



**SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Somerset County 4-H Center  
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**SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D.  
DISTRICT MEETING  
July 27, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Mark Kirby, Robert Amberg, Matthew Loper, Jim Laine, Matthew D'Alessandro,

**ABSENT:** Ed Dec, Bianca Diaz Deliz (NRCS)

**CALL to ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 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 April 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The treasurer's reports for April, May, June 2022 were reviewed by the Board. Robert Amberg made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Matthew Loper and unanimously passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Montgomery soil dumping issue-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that he is working closely with JM Sorge and is signing documents from the NJDEP on behalf of Somerset County after the approval by the Somerset County Board of Commissioners for the testing/sampling and subsequent clean up of the illegally dumped soil on the grounds of a preserved farm. Matthew reported the clean up of the soil should take place in the next week or two. Matthew is working closely with the NJDEP, SADC, SCADB, county counsel, county administrator, landowner, town engineer, town administrator and state level law enforcement dealing with the matter and investigation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

District Action on Ch. 251- The SUSCD Board reviewed the certified and completed projects for the dates 4/28/22 to 7/27/22. Matthew Loper recused himself from SUSCD File #2017-2946 from the completed list. Matthew Loper made a motion to approve the plans on the certified and completed list for the time period of 4/28/22 to 7/27/22. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

Staffing-Matthew D'Alessandro updated the Board on various staffing issues and the need to hire another reviewer/inspector with a staffer out on extended sick leave. Matthew is dealing with Human Resources to have the position posted and will update the Board accordingly on any progress made.

Ransomware attack-Matthew reported that the SUSCD and Somerset County suffered a ransomware attack in the month of May 2022. The SUSCD was provided a temporary gmail account to use for the public to contact the office. Matthew used his cell phone to respond to all emails for the office since the computers and emails were unable to use. The office bought a second typewriter to produce documents needed for the applicants, towns, engineers, etc. (since the printers could not be used) to fulfill all statutory obligations and respond in a timely manner.

Pollinator garden-Matthew reported that the SUSCD partnered with the Xerces Society and Somerset County to obtain a Northeast Monarch and Pollinator kit. It has been planted and established at the Somerset County Roads & Bridges Department on Roycefield Road in Hillsborough, NJ. The kit includes milkweed and a variety of nectar plants, pollinator habitat signs and a planting guide.

Insurance coverage-Matthew reported that he is continuing dialogue with the insurance agent for the district who is consulting with underwriters for quotes of additional insurance coverages.

RFA invoice-Matthew reported that the RFA invoice was received for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY 2022 in the amount of \$2,685.00. A motion was made by Matthew Loper to pay the invoice as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and was unanimously passed by the Board.

Chapter 251 surcharge fee invoice-Matthew reported that the Chapter 251 surcharge fee invoice was received for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2022 in the amount of \$3575.00. A motion was made by Jim Laine to pay the invoice as presented. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and was unanimously passed by the Board.

Conservation plans-Bianca Diaz Deliz presented 7 conservation plans to be discussed. A motion was made by Jim Laine to enter closed session. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed. The Board entered closed session at 8:30 p.m and discussed the conservation plan requests. A motion was made by Jim Laine to exit the closed session. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed. The regular meeting resumed at 8:35 p.m. Matthew Loper recused himself from Block 907, Lots 48, 51.01, 52.5 in Bridgewater, NJ. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve all 7 conservation plans as one group. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed except for Matthew Loper recusing himself from Block 907, Lots 48, 51.01, 52.5 in Bridgewater, NJ.

### **REPORTS:**

NRCS – Bianca Diaz Deliz of the NRCS provided her monthly report and informed the Board that the NRCS workgroup for Northern NJ has been postponed due to local farmer’s schedules and staffing.

SCD – Matthew D’Alessandro informed the Board that the back office will be painted in the next few weeks. Matthew reported that the Fall growing season is upcoming and the district will instruct the applicants and contractors to provide temporary and permanent vegetative cover as much as possible heading towards the winter months which is considered a non-growing season. Matthew reported there is a new Union County Engineer and that the SUSCD office has been in communication and looks forward to working closely together.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Matthew Loper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the district office.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D’Alessandro  
District Manager