



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

Somerset County 4-H Center  
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### **SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING September 29, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Mark Kirby, Ed Dec, Jim Laine, Robert Amberg, Matthew D'Alessandro, Bianca Diaz Deliz (NRCS)

**ABSENT:** Matthew Loper

#### **CALL to ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 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 July, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The reports for July and August, 2021 were reviewed by the Board. Ed Dec made a motion to approve the reports. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Hunter Farms- Matthew D'Alessandro reported that the SUSCD issued a Report of Compliance for the storm water management improvement project on the Hunter Farms property on 8/4/21 and returned the erosion control performance deposit since final surface stability was achieved throughout the project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

District Action on Ch. 251- The SUSCD Board reviewed the certified and completed projects for the months of July & August, 2021. Ed Dec recused himself from SUSCD File #2021-4862, File #2021-4839 and File #2021-4894 on the certified list. Mark Kirby recused himself from SUSCD File #2020-4236 on the completed list. Rob Amberg made a motion to approve the plans on the certified and completed list for the months of July and August, 2021. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and was unanimously approved.

SUSCD staffing needs- Matthew D'Alessandro reported that several interviews were conducted and a candidate named Lisa Bernard was chosen to be the Administrative Assistant for the office. Lisa will start with the SUSCD on 10/1/21.

Annual Conference- Matthew D'Alessandro reported that the NJACD Annual Conference will no longer be in person. There will be a virtual format for the Annual Business Meeting on 11/10/21 and a virtual format for the NJACD/SSCC Caucus Meeting on 11/4/21.

Annual Audit- Matthew D'Alessandro reported that the annual audit started on 9/7/21 and that he will work with the auditor throughout the process. Matthew will report back to the Board with the outcome of the audit once completed.

Union County Salary Reimbursement-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that the SUSCD received the Union County salary reimbursement for the 2020 calendar year. Matthew will send a report of the permits received and accomplishments throughout Union County.

State Cost Share Program-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that there have been some adjustments to the State Cost Share Program. Mostly discussed were the changes to the share rates for irrigation systems. The board had a few questions that were answered by both Matthew D'Alessandro and Bianca Diaz Deliz of the NRCS. All agreed the changes were acceptable and there was no need for further discussion.

Conservation Plans- Bianca Diaz Deliz of the NRCS presented 4 Conservation Plans and 2 Requests for Assistance. A motion was made by Jim Laine to enter closed session. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed. The Board entered into closed session at 8:25 p.m and entered discussion regarding the plans and request. A motion was made to exit the closed session by Ed Dec and was seconded by Rob Amberg and unanimously passed. The regular meeting resumed at 8:26 p.m. A motion was made by Ed Dec to approve the conservation plan requests and request for assistance all together. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed.

**REPORTS:**

NRCS – Bianca Diaz Deliz provided her report for the months of July and August, 2021. She informed the Board about support and funding assistance from Hurricane Ida damage and how both counties the district covers may benefit from the assistance since the storm heavily damaged both counties.

SCD – Matthew D’Alessandro reported that there still is a large amount of SESC applications being received and the office is doing all they can to keep up with the activity. With the additional administrative assistance, the office should be even more efficient in providing timely responses to the applicants, engineers, municipalities, etc. Matthew also reported that there should be consideration to increasing the fee schedule for single family dwellings and the reasons behind the suggestion. Matthew will continue to provide reasoning behind the suggestion and will report back to the Board after proper research.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at noon at the district office.

Jim Laine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D’Alessandro  
District Manager