



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
March 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 12:04 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 February 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Staffing-Matthew D'Alessandro updated the Board on new and existing staffing. He informed the Board that two new employees started employment with the office. One is a part time worker assisting with

field and office work and one is a full-time reviewer/inspector. Both employees will be provided with training moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

District Action on Ch. 251- The SUSCD Board reviewed the certified and completed projects for the dates from 2/16/23 to 3/15/23. Matthew Loper recused himself from SUSCD File# 2023-5801 and SUSCD File# 2017-2875 from the certified list. Ed Dec recused himself from SUSCD File# 2015-1850 and SUSCD File# 2023-5795 from the certified list. Robert Amberg made a motion to approve the plans on the certified and completed list for the time period of 2/16/23 to 3/15/23. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

Chapter 251 Invoice-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board an invoice was received from the NJ Department of Agriculture for the Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee Reimbursement for FY 2023 1st Quarter (July-September 2022) in the amount of \$4,900.00 for 196 applications received. Ed Dec made a motion to pay the invoice. Robert Amberg seconded the motion and it unanimously passed.

RFA Invoice-Matthew informed the Board an invoice was received by the NJ Department of Agriculture for the RFA reimbursement for the FY 2023 2nd Quarter (October-December 2022) in the amount of \$3,105.00. Matthew Loper made a motion to pay the invoice. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed.

NRCS/SUSCD local working group-Matthew reported the SUSCD hosted a local working group at the Somerset County 4H Building with the NRCS. It was very well attended with two county commissioners, local municipal and design engineers, DEP agents, RC&D, etc. in attendance. The SUSCD has received excellent feedback about the event which educated the parties in attendance on current funding and assistance available. The SUSCD hopes to host the LWG annually.

Stop Work Order update-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that he and Nick Chaballa of SUSCD have been working closely with the NJDEP for a property in Far Hills that has been importing large amounts of soil onto the property for many years in direct proximity to a C1 water course without a valid SESC certification and/or NJDEP 5G3 Authorization.

NACD Grant Application-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that there was an opportunity to submit a NRCS grant application either for a planning and/or implementation grant through the district. Multiple ideas were discussed. A motion was made by Ed Dec to not move forward with any grant applications based on the volume of SESC applications received and limited staffing at this time. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

Front Entrance Improvements-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that he felt the front door entrance needs to be upgraded to add an intercom and "buzzer" to keep the door locked and allow the public in based on recent events that occurred at the office and in society. A quote was presented by Access Locksmiths in the amount of \$2,067.25. A motion was made by Ed Dec to approve the improvements based on the quote. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

Secretary Fisher Retirement Announcement-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that Secretary Fisher informed the office that he will be retiring from his position as Secretary of Agriculture effective July 1, 2023.

Conservation plans-none

REPORTS:

NRCS – none

SCD – Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board he will be attending a Raritan Borough Environmental Committee meeting on 4/20/23 at their request. He also informed the Board he is seeking grant opportunities with Somerset County and is in discussion with the NRCS about a few properties of interest for ideas such as deer fencing and community gardens. Matthew has been regularly attending Somerset County Agriculture Development Board meetings (monthly).

ADJOURNMENT:

Jim Laine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at the district office.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D'Alessandro
District Manager