

SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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**SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D.
DISTRICT MEETING
January 20, 2021**

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Ed Dec, Jim Laine, Bob Amberg, Matthew Loper, Jill Ott, Matthew D'Alessandro

ABSENT:

CALL to ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 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 MINUTES

A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the December meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Basin Inspection Agreement(s)- Matthew D'Alessandro reported that prior to his retirement, Frank Calo distributed letters to each municipality within the two counties offering a service by the District to perform inspections of storm water basins within the municipality which is a requirement of the MS4 permit issued by the NJDEP. The letters state that the District in cooperation with the NJDEP and NJ Department of Agriculture has developed a fee-based, non-regulatory service to provide mapping, inspection and reporting of the storm water facility conditions to municipalities. The Board inquired on specifics on the mapping and other requirements in order to assess a fee for the service. Matthew D'Alessandro stated that the requirements would be researched further and the specific details will be reported back to the Board to further discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Frank Calo retirement/New District Manager- Matthew D'Alessandro reported that Frank Calo has retired as of 12/31/20 and that Matthew D'Alessandro is his replacement. The Board members each gave an introduction as did Matthew D'Alessandro and Jill Ott of the NRCS.

New vehicle/quotes- As mentioned in the December, 2020 minutes, there is a need to purchase a new vehicle for the District since one of the older vehicles was reported to have a cracked frame and is no longer useable. Matthew D'Alessandro will seek 3 or more quotes prior to the next Board of Supervisors meeting where they will be presented to the Board for further discussion. A motion was made by Ed Dec and seconded by Jim Laine to seek the quotes and to have them reported back to the Board.

District Action on Chapter 251- Matthew Loper recused himself from SUSCD File #2018-3431 and SUSCD File #2019-4074. Ed Dec made a motion to approve the plans on the attached certified and completed list. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and approved by the Board.

49 Wertsville Road, Hillsborough- The Board was briefed on an ongoing issue at 49 Wertsville Road in Hillsborough. Matthew D'Alessandro reported that Tyler Wibbelt of the SUSCD met onsite with members of the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board on December 11, 2020 to view certain activities that have taken place which will necessitate a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control certification. A conference call took place on January 12, 2021 with Linda Peterson of High Plain Engineering who will be the design engineer to submit SESC plans for SESC certification. During discussion, Linda Peterson informed the District that she will be addressing the violations with the District and other agencies involved when designing and submitting the SESC plan. Linda Peterson will brief the District on her findings pursuant to her site visit planned and will work closely with the District moving forward to design a SESC plan and work towards rectifying the situation. The District plans to meet Linda

Peterson onsite in the near future along with the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board and will advise the SUSCD Board with progress made as we move forward.

SUSCD Board Nominations- Matthew D'Alessandro presented the nomination for SUSCD Chairman and a motion was made by Ed Dec to nominate Mark Kirby for Chairman. The motion was seconded by Matthew Loper and the Board unanimously passed. A motion was made by Matthew Loper to nominate Jim Laine for Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and the Board unanimously passed.

Conservation Plans – Jill Ott, NRCS District Conservationist, presented to the Board two Conservation Plans and one Conservation Agreement. A motion was made by Jim Laine to enter into closed session. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed. The Board entered into closed session at 12:45 p.m. A motion was made to exit closed session by Bob Amberg. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and approved by the Board. The regular meeting resumed at 12:55 p.m. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the Conservation Plans and Conservation Agreement (all together) as presented. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and approved by the Board.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Jill Ott, District Conservationist, reported that there will be some staffing changes and she will be relocating from the Frenchtown office to the Hackettstown office and thanked the Board for their cooperation and support over the years.

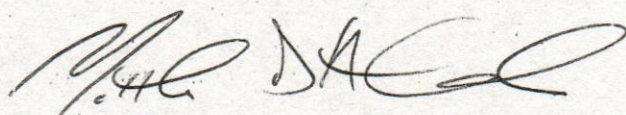
SCD – Matthew D'Alessandro thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as District Manager and looks forward to the future with the SUSCD.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at 12 Noon via phone teleconference.

Jim Laine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew D'Alessandro
District Manager