



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING April 24, 2019

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Bob Amberg, Jim Laine, Ed Dec, Jill Ott, Frank Calo

ABSENT: Matt Loper

CALL to ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 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. Bob Amberg made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District received the NACD 2018 Annual Report. The report contained an article about the expanding of services to offer Basin Inspections by the NJ Districts.

The District received the proclamation from the State of NJ declaring the week of April 28th to May 5th, Soil and Water Stewardship Week.

OLD BUSINESS:

Regional Supervisor Meetings – There was a general discussion by the Board of some of the agenda items from the Regional Supervisor meetings. The Board as a whole felt that the meetings were informative and productive. The Manager reminded the Board members to submit their NJACD Partnership Conference survey, if they had not already done so.

Somerset County-Soil Conservation Division – The District Manager submitted to the Board a report on the history of the Somerset and Union County funding beginning in 1971. The report also explained the arraignment between the District and Somerset County. The Board was also informed that the District Manager, along with Supervisor Matt Loper, have scheduled a meeting with Michael Amoroso, Somerset County Administrator, on Monday the 29th, to discuss the report and the current arrangement. After some discussion, the Board decided that Frank Calo should move forward with the scheduled meeting with the administrator and report back to the Board at the District's May meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Penn National Fidelity Bond Coverage District – Frank Calo reported that the District had received an invoice for the fidelity bond coverage for himself and Jennifer Saunders, the administrative assistant, from the Penn National Insurance company. The invoice is for the amount of \$271.00 and is due on the 27th of this month. Jim Laine made a motion to pay the bond coverage invoice. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Board.

Somerset/Union Counties Budget Update – Frank Calo reported that Union County had submitted their 2019 Executive Budget Appropriation Schedule for approval. A contribution to the District was included but kept the funding at last year's level without the increase asked for by the Board. The 2019 Union County budget has not been approved as of yet. Frank Calo attended a Somerset County budget meeting on April 17th, and it appears from that meeting the District will receive an increase in funding. The Board will be updated once the budgets for both counties are officially approved.

FY 2020 District Operating Budget – Frank Calo presented to the Board the final draft of the FY 2020 District Budget. The proposed draft Budget was reviewed by the District Manager and the Board members present at the meeting. After some discussion, Jim Laine made a motion to approve the FY 2020 District Operating Budget as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Board. Frank Calo will forward a copy of the approved budget to the State Committee as required.

Conservation Plans – Jill Ott, NRCS District Conservationist, presented to the Board, 4 conservation plans for farms in Hillsborough and Montgomery Townships, and a request for assistance for a farm in the Borough of Far Hills. 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 8:04 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 8:12 p.m. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the conservation plan presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

District Action on Chapter 251 – Ed Dec made a motion to approve the plans on the attached certified and completed list. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board. Ed Dec recused himself from voting on application 2019-3595 of the certified list.

REPORTS:

NRCS– Jill Ott reported on 2 NRCS projects, the Burnt Mills dam and the Shane Doyle site.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. Also, that the new erosion control specialist, Tyler Wibbelt, has started and he is working with him to bring him up to speed. This Friday the District will distribute tree seedlings to communities as part of the NJ Tree Recovery campaign.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 7:30 pm at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager