



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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**SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D.
DISTRICT MEETING
January 24, 2024**

PRESENT: Mark Kirby, Bob Amberg, Ed Dec, Jim Laine, Matthew D'Alessandro, Matthew Loper, Christian Bench (NRCS)

ABSENT:

CALL to ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 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 December 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report for December 2023 was reviewed by the Board. Jim Laine made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and unanimously passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

2024 Meeting Schedule-Matthew D'Alessandro reported to the Board that the 2024 meeting schedule was posted on the website and in the local newspaper as required.

NEW BUSINESS:

District Action on Ch. 251- The SUSCD Board reviewed the certified and completed projects for the dates from 12/13/23 to 1/23/24. Ed Dec recused himself from SUSCD File#2023-6289 from the certified list. Matthew Loper recused himself from SUSCD File#2021-4951 from the completed list. Matthew Loper made a motion to approve the plans on the certified and completed list for the period of 12/13/23 to 1/23/24. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

Annual Reorganization Meeting-Matthew D'Alessandro opened the floor for nomination of the Chairman position as part of the annual reorganization meeting. A nomination for Mark Kirby as the SUSCD Chairman was made by Matthew Loper. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed. A motion was made by Matthew Loper to close the nomination for Chairman. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and unanimously passed. Mark Kirby, Chairman then opened the floor for nomination of Vice Chairman. Matthew Loper nominated Jim Laine as Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed. A motion was made by Bob Amberg to close nominations for the Vice Chairman position. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed.

Mailbox (outside front door)-Matthew D'Alessandro stated that he would like to submit a 4H Building and Grounds application for the installation and use of a mailbox outside the front door for packages and mail outside business hours. Matthew reported that he would like to seek approval before purchasing a mailbox. Matthew will submit the application and will report back to the SUSCD Board.

NJBOA Presentation-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that he was asked to do a presentation to the NJ Building Officials Association about the relationship between soil conservation districts and the townships, specifically the building departments. He will be doing the presentation on 2/28/24 in Scotch Plains, NJ.

District Manager Salary Request-Matthew D'Alessandro requested a salary increase request to the SUSCD Board to be commensurate with other district managers in the State of NJ managing districts in similar size and scope. He cited his recent accomplishments, experience, endeavors with both counties and being the newly anointed President of the NJ Employees Association for the program. Matthew D'Alessandro was requested to leave the room so the SUSCD Board could discuss. Upon returning to the meeting, the SUSCD Board stated they would need to table the discussion and would like to form a subcommittee to research the request further and would get back to Matthew D'Alessandro.

Executive Session: Christian Bench of the NRCS provided 1 Conservation Plan for discussion. A motion was made by Jim Laine to enter into closed session. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed. The Board entered into closed session at 12:45 pm and discussed the plan. 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 12:49 pm. A motion was made by Ed Dec to approve the 1 Conservation Plan. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Christian Bench updated the SUSCD Board that he is continuing to work with farmers in the region and is working on a few items in hopes of presenting to the Board soon.

SCD – none

ADJOURNMENT:

Ed Dec made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 12:00 noon at the district office.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D'Alessandro
District Manager