



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 June 26, 2024

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

ABSENT: Christian Bench, District Conservationist (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

The minutes of the April 2024 meeting were reviewed by the Board. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the April 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed. The April 2024 Executive Minutes were reviewed by the Board. A motion was made by Bob Amberg to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report for April and May 2024 was reviewed by the Board. Matthew Loper made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

OLD BUSINESS:**NEW BUSINESS:**

District Action on Ch. 251- The SUSCD Board reviewed the certified and completed projects for the dates from 4/24/24 to 6/25/24. Matthew Loper recused himself from SUSCD File#2024-6459 from the certified list and SUSCD File#2021-4601 from the completed list. Ed Dec recused himself from SUSCD File#2022-5646 from the completed list and SUSCD File#2024-6453 and SUSCD File#2024-6469 from the certified list. Jim Laine made a motion to approve the plans on the certified and completed list for the period of 4/24/24 to 6/25/24. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and unanimously passed.

Chapter 251 Surcharge Invoice FY 2024 Quarter 2-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board the Chapter 251 Surcharge Invoice FY24 Quarter 2 was received in the amount of \$3,550.00. A motion was made by Matthew Loper to pay the invoice as presented. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed.

FY 2025 Budget-Matthew D'Alessandro presented the FY 2025 Budget to the Board. Questions were presented and a discussion took place. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the FY 2025 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Matthew Loper and unanimously passed.

State of NJ Proclamation-Soil & Water Stewardship Week-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board that Governor Murphy issued a proclamation that April 28-May 5, 2024 would be recognized as Soil and Water Stewardship Week.

Supervisor term expiration/renomination-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board that Ed Dec was approved by the SSCC for a 1-year probationary period since he did not have enough credits for a full renomination at the time of his term expiration. Matthew D'Alessandro and the Board expressed their gratitude to Matthew Loper for his many years of service as a SUSCD Supervisor since he will not be seeking renomination.

Partnership training events with NRCS-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board of partnership training events taking place with the SUSCD, Somerset County Park Commission and the NRCS (federal partner) to investigate soil conditions for future planting and woodland management purposes. Soil samples will be taken by the NRCS soil scientists and reports will be generated. Assistance is being provided to the county because the SUSCD is a partner with the NRCS. The first event took place on 5/16/24 at Natirar Park in Peapack-Gladstone, NJ and there will be a future event at Colonial Park in Franklin, NJ. As the President of the NJ Employee's Association, Matthew D'Alessandro is encouraging all districts throughout the state to attend to learn about partnership opportunities for their districts. Supervisors can earn credits if they choose to attend. Matthew D'Alessandro has reached out to Union County government to see if they would like to benefit from the same opportunities and is scheduled to have a meeting and discussion with the Union County Director and Union County Engineer.

Union County Board of Agriculture Dinner-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board that he recently attended the Union County Board of Agriculture dinner as a guest of Supervisor Bob Amberg. Secretary

of Agriculture Ed Wengryn was in attendance. A Board meeting took place and was followed by dinner. The Union County BOA is made up of many different professionals with vast experience. Many discussions took place, and the dinner meeting was very beneficial for all. Matthew informed the Union County Board of Agriculture that he would like to investigate future partnerships and opportunities with the SUSCD office.

Employees Association/NJDEP 5G3 Presentation-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board that he set up a 6/26/24 statewide virtual meeting with the NJDEP for all 14 soil district to attend and view a presentation by Steve Mathis of the NJDEP concerning the NJDEP 5G3 Storm Water Discharge Authorization. The 5G3 Authorization is jointly enforced by the soil districts and the NJDEP for construction sites exceeding 1 acre in total soil disturbing activities. The meeting was presented as training for the NJ Employees Association and the NJDEP and took about two hours. Supervisors were encouraged to attend since they could receive credits for their attendance. Many questions were presented, and the meeting was beneficial for all and received positive feedback throughout the state.

Stop Work Order-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board that a Stop Work Order was issued for 751 River Road in Hillsborough, NJ for failure to secure a SESC certification prior to exceeding 5,000 square feet of soil disturbing activities. The SUSCD office will work closely with the township and applicant to gain compliance to work towards rescinding the SWO.

2024 Poster Contest-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board that the SUSCD office had two winners in the 2024 Poster Contest. Yuxin Tian won second place in the grade 10-12 division and Molli Giles won first place in the grade 7-9 division. The winners will be recognized in Trenton, NJ and Matthew will attend to present their awards.

Executive Session: Christian Bench of the NRCS provided 1 Conservation Plan, 1 Cost Share Agreement and 2 Conservation Agreements (in advance) for discussion. A motion was made by Jim Laine to enter closed session. The motion was seconded by Matthew Loper and unanimously passed. The Board entered closed session at 8:15 pm and discussed the requests. A motion was made by Jim Laine to exit the closed session. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed. The regular meeting resumed at 8:30 pm. A motion was made by Matthew Loper to approve the 1 Conservation Plan, 2 Conservation Agreements and 1 Cost Share Agreement together. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Christian Bench reported that he was in Washington D.C. for a leadership conference as 1 out of 11 people selected in 13 states. He was sorry he could not attend the meeting.

SCD – Matthew D'Alessandro reported that he is coordinating trainings and events as President of the NJ Employee's Association for the state program. Matthew informed the Board that he is proud of the staff for constantly learning and expanding their skill sets.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jim Laine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ed Dec and unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 7:30 pm at the district office.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D'Alessandro
District Manager