



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING September 28, 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 7:35 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 July meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The reports for July and August were reviewed by the Board. Jim Laine made a motion to approve the reports. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The District received a copy of a letter sent to State Assemblyman, Ronald Dancer, by Charles Buscaglia, Freehold Soil District Chairman, requesting that the State Assembly consider reinstating the per diem appropriations for District Supervisors.

The District was copied on a notice sent to The Somerset County Board of Agriculture from the Warren County SCD. The Warren County SCD has received a grant from the NJ Dept. of Ag. To assist farmers in developing self-certified animal waste management plans. As part of this initiative the District is hosting an informational session on Oct. 4th.

The District received a letter of gratitude from Rich Belcher, the NJ Envirothon Coordinator, on hosting the 2016 Envirothon.

OLD BUSINESS:

FY 2016 District Audit – The District Manager updated the Board on the status of the FY2016 District Audit. Frank Calo had met with the auditor, John Brewer, to commence the audit on August 2nd and again on September 20th. Mr. Brewer will return to complete the audit next week. As soon as the draft audit is complete it will be forwarded to the entire Board for their review, so that hopefully it can be approved at the District's October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

North Jersey RC&D Update – The District Manager informed the Board that the new Associate Director of the NJ RC&D is Laura Tessieri. Ms. Tessieri is a licensed professional engineer. She worked for the Delaware River Basin Committee for many years and was also the asst. engineer for Raritan Twp. in Hunterdon County. NJRC&D Council received a letter from the Warren County SCD relinquishing their position on the TA Committee. This leaves only the Sussex and Somerset-Union SCD's as soil district members. There are currently ongoing discussions by the Board to form a sub-technical advisory committee with just the conservation districts as members.

Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee FY 2016 4th Quarter – The Board was presented with an invoice for the Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee for FY 2016 4th quarter. The invoice was in the amount of \$2,950.00. A motion was made by Bob Amberg and seconded to pay the invoice. The Board unanimously approved the payment of the invoice to the NJDA-SSCC.

NJ Soil Restoration Standards – The Board was informed that the revised Topsoiling and Land Grading standards have now been posted on the NJ Register for a 60 day comment period. Frank Calo reviewed the revisions for both standards with the Board. After some discussion by the Board, especially on how these rule changes would affect the District, the Board decided not to make any formal comments.

December Luncheon Meeting – The Board was reminded by the District Manager that this year's December luncheon meeting would be held in Union County. The Board will begin to review the possible venues and continue discussions as to a location at the October District Meeting.

Conservation Plans – John Kluthe, NRCS, presented to the Board, for their approval, 6 conservation plans and a request 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 7:57 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 8:07 p.m. A motion was made by Bob Amberg to approve the conservation plans and request for assistance. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

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

REPORTS:

NRCS – John Kluthe reported that the EQIP application deadline will be October 21st.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. The re-certification process was winding down and that new H & H database was back up and running. The District has started reentering basin data. The Board was given a demonstration of the database.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 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 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager

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