



## **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 July 26, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Mark Kirby, Bob Amberg, Ed Dec, Matthew Loper

**ABSENT:** Jim Laine, NRCS

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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 Bob Amberg to approve the June 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed.

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

The treasurer's report for the month of June 2023 was reviewed by the Board. Ed Dec 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. He informed the board that a part time ad was placed for an Assistant Inspector to assist the full-time staff due to an overwhelming amount of Ch. 251 applications received the last few years.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

District Action on Ch. 251- The SUSCD Board reviewed the certified and completed projects for the dates from 6/29/23 to 7/26/23. Matthew Loper made a motion to approve the plans on the certified and completed list for the time period of 6/29/23 to 7/26/23. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed.

Stop Work Order-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the board that a Stop Work Order was issued for a project holding a SESC certification and NJDEP 5G3 Authorization on Frontier Road in Bridgewater, NJ. Matthew and staff attended a site meeting with the applicant, Bridgewater Township and the NJDEP to discuss what steps will be needed to gain compliance with both permits and to rescind the Stop Work Order.

RFA Invoices-Matthew D'Alessandro presented two RFA invoices from the NJ Department of Agriculture. The first invoice is for the third quarter of FY 2023 in the amount of \$2,400.00. The second invoice is for the fourth quarter of FY 2023 in the amount of \$3,510.00. Matthew Loper made a motion to submit payment for both invoices. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and unanimously passed.

Internship Pilot Program-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the board that he is working closely with a Supervisor of the Upper Delaware SCD who sits on the State Soil Conservation Committee to implement an internship pilot program for the soil districts throughout the State of NJ. Matthew has been taking an intern and the Supervisor to various sites that hold SESC certifications once a week and has been going over review of SESC plans and the overall law districts govern.

Budget-Matthew Loper requested that the next budget be presented to the SUSCD Board for review and approval. Matthew D'Alessandro stated he will start working on it as soon as possible.

Executive Session-Christian Bench of the NRCS provided 2 Conservation Plans and 1 Conservation Agreement (in advance) for discussion. A motion was made by Matthew Loper to enter into closed session. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed. The Board entered into closed session at 8:03 pm and discussed the requests. A motion was made by Bob Amberg to exit closed session. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed. The regular meeting resumed at 8:08 pm. A motion was made by Ed Dec to approve the 2 Conservation Plans and 1 Conservation Agreement. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and unanimously passed.

**REPORTS:**

NRCS – none

SCD – Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board that the annual Partnership Conference will take place on 11/20/23, however the location has not yet been decided. He also informed the Board that the office has been receiving many concerns and complaints about the series of heavy rain events the last few

weeks. Matthew continues to work closely with the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board and both Somerset and Union Counties.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Matthew Loper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the district office.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D'Alessandro  
District Manager