



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING March 26, 2018

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Matt Loper, Jim Laine, Steve Needle, Frank Calo

ABSENT: Bob Amberg

CALL to ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 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 Jim Laine to approve the February meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

New District Supervisor – Frank Calo updated the Board on the search for a new District Supervisor replacement for current Supervisor Steve Needle. The District has not been able to find a viable candidate, as of yet, from Union County. If a new member is not found soon the search will be expanded to include someone from either county.

NEW BUSINESS:

Somerset-Union SCD Supervisor Nominating Committee – The Board reviewed the current nominating committee member list. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the committee member list for 2018. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

RFA Reimbursement for FY 2018 3rd Quarter – The Board was presented with the invoice for the RFA Reimbursement for FY 2018 3rd Quarter. Bob Amberg made a motion to pay the invoice. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the Board.

Somerset/Union Counties Budget Update – Frank Calo reported that Union County had submitted their 2018 Executive Budget Appropriation Schedule for approval. A contribution to the District with the requested 5% increase from last year's amount is included in the new budget. The 2018 Union County budget has not been approved as of yet. Frank Calo will be attending a Somerset County budget meeting on April 10th. The Board will be updated as to the Somerset County's budget status at the District's April meeting.

2018 NJACD Association Dues – The Board was presented with an invoice for the NJ Association of conservation District 2018 dues. The dues amount for 2018 is \$750.00. The Board was reminded that the District had an allocation for this amount in the 2018 District Budget. A motion was made by Steve Needle and seconded to pay the NJACD dues. The Board unanimously approved the payment of the 2018 dues to the NJACD.

District Vehicle – The Board was informed that one of the District's vehicles had blown a rear differential and axle. The estimated cost from Somerset County vehicle maintenance for this repair was approximately \$2,000.00. Frank Calo offered the opinion that due to the age and mileage of the vehicle it would not be prudent to invest this much money into the truck. The Board was reminded that the District did have money allotted in the 2018 budget for a new vehicle. Frank Calo reported that most of the other Districts were now switching from pickup trucks to small sport utility vehicles. After some discussion by the Board, it was decided that Frank Calo would gather more information on various vehicles and the Board would continue this discussion at the next meeting.

District Supervisor April Meeting – After some discussion by the Board, it was decided that the April District meeting will be held on April 25th as previously scheduled.

Conservation Plans – Frank Calo presented to the Board forest management plans for two properties, one in Bedminster Township and the other in the Borough of Bernardsville. A motion was made by Jim Laine to enter into closed session. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The board entered closed session at 12:30 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 12:37 p.m. A motion was made by Steve Needle to approve the conservation plans submitted. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Jim Laine recused himself from voting on the forest management plan for the property in Bedminster Township.

District Action on Chapter 251 – Jim Laine made a motion to approve the plans on the attached certified and completed list. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.

REPORTS:

NRCS/SCD – Frank Calo reported that the NRCS Frenchtown office position for District Conservationist had been advertised and closed. Rosalynd Orr will be the new acting DC until the position is filled. He also reported on his chapter 251 activities which include working on the 2019 District Budget.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. 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 12:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager