



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING November 16, 2016

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

ABSENT: Matt Loper

CALL to ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.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 Steve Needle to approve the October meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: No Correspondence

OLD BUSINESS:

FY 2016 District Audit – The District Manager informed the Board that the FY2016 District Audit had been completed and forwarded to the State Soil Conservation Committee. The final report was no different than the draft audit report approved at the October meeting. The final audit report was reviewed by the Board and found to be consistent with the previously approved draft. The Board was also presented with the auditors invoice. The total for the FY2016 District Audit was \$5,600.00. The Board was reminded that the cost of the audit was covered in the Districts FY2016 Budget. Steve Needle made a motion to pay the auditors invoice. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Board.

December Luncheon Meeting – The Board again reviewed the possible venues for the December luncheon meeting. After some discussion, the Board decided to hold the December luncheon meeting, as last year, at the Girasole Restaurant in Bound Brook. The District will reserve the venue and invitations will be sent out. The District Luncheon Meeting will be held on the 14th of December.

NEW BUSINESS:

Union County Annual Report – The District Manager presented to the Board the 2016 Union County Annual Report. The District forwards this summary of programs and activities annually to Union County, detailing the work the District has performed throughout the previous year. The Board reviewed the report and decided to authorize the District to request a 5% increase from Union County in their annual donation. A motion was made by Jim Laine to forward the report as written to Union County. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Board.

2017 District Meeting Schedule – The District Meeting Schedule for 2017 was reviewed by the Board. After some minor discussion a motion was made by Steve Needle to approve the District Meeting Schedule for 2017. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Board.

2017 NJ Conservation Poster Contest – Frank Calo informed the Board that the District had received the flyer for the 2017 NJ Conservation Poster Contest. This year's theme is "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life". The flyer will be posted on the District's website. Copies will be sent to the School Superintendents of both counties so that they can be distributed to the various school districts. District Supervisor Steve Needle asked how the District recognized students who did not win a prize. Frank Calo informed the Board that all students who participated in the contest were issued a certificate from the District recognizing their effort, and a letter was sent to all the teachers thanking them for their support. Mr. Needle suggested that along with the certificate, the District could also distribute packets of seeds. The Board members thought this was a good idea and directed the Manager to look into this possibility.

1st Qtr. FY 2017 Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee – Frank Calo reported that the District had received an invoice from the Department of Agriculture for the first quarter Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee for FY 2017. The invoice was for the amount of \$3,200.00. Bob Amberg made a motion to pay the Surcharge Fee invoice. The motion was seconded and the Board unanimously voted in favor of paying the invoice.

District Action on Chapter 251 – (a) A motion was made by Steve Needle to approve the plans on the attached certified list. The motion was seconded and the Board unanimously approved the plans on the certified list. Mark Kirby recused himself from voting on application # 2016-2424. (b) A motion was made by Steve Needle 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 NRCS had received 8 applications in Somerset County and 1 in Union County for various assistance programs. John also reported on NRC's CRP program dealing with perimeter fencing and on the Conservation Stewardship program.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. He is also currently working with Jennifer, the District's Admin Asst., on learning the new County payroll system. He has been working on the District's Somerset County Budget. He will also be working on completing staff performance evaluations which need to be submitted to the county in December.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, at 12 Noon at the Girasole Restaurant in Bound Brook.

A motion was made by Bob Amberg to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager

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