membership fee of \$500. This fee has been included in the District’s 2015 budget. After some discussion, the Board unanimously approved payment of the invoice.

December Luncheon Meeting – Frank Calo reminded the Board that this year’s December luncheon meeting will be held on Wednesday, December the 10th. This year’s luncheon meeting will be in Union County. The Board discussed the matter and authorized the District Manager to begin looking for a venue for the meeting.

Conservation Plans – Chad Cherefko presented to the Board 2 EQIP plans for a tract in Hillsborough Township. A motion was made and unanimously approved by the Board to move into closed session at 8:24 pm. The regular meeting was resumed at 8:40 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. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on application # 2013-0798. (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 tentatively scheduled for the 12th of December.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. Also that he had contacted Don Knezick of Pinelands Nursery and that they would be donating some plantings, thru the District, to the Somerset County Leadership Program for their Rain Garden project.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday November 19, 2014, at 12 noon at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager