



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING April 25, 2018

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Bob Amberg, Jim Laine, Rosalynd Orr, Frank Calo

ABSENT: Matt Loper, Steve Needle

CALL to ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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 March meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Frank Calo presented to the Board an article about the use of drones to inspect rural farms with soil erosion issues in Great Britain.

OLD BUSINESS:

Surety Bond – The Board was informed that the new dishonesty bond had been approved by the District's insurance company. The new bond will cover the District for the amount of \$250,000.00 for both the District Manager and the administrative assistant. The deductible amount on the bond is set at \$2,500.00. Also the new bond's premium is less than the original bond which was previously in effect.

New District Supervisor – Frank Calo updated the Board on the search for a new District Supervisor replacement for current Supervisor Steve Needle. Several possible candidates have been contacted from Union County but, as of yet there is no definite candidate. The Board was reminded, that if a new member is not found soon the search will be expanded to include someone from either county.

District Vehicle – As per the Boards request, Frank Calo reported that he had found that most of the other Districts were now using small sport utility vehicles. A vehicle of this type could be used for inspection purposes and for transporting staff to various required meetings. After some discussion, the Board decided to wait until the May District meeting to make a final decision.

NEW BUSINESS:

Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Program Statistics – Frank Calo presented to the Board SE&SC Program statistics and trends from District generated quarterly reports from 1976-2017, prepared by John E. Showler, P.E., and State Erosion Control Engineer. The Board reviewed the presented material. One trend which stood out quite clearly, was the decrease in total acres per application over the studied 41 year period. This is obviously a trend which will continue and will require a new business plan for the District's future.

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.

FY 2019 Budget – Frank Calo presented to the Board a draft of the FY 2019 District Budget. The proposed draft Budget was reviewed by the District Manager and the Board members present at the meeting. After some discussion, the Board decided to continue to review the budget draft and make a decision as to approval at the May meeting. Frank Calo will forward a copy of the draft budget to the Board members not present.

District Action on Chapter 251 – 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. Jim Laine recused himself from voting on application 2018-3096 on the applications certified list.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Rosalynd Orr reported on various NRCS programs, specifically on funding for the Stewardship Conservation program.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. Also the Board was updated on the changes regarding the new soil restoration standards as far as enforcement and plan review. The District will also, as in past years, act as a distribution center for the state’s 2018 tree recovery program.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 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 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager