



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

Somerset County 4-H Center  
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### **SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D. DISTRICT MEETING April 26, 2023**

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

**ABSENT:** Matthew Loper, Ed Dec, 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 Robert Amberg to approve the March 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

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

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

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Staffing-Matthew D'Alessandro updated the Board on new and existing staffing. He informed the Board that Marcus Merlonghi resigned five weeks after his start date. Matthew has been conducting interviews for a replacement. Matthew will advise the Board once the position is filled.

Front door improvements-Matthew reported that improvements were made to the front door entrance to keep the door locked with an intercom allowing communication and granted access for the public after a few recent events at the office prompting concern.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

District Action on Ch. 251- The SUSCD Board reviewed the certified and completed projects for the dates from 3/16/23 to 4/26/23. Robert Amberg made a motion to approve the plans on the certified and completed list for the time period of 3/16/23 to 4/26/23. 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 2nd Quarter (October-December 2022) in the amount of \$4,025.00 for 161 Ch. 251 applications received. Jim Laine made a motion to pay the invoice. Robert Amberg seconded the motion and it unanimously passed.

Robert Amberg renomination-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board that Robert Amberg was due for renomination for another term as Supervisor. Robert informed the Board he is interested in serving another term. Matthew and the Board expressed their gratitude and excitement that Robert will serve once again. Robert is an incredible asset to the Board and the district.

Soil & Water Cost Share Tables-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board the Soil and Water Cost Share Tables were due for review and approval. The Board entered discussion and reviewed the tables. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the tables. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed.

NJACD Poster Contest-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that the office received many impressive posters as part of the 2023 NJACD Poster Contest. Staff reviewed the posters and selected a winner from each category. The winning posters were sent to the state for the statewide contest.

Conservation plans-One Conservation Plan was presented in advance of the meeting from the NRCS. 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 7:24 p.m. and entered discussion. 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 7:28 p.m. A motion was made by Robert Amberg to approve the Conservation Plan request. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

### **REPORTS:**

NRCS – none

SCD – Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board he recently attended a Raritan Borough Environmental Committee meeting and discussed many opportunities for the town and residents.

Matthew informed the Board he is working closely with the NJDEP and DAG office regarding several soil dumping incidents within the two-county jurisdiction. Matthew reported the office is working closely with Somerset County to investigate funding opportunities from the NRCS and NJDA for projects such as community gardens and deer fencing. Lastly, Matthew reported that a few workers plan on bringing their kids to Bring Your Kids to Work Day on 4/27/23.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Jim Laine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Amberg and unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at the district office.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D'Alessandro  
District Manager