



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING October 28, 2015

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Jim Laine, Bob Amberg, Frank Calo

ABSENT: Steve Needle, Matt Loper

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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 the SWCS Firman E. Bear Chapter newsletter. The October 29th meeting will be held at Rutgers Cook Campus. The newsletter contained an article on the Burlington Soil Conservation District's recent exam review class for the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) certification.

OLD BUSINESS:

FY 2015 District Annual Audit – The Board re-reviewed the draft copy of the FY 2015 District Annual Audit. All the Board members had received a copy of the audit prior to the District meeting. After some discussion the audit for FY 2015 was unanimously approved. The Board directed the District Manager to inform the auditor of the Board's decision and to forward a copy of the approved final audit to the State Soil Conservation Committee.

2015 NJ Conservation Conference – The Board reviewed and discussed this year's Annual Conservation Partnership Meeting which was held on Tuesday October the 27th at the Rutgers Eco-Complex in Bordentown. The Board members in general felt that the conference had been educational, well run, and worthwhile attending. The District Manager supplied Board members who were not able to attend with educational material distributed to the attendees from the various speakers.

NEW BUSINESS:

River Friendly Certification Program – The District Manager reported that he attended a meeting of the technical advisory committee for the River Friendly Program. Three school programs within Somerset County were reviewed. The Montgomery Upper Middle School in Montgomery, which has applied for a stream level certification and is in the process of completing those requirements. The Bridgewater Raritan H.S. in Bridgewater, which entered the River-Friendly School program in 2014, is the first public school in the area to achieve a silver rating in the Watershed Level certification. The third school is the Far Hills Country Day School in Far Hills, which is a private school that also entered the River-Friendly School program in 2014. This school is the first school to reach the gold rating, the highest level, in the Watershed Level certification.

2015 NACD Membership Invoice – Frank Calo reported that the District had received the annual request for dues for the National Association of Conservation Districts membership. As in the past few years the District has budgeted \$500.00 for this expense. The Board unanimously approved the payment to the NACD.

1st Qtr. FY 2016 RFA Reimbursement – Frank Calo reported that the District had received an invoice from the Department of Agriculture for the first quarter RFA reimbursement for FY 2016. The invoice was for the amount of \$2,415.00. The Board unanimously voted in favor of paying the invoice.

December Luncheon Meeting – The Board was reminded by the District Manager that this year's December luncheon meeting would be held in Somerset County. The Board reviewed the possible venues and decided to hold the meeting at the Girasole Restaurant in Bound Brook. The District Manager was directed by the Board to make the required arrangements.

Conservation Plans – – Frank Calo presented to the Board two CREP plans and a Request for Assistance plan for a tract in Hillsborough Township and for one in Montgomery Township. A motion was made and unanimously approved by the Board to move into closed session at 8:05 pm. The regular meeting was resumed at 8:13 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 plans on the attached certified list.

REPORTS:

SCD – Frank Calo reported on the District’s Chapter 251 activities.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at 12 Noon at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager