



**SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Somerset County 4-H Center  
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**SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D.  
DISTRICT MEETING  
March 20, 2019**

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

**ABSENT:** Ed Dec

**CALL to ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 12:17 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:**

The District received a news release from NRCS about funding for on-farm conservation available to farmers in Black River Greenway.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Erosion Control Specialist Position – Frank Calo informed the Board that the District had conducted interviews for the position. A qualified candidate had been found and the District was now proceeding with the Somerset County hiring protocol. The Board reviewed the candidates resume and after some discussion, agreed with the District's selection.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Regional Supervisor Meetings – The Board was informed that the District had registered all the members for the meetings. This year, two Board members will be attending the central meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Bordentown, and the remainder of the Board along with the District manager will be attending the northern meeting on April 11th in Mountain Lakes. Each meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm, starting with dinner and discussions to follow.

District Supervisor Reappointments – Frank Calo reported that the District had received a notice from the State Soil Conservation Committee that the terms of Mark Kirby and James Laine, as District Supervisors, would expire on June 30, 2019. Both Mr. Kirby and Mr. Laine expressed their desire to remain Board members 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.

2019 Poster Contest – The NJ Conservation 2019 Poster Contest theme for this year was “Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper”. The District received 17 poster entries in this year's contest. The District awarded prizes to 6 first and second place winners. All the contestants will receive a notice and a seedling packet. The first place winners will be submitted to the State for the statewide competition.

NJACD Memorial Conservation Scholarship - Frank Calo informed the Board that the District had received the announcement for this year's NJACD Memorial Scholarship. The establishment of the scholarship and the eligibility requirements were discussed.

NJ Tree Recovery Campaign – The District has received the tree distribution list from Alec McCartney NJDEP, for the NJ Tree Recovery Program. This year the District will act as the distribution point for 8 municipalities, dispersing over 10,000 seedlings. Seeding's will be dropped off at the District office by NJDEP on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April and picked up by municipalities on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup>. The District has been an active partner in the NJ Tree Recovery Campaign for over 6 years.

Somerset County-Soil Conservation Division – The District Manager asked the Board to review the arrangement previously developed between Somerset County and the District. The Somerset-Union District is the only District in the state which is actually a division within a county. The history of this understanding between Somerset County, Union County, and the District was studied. After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided that the District should update its internal guidelines regarding this arrangement. Frank Calo was directed to revise the policy and submit it to the Board for their review at the April meeting.

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 application 2019-3580.

**REPORTS:**

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. Also, that he would be starting work on the District’s 2020 operating budget.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at 7:30 pm at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo  
District Manager