



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
308 Milltown Road • Bridgewater, NJ 08807
(908) 526-2701 Fax (908) 575-3977

January 25, 2017

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Matt Loper, Steve Needle, Bob Amberg, John Kluthe, Frank Calo

ABSENT: Jim Laine

CALL to ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 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 MNUTES

A motion was made by Steve Needle to approve the December meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The District received a news release from NRCS concerning the FY2017 Conservation Stewardship Program.

OLD BUSINESS:

NJ Soil Restoration Standards - Frank Calo reported that the revised land grading and topsoil standards would soon be sent to the Governor's office for review. The standards, if approved, would be implemented sometime in mid-summer. There is still some question as to how the standards will be enforced, especially in exempt municipalities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Soil & Water Conservation Project Cost Share – Frank Calo reported that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 2:90 – 2:25, each District is required to approve an average cost table for the installation of eligible conservation practices on lands within their Districts participating in a farmland preservation program. After some discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Steve Needle for the District to adopt the 2017 NRCS Cost Data Table. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the Board.

Exempt Municipalities Annual Report – Frank Calo reported to the Board that he had met with Bernard's Township Engineer, Tom Timko, and Engineering Technician, Peter LaGola. At the meeting the Bernards Twp. policies and procedures of enforcing Chapter 251 were reviewed and found to be in compliance with the State requirements. The Board was reminded that due to a mutual agreement, the District only reviews and certifies plans, Bernards Twp. handles the inspection and enforcement of the erosion control. Bernards Twp. is the only exempt municipality doing erosion control on their own. A motion was made by Matt Loper to approve the annual review. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The Board directed the District Manager to submit the Report of Exempt Municipalities to the State Committee.

NJHMD Basin Inspections – Frank Calo reported that the District's statewide, along with the Department of Agriculture, were working on a program to offer municipalities a Stormwater Basin Inspection Program. With the new NJDEP Stormwater regulations, municipalities to comply will need to have all stormwater basins mapped and inspected to ensure they are operating as designed and being maintained. This program would offer the District's services in helping municipalities in meeting these requirements. The Board discussed the idea, and reviewed the draft inspection process and checklist. It was agreed that this could be a potential future revenue source for the District and should be pursued.

Project Exemption Application – The Board was informed that the District would be implementing the State form for Project Exemptions. The new form, "Request for Determination of Non-Applicability" will be used starting March 1st. The District will continue to charge the applicants a \$45.00 dollar processing fee. The form will also be posted on the Districts webpage and a notice will be forwarded to all the Municipal construction officials as to the change.

Business Auto & General Liability Insurance Renewal – The Board was informed that the District had received an invoice from La Fontaine & Budd Insurance for the Districts auto and general liability insurance. Frank Calo reported that the cost for both had only increased by \$130.00 dollars over last year's invoice. The invoice was reviewed by the Board and a motion was made by Bob Amberg to pay the invoice. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved for payment.

Conservation Plans – Frank Calo presented to the Board, 1 conservation plan and 3 requests for assistance. A motion was made by Steve Needle to enter into closed session. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The board entered into closed session at 12:32 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 12:43 p.m. A motion was made by Bob Amberg to approve the conservation plan and requests for assistance presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

District Action on Chapter 251 – (a) Steve Needle made a motion to approve the plans on the attached certified list. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on applications: 2016-2510, 2016-2508, 2016-2507, and 2016-2509. (b) A motion was made by Bob Amberg to approve the completed plans on the attached list. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on applications: 2014-1286, and 2016-2091.

REPORTS:

NRCS – John Kluthe reported on an NRCS news release concerning the FY2017 Conservation Stewardship Program. John explained what the program entailed and the opportunities offered for producers.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. Also, the computer consultant is scheduled to upgrade the soils database in 2 weeks. For this year's poster contest, as per the Board, the district will be distributing seed packets along with certificates of merit to every student who enters the contest.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 12 noon at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 12: 52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager