



## **SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Somerset County 4-H Center  
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(908) 526-2701 Fax (908) 575-3977

### **SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING May 25, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Mark Kirby, Bob Amberg, Jim Laine, John Kluthe, Frank Calo

**ABSENT:** Matt Loper, Steve Needle,

#### **CALL to ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

#### **PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE**

#### **COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

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

#### **APPROVAL of MINUTES**

A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the April meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The report for April was reviewed by the Board. Bob Amberg made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the Board.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The District received a letter from the NJACD addressed to the Supervisors asking for assistance in obtaining sponsorships for the upcoming Northeast NACD meeting which will be held this August in Galloway Township.
- The District received a notice from the NACD concerning a joint program with NRCS offering Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants to Districts throughout the Country.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Supervisor Re-Nomination – Frank Calo reported that the Somerset County Nominating Committee met on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to review the re-nominations of Jim Laine and Mark Kirby. The Committee unanimously approved the re-nominations of both supervisors. The required documents were forwarded to the State Soil Conservation Committee on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The rest of the Board thanked Jim and Mark for their past service and for their continued support of the District.

Counties 2016 Budget Update –The District Manager reported that the Somerset County budget was adopted on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The budget did include a salary increase of 2% over last year for all employees with at least a meets expectations performance review. The Board was reminded that the District's 2016 budget did include this 2% salary increase. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the salary increase for all the District employees. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the Board. The 2016 Union County Budget was scheduled to be presented this evening to the Union County Freeholders for adoption.

2016 NJ Envirothon – Frank Calo reported that the 2016 NJ Envirothon was held on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Somerset County's North Branch Park. There were 37 H.S. teams in attendance, with many camping over night the day before the event. Mark Kirby, the District Chairman, welcomed all the participants at the opening ceremonies on Saturday morning. The District received many complements as to the facility and as to the coordination of the entire event. Donations were received from the local Wegmans and Shoprite. The winning team, which was from the West Windsor H.S., will go on to compete at the national level. A team from Montgomery H.S. in Somerset County came in 6<sup>th</sup> place and a team from New Providence in Union County took 11<sup>th</sup> place. The District forwarded letters thanking all the sponsors and especially Mark Kirby and the 4-H Association for all their assistance.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Application Surcharge Fee Reimbursement for FY 2016 3rd Quarter – The Board was presented with the invoice for the application surcharge fee for FY 2016 3rd Quarter. Bob Amberg made a motion to pay the invoice. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the Board.

Conservation Plans – John Kluthe presented to the Board, 3 conservation plans and 5 requests for assistance. A motion was made by Jim Laine to enter into closed session. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The Board entered into closed session at 7:54 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 8:06 p.m. A motion was made by Bob Amberg to approve the conservation plans and requests for assistance presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

District Action on Chapter 251 – (a) A motion was made by Jim Laine and seconded, to approve the plans on the attached certified list. The Board unanimously approved the plans on the certified list. (b) A motion was made by Bob Amberg and seconded, to approve the plans on the attached completed list. The Board unanimously approved the completed plans on the attached list.

**REPORTS:**

NRCS – John Kluthe updated the Board on his background and thanked the Board for their congratulations on his new position. He also reported on the EQIP program closing date and on a new equine program.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. He will be making a presentation to the Union County Municipal engineers about the H & H database in June. He'll be working on a draft of the FY 2017 District budget which will be presented to the Board at the June meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2016, at 7:30 PM at the District office.

A motion was made by Jim Laine to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo  
District Manager

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