



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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**SOMERSET-UNION S.C.D.
DISTRICT MEETING
September 25, 2024**

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

ABSENT: Ed Dec

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 July 2024 meeting were reviewed by the Board. A motion was made by Jim Laine to approve the July 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and unanimously passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report for July and August 2024 was reviewed by the Board. Bob Amberg made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine 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 7/25/24 to 9/24/24. Jim Laine made a motion to approve the plans on the certified and completed list for the period of 7/25/24 to 9/24/24. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and unanimously passed.

Staffing- Matthew D'Alessandro reported that the part time intern submitted his resignation since he is taking a position with the NJ Forest Service. Matthew also reported that there is an ad placed for a full-time reviewer/inspector.

Open Supervisor position-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that he is working with the Nominating Committee to set a date to meet for the two nominations received for the open supervisor position.

Partnership Training Events with NRCS- Matthew D'Alessandro reported that SUSCD is continuing to hold site investigations and recently assisted the Union County Parks Department with a soils investigation at Warinanco Park in Roselle, NJ on 8/20/24. SUSCD Supervisor Bob Amberg attended the event. The NRCS and Rutgers Cooperative Extension performed an investigation and analysis and provided both written and lab reports to assist Union County with azalea bushes that were struggling to thrive.

NJDEP/Employees Association 5G3 Training Seminar-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that he is continuing to work with the NJDEP to improve communication and follow-up for enforcement when requested by the soil districts for the NJDEP 5G3 Authorization.

Stop Work Order-Matthew D'Alessandro informed the Board that a Stop Work Order was issued for a project in Peapack Gladstone, NJ that holds a SESC certification for a dredging operation. The SUSCD office is working diligently with the applicant, contractor and design engineer to receive revisions to work towards rescinding the SWO since the dredging operation has a timeline of 90 days with the NJDEP. The State Erosion Control Engineer has been involved and is assisting the district.

MUNCO Presentation-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that he was requested to speak at a MUNCO meeting in Sayreville, NJ which took place on 9/5/24. MUNCO consists of Construction Officials throughout the State of NJ. The presentation described the relationship between the soil districts and the building departments throughout the state.

Chapter 251 Surcharge Invoice-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that an invoice was received for the Chapter 251 Surcharge Fee for FY 2024 Quarter 4 (April-June 2024) in the amount of \$4,475.00. Bob Amberg made a motion to pay the invoice as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed.

Annual Partnership Meeting-Matthew D'Alessandro reported that the Annual Partnership Meeting for the state program will take place on 11/25 at the Rutgers Eco Complex in Bordentown, NJ. Matthew is

assisting the program with coordinating trainings and presentations for the event as the President of the NJ Employees Association.

Executive Session: A motion was made to enter closed session at 7:59 pm by Jim Laine. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and unanimously passed. A review and discussion took place for reimbursement in the State Cost Share Program. A motion was made to exit closed session at 8:02 pm by Bob Amberg. The motion was seconded by Jim Laine and unanimously passed. A motion was made in the open session by Jim Laine to approve reimbursement as presented. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and unanimously passed.

REPORTS:

NRCS – Christian Bench reported to the SUSCD Board about the Farm Bill and being a part of the leadership development team within the NRCS. HE looks forward to continuing the successes of the SUSCD office and the NRCS.

SCD – Matthew D’Alessandro reported that he will be attending a retirement dinner on 9/26/24 for Bill Laskowski who worked for the SUSCD office for over 30 years. Matthew reported that the State Erosion Control Engineer recently visited the office and performed field inspections with the staff and looked over plans with a newly hired engineer within the NJDA as part of a statewide effort. He also stated the annual audit has started and is underway. Matthew is working on setting up a Meet and Greet with the Employees Association and the NRCS since there are many new hires throughout the state for both agencies. The Meet and Greet will most likely take place in December or January.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jim Laine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bob Amberg and unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at noon at the district office.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D’Alessandro
District Manager