



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING April 26, 2017

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

ABSENT: Steve Needle

CALL to ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30p.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 Jim Laine to approve the March meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report for March was reviewed by the Board. Matt Loper made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The District received the nomination form for the 9th Annual Sustainable Raritan River Conference and Awards Ceremony.
- The District received a notice from the Governor's office proclaiming the week of April 30th as Soil and Water Stewardship week.

OLD BUSINESS:

Somerset/Union Counties Budget Update – Union County has submitted their 2017 Executive Budget Appropriation Schedule for approval. A contribution to the District with the requested 5% increase from last year's amount is included. The 2017 Union County Budget has not been adopted as of yet. The Somerset County budget was adopted on April 25th. The budget does include a 2 % pay increase across the board for all employees in good standing. The Board was reminded that the 2% payroll increase was included in the FY 2017 District Budget. A motion was made by Matt Loper to approve the 2% pay increase for the District employees. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Soil & Water Conservation Project Cost Share – Frank Calo reported that the District had received a supplement to the previously approved average cost share table, along with a copy of the NJ Practice Catalog. The supplement payment schedule was reviewed by the Board, and after some discussion, a motion was made by Jim Laine for the District to adopt the EQIP supplement 2017 payment schedule. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

RFA Reimbursement for FY 2017 3rd Quarter – The Board was presented with the invoice for the RFA Reimbursement for FY 2017 3rd Quarter. Matt Loper made a motion to pay the invoice. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the Board.

Somerset-Union SCD Supervisor Nominating Committee – Frank Calo presented to the Board the idea of combining the two county nominating committees into one committee representing both counties. The District had checked with the other multi-county SCD's and with Frank Minch of the State Committee, and was informed that no other District had separate nominating committees. A one committee system would greatly streamline the whole nominating and re-nomination process. After some discussion, the Board decided to adopt the one nominating committee format. The Board reviewed the current committee member list for both counties and decided that the committee should be comprised of three members from Somerset County and two members from Union County, with alternates from both counties. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the new committee member list. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Supervisor Re-Nomination – The District received notice from the State Soil Conservation Committee that the term of Robert Amberg as a District Supervisor would expire on June 30, 2017. Mr. Amberg expressed his desire to remain a Board member for an additional term. Frank Calo was directed by the Board to proceed with the re-nomination process and forward the appropriate documents to the State Committee.

FY 2018 Budget – Frank Calo presented to the Board a final draft of the FY 2018 District Budget. The proposed Budget draft, with updates, had been sent to all the Board members for review prior to the meeting. After some discussion, Bob Amberg made a motion to approve the FY2018 District Budget as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Mark Kirby, District Chairman, directed the District Manger to forward a copy of the approved budget to the State Soil Conservation Committee.

Conservation Plans – John Kluthe presented to the Board, 2 requests for assistance. A motion was made by Bob Amberg to enter into closed session. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The board entered into closed session at 7:55 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 8:10 p.m. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the requests for assistance presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

District Action on Chapter 251 – (a) Bob Amberg made a motion to approve the plans on the attached certified and completed list. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on applications 2017-2596 and 2017-2598, both on the certified list.

REPORTS:

NRCS – John Kluthe reported on a Regional Conservation Partnership Program RCPP meeting which he attended in Maryland and on the possibility of the District partnering with other groups who might apply for RCCP. The Board was also informed about the SWCS and the possibility of the District becoming a member.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. The Board was informed that the computer consultant was having some difficulty upgrading the District's soils database. The District will be acting as a distribution center for the NJ Tree Recovery program and that the trees have been scheduled for pickup this Friday. The Board was also informed that there had been about 15 seed packets remaining from the District's Poster Contest. The remaining seeds had been donated to the Somerset County 4-H Bee and Garden Club. The 4-H Association thanked the District for there donation.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2017, 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 adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager