



## **SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Somerset County 4-H Center  
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### **SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING May 22, 2019**

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

**ABSENT:**

**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 April meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The report for April 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 notice from the Rutgers Sustainable Raritan River Initiative concerning the awards nominations for their annual conference.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

2019 Conservation Poster Contest – The Board was informed that 2 of the Districts first place winners had been selected as second place winners at the State level. The winners were Kevin Zhou, in the 4-6 grade level and Eddie Zhou, in the 7-9 grade level. Kevin and Eddie are brothers and live in Bridgewater.

Somerset/Union Counties Budget Update – Frank Calo reported that Union County had approved their 2019 Executive Budget on April 25<sup>th</sup> and that the District had already completed and submitted the paperwork to receive the approved contribution. As previously reported, the contribution to the District remained at last year's level without the increase asked for by the Board. The Somerset County 2019 budget was approved on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The budget does include a 2% salary increase for all employees. The Board was reminded that the District, as in the past, adheres to the Somerset County's policies concerning salaries. These increases were also anticipated and included the District's FY 2019 Budget. After some discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the staff salary increases contingent upon the final approval by Somerset County. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the Board.

Somerset County-Soil Conservation Division – The District Manager informed the Board that Supervisor Matt Loper, and himself, had met with Michael Amoroso, the Somerset County Administrator, on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the report previously submitted to the Board concerning the current arrangement. At the meeting, Mr. Amoroso agreed that a formal agreement between the 2 counties and the District should be in place and formally approved. Matt Loper reported that he had met with the Somerset County Counsel, William Cooper, and that an agreement was in the process of being drawn up and would be presented to the Board for their review at the District's June meeting. Frank Calo formally thanked Matt Loper for his assistance in this matter.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

FY 2020 Annual Plan of Work - The Annual Plan of Work for 2020 was presented and reviewed by the Board. The only changes were the implementation of the new 2018 Farm Bill and the District's role on the technical advisory committee for NJRC&D. A motion was made by Matt Loper to approve the FY 2020 Annual Plan of Work as submitted. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Supervisor Performance Standards – Frank Calo reported that the District had been copied on a letter from Charles Buscaglia, Freehold District Chairman to Frank Minch, Executive Secretary, of the State Soil Conservation Committee. The letter was in reference to the current supervisor performance standards and re-nomination of conservation district board members. The Board reviewed the various issues presented by Mr. Buscaglia. After some discussion, the Board decided to reserve any comments until a response from the State Soil Conservation Committee.

FY 2019 3rd Quarter RFA Reimbursement – The Board was presented with the invoice for the RFA Reimbursement for FY 2019 3rd Quarter. Matt Loper made a motion to pay the invoice. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the Board.

Conservation Plans – Frank Calo presented to the Board, 2 conservation plans for tracts in Franklin Township in Somerset County, and the City of Elizabeth in Union County. A request for assistance in Montgomery Township in Somerset County. 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 7:50 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 7:55 p.m. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the conservation plans 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 2019-3654, and 2015-1850 of the certified list. Jim Laine recused himself from voting on applications 2019-3775, and 2019-3652, on the certified list. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on applications 2019-3662, 2019-3651, and 2019-3609, on the certified list and applications 2018-3209, and 2015-1991, on the completed list.

#### **REPORTS:**

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities. Also, that he is continuing to work with the new erosion control specialist, Tyler Wibbelt. Tyler has also met with John Showler, the State Erosion Control Engineer.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2019, at 7:30 pm at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo  
District Manager