



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
308 Milltown Road • Bridgewater, NJ 08807
(908) 526-2701 Fax (908) 575-3977

**SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D.
DISTRICT MEETING
September 25, 2019**

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

ABSENT: Ed Dec

CALL to ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 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 July meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The reports for July and August were reviewed by the Board. Matt Loper made a motion to approve the reports. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

FY 2019 Audit – The Board was informed that Frank Calo met with John Brewer of the firm of Vernioia, Enterline & Brewer, the Districts auditor, on August 27th to commence the Districts FY 2019 audit. Mr. Brewer will need to return for one more meeting to complete the audit. The audit should be completed and ready for review by the Board for the District's October meeting.

2019 4-H Fair – Frank Calo informed the Board that the Somerset County 4-H fair was held on August 7th thru 9th. The District, as in past years, shared an exhibit with NRCS. This year's attendance was down due to the adverse weather conditions.

Eric C. Watson Memorial Enviro-Fair – The Board was informed that the District had been an exhibiter at this year's Eric C. Watson Memorial Enviro-Fair, which was held on September 7th at Liberty Park in Plainfield. The District was to be manning the state's soil tunnel exhibit but, due to a scheduling problem, the soil tunnel was not available. Instead, the District setup an exhibit featuring soil health and information relating to soil conservation and management of soil, erosion control, and conservation practices. The exhibit was well received by the public and the District was asked by the sponsor of the fair, the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority, to be an exhibiter at next year's event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Performance Deposits for Conditional Reports of Compliance – The Board reviewed the District's policy for issuing conditional reports of compliance when conditions prohibit permanent stabilization of projects. The District requires applicants to post a performance deposit to guarantee completion of all permanent measures. The performance deposit amount is based on the disturbed areas on the site which will be permanently stabilized. A review of the District's performance amounts found them to be inadequate with the current rates for completing permanent stabilization of sites. As per the SSCC's policies and procedures, the Board agreed that the amounts for the performance deposits be raised to be more in line with the actual costs of completing this task. The Board decided to raise the District's current performance deposit amounts by \$1,000.00 accordingly. A motion was made by Bob Amberg to approve the rate change. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The amount the District charges for an administrative fee will not be affected.

2019 NJ Envirothon – Frank Calo informed the Board that the District had received a letter form Rich Belcher NJ Envirothon Coordinator, thanking the District for their support for the 2019 NJ Envirothon. This year's Envirothon hosted 27 teams with the winning team, the Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science placing 15th in the NCF North American Envirothon, held at the University of North Carolina.

2019 NJACD Conservation Achievements Awards – Frank Calo informed the Board that the District had been notified by Dennis Dougherty, President NJACD, that nominations for this year's outstanding achievements awards need to be submitted by November 12th. The Board reviewed the criteria for the various awards. The Board was again reminded by the manager that this year's SSCC/NJACD annual conference would be held on Monday December 2nd at the Rutgers Eco-Complex in Bordentown.

Stormwater Rule Compliance on Agricultural Development Activities - The Manager informed the Board that the District had received a notice from the State Department of Agriculture clarifying when agricultural development activity is subject to NJDEP stormwater rules. The Board reviewed what the District's requirements are in the review process for this type of project.

Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee FY 2019 4th Quarter – The Board was presented with an invoice for the Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee for FY 2019 4th quarter. The invoice was in the amount of \$3,300.00. A motion was made by Matt Loper and seconded to pay the invoice. The Board unanimously approved the payment of the invoice to the NJDA-SSCC.

4th Qtr. FY 2019 RFA Reimbursement – Frank Calo reported that the District had received an invoice from the Department of Agriculture for the fourth quarter RFA Reimbursement for FY 2019. The invoice was for the amount of \$3,300.00. Matt Loper made a motion to pay the RFA reimbursement invoice. The motion was seconded and the Board unanimously approved the payment of the invoice to the NJDA-SSCC.

Conservation Plans – Craig Chianese, NRCS, presented to the Board, 4 conservation plans for tracts in Hillsborough and Montgomery Townships and 1 request for assistance for a tract in Bridgewater Township. 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 8:10 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 8:21 p.m. A motion was made by Bob Amberg to approve the conservation plans and request for assistance applications as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Jim Laine recused himself from voting on the CTA conservation plan for the tract in Hillsborough.

District Action on Chapter 251 – After a review by the Board, 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. Matt Loper recused himself from voting on applications 2019-3911 and 2019-3838 of the certified list. Mark Kirby recused himself from voting on application 2019-3891 on the certified list.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Craig Chianese, NRCS, reported that Jill Ott, District Conservationist, is being temporarily assigned to the state office in Somerset. Also, that the Burnt Mills dam project was slated to start on October 7th.

SCD – Frank Calo reported on his chapter 251 activities.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, at 12 noon at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Calo
District Manager

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