



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING February 15, 2023

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

ABSENT: NRCS

CALL to ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 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 Ed Dec to approve the January 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for the month of January 2023 was reviewed by the Board. Jim Laine made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Matthew Loper and unanimously passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Staffing-Matthew D'Alessandro updated the Board on new and existing staffing. Matthew informed the Board that a new full-time reviewer/inspector named Marcus Merlonghi will start on 2/21/23. Matthew discussed the need for a part time worker to assist the full time staff given the number of SESC

applications received the last few years. Matthew will update the Board accordingly when the part time worker is chosen and begins employment with the SUSCD.

NEW BUSINESS:

District Action on Ch. 251- The SUSCD Board reviewed the certified and completed projects for the dates from 1/19/23 to 2/15/23. Mark Kirby and Jim Laine recused themselves from SUSCD File# 2019-3775 from the certified list. Ed Dec recused himself from SUSCD File#2022-5375 from the completed list. Matthew Loper made a motion to approve the plans on the certified and completed list for the time period of 1/19/23 to 2/15/23. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed.

NJACD Invoice-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board an invoice was received from the 2023 NJACD Association dues in the amount of \$850.00. The Board discussed the invoice, and a motion was made by Jim Laine to pay the invoice as requested. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed.

Auditor Invoice-Matthew informed the Board an invoice was received from the auditor (Vernoia, Enterline & Brewer, LLC) in the amount of \$7,000.00. The Board discussed the invoice and a motion was made by Robert Amberg to pay the invoice in full. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

NRCS/SUSCD local working group-Matthew reported the SUSCD will host a local working group with the NRCS. The event will be held at the Somerset County 4H Building on 2/16/23 from 1-4 pm. The event will focus on existing funding and assistance opportunities and the needs of the local residents to help dictate future funding.

Stop Work Order update-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that he and Nick Chaballa of SUSCD met with the NJDEP on 2/9/23 to investigate the numerous violations on the recently issued Stop Work Order on a property in Far Hills along Route 287 North that has been importing fill for years directly adjacent to a C1 watercourse. Matthew reported he has been actively communicating with the Building, Engineering and Zoning departments of Far Hills and the NJDEP regarding enforcement from each entity.

Conservation plans-Christian Bench provided (in advance) 2 conservation plans for discussion. A motion was made by Ed Dec to enter into closed session. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed. The Board entered into closed session at 12:33 pm and discussed the requests. A motion was made by Jim Laine to exit closed session. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed. The regular meeting resumed at 12:39 pm. A motion was made by Ed Dec to approve both requests. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

REPORTS:

NRCS – none

SCD – Matthew D’Alessandro updated the Board on additional insurance coverages he and the insurance agent are investigating. Matthew reminded the Board there is an upcoming training session for district staff on 3/24/23 at the Freehold SCD with Edwin Muniz of the NRCS regarding GIS training.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ed Dec made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Matthew Loper and unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. at the district office.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D’Alessandro
District Manager