

## FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting  
April 8, 2015

4000 Kozloski Road  
Freehold, NJ

*I. Call to Order*

Chairman Charles Buscaglia called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

*II. Pledge of Allegiance*

*III. Roll Call*

*Present*

*Absent*

Charles Buscaglia

x

Bob Dreyer

x

Don Patterson

x(medical)

Roger Gravatt

x

Wayne Van Hise

x

Staff Present: Ines Zimmerman and Christina F. LaBianca

Others Present: Laura Coover, Natural Resources Conservation Services

*IV. Compliance Statement*

Christina F. LaBianca confirmed that the Open Public Meetings Act had been satisfied by notifying the Asbury Park Press, the Home News, and Monmouth and Middlesex County Clerks.

*V. Approval of Minutes*

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the February 11, 2015, regular meeting. Roger Gravatt made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Bob Dreyer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

*VI. Treasurer's Report (read by Bob Dreyer)*

The Board members reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Bob Dreyer made a motion to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. Gravatt – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia - yes.

*VII. Bills for Payment*

The board reviewed the bills for payment from March (in the amount of \$142,898.05, list attached). Bob Dreyer made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. Dreyer – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

The board reviewed the bills for payment for April (in the amount of \$299,995.69, list attached). Bob Dreyer made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. Dreyer – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

VIII. Correspondence

Education Reports from March and April

Invitation to 2015 NACD Northeast Regional Meeting in Davis, WV from August 4-8, 2015. The Northeast Association stated that the 2016 meeting will be back in New Jersey. Districts were asked to submit proposal to host. The meeting will most likely be in September of that year.

Geography of US Agriculture fact sheets were distributed from a state technical meeting that Ines attended with NRCS staff.

Chapter 251 Report

2012 Census of Agriculture Highlights – NJ  
Congressional District profiles

IX. Committee Reports

**A. Education Committee - MARCH**

1. Outreach:

- *Plants for Pollinators:* 6 new schools for 2015 have been selected and the teachers have returned their letters of agreement. The kits will be assembled and delivered by next month.
- *Trout in the Classroom:* Mid-project reports have been received. Trout Release Day at the Forest Resource Education Center will take place on May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- *Scholarships:* The 2015 Scholarship applications are available on our website and a release has gone out to newspapers, college and online scholarship sites.
- *Annual Report:* Is a work in progress.
- *Stewardship:* The 2015 Stewardship “Local Heroes – Your Hardworking Pollinators” materials are ordered and will be distributed by Earth Day.

2. NJ Conservation

- *NJ Flower Show:* Over 20,000 people attended the NJ Flower and Garden Show. The NJ Conservation Partnership display of “Conservation Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” was well received and we distributed our supply of seeds and most of the literature. The display won two first place awards for Most Educational and Best Environmental Focus and two second place awards for Most Colorful and Best Use of Structural Elements.

- *Envirothon*: Teams are registering. A planning meeting is set for the beginning of March. The 2015 event is May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 4-H fairgrounds in Cape-Atlantic County.
- *NJ Conservation Poster Contest*: Posters are due and will be judged this month. First place winners will be submitted to Trenton for the State level contest.

### **Education Committee - APRIL**

#### 1. Outreach:

- *County Fairs*: We have applied for space in both of the County Fairs.
- *Plants for Pollinators*: Kits will be delivered to the 8 new schools and seeds and starter soil went to the 25 returning schools. All the teachers were excited to have their equipment.
- *Trout in the Classroom*: We started promotion for two new schools to join TIC for 2015-2016. Release permits from NJDEP have been delivered and are now good for 3 years. Trout Release Day is set for May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- *Scholarships*: The 2015 Scholarship applications are available on our website and a release has gone out to newspapers, college and online scholarship sites. The deadline is April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- *Annual Report*: Is a work in progress.
- *Stewardship*: The 2015 Stewardship "Local Heroes – Your Hardworking Pollinators" materials will be delivered and will be used by 2,900 students.

#### 2. NJ Conservation

- *NJ Flower Show*: The bills were submitted to the NJACD for reimbursement.
- *Envirothon*: 38 teams are registered. Fundraising continues. The Central Jersey Team Training was held last month at the Forest Resource Education Center for 35 students. The 2015 event is May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 4-H fairgrounds in Cape-Atlantic County.
- *NJ Conservation Poster Contest*: District winners were selected and 1<sup>st</sup> place entries will be sent to Trenton for the State level competition.

### **B. Nominating Committee**

- This committee met yesterday regarding the expiring term of Charles Buscaglia. Mr. Buscaglia voiced that he is still interested in serving on the District Board. The committee reviewed Mr. Buscaglia's attendance and participation with the board over the last three years and offered their support with a continued recommendation to the State Soil Conservation Committee to re-appoint him for another three years.

- Also during this meeting, it was expressed to the committee that Henry Rupp has had to step down from his position on this committee due to health restrictions. Chairman Clayton thanked him for his service and a letter will be sent to him at his home. (A replacement will not need to be found at this time since there were six committee members with Mr. Rupp.)

X. District Manager's Report

1. *Destruction Request:* Files with a final disposition prior to 1/1/2009, are eligible for destruction. The District has identified 683 files that match these criteria. Bob Dreyer made motion to send the paperwork for the destruction certificate to the SSCC for approval. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
2. *Exempt Municipalities:* There are only two truly exempt municipalities left with the District, Piscataway and Sayreville. Reviews and reports have been done and both municipalities have received satisfactory ratings. Bob Dreyer made a motion to have the chairman sign all of the exempt municipality reports and forward them to the State Office for review. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.
3. *Budget Highlights:*
  - a) Replace the 2008 Ford Escape with a 2016 Ford Escape or equal with an estimated total cost with sale/trade-in of \$16,500
  - b) Website Update: the current website was created over eight years ago. The website is required to fulfill the transparency rules and regulations. The original company is no longer in business and the "language" used is outdated and we cannot get support. Three quotes have been received to update the site as well as live current support. The average quote cost is around \$7,000.
  - c) Three computers are due for replacement.
4. *Project Updates:*
  - a) Michael Infanti recently had to give a deposition in regarding Neptune Estates. Neighbors of the project are attempting to sue the builders and the township.

b) A PSE&G substation project is also under review by neighboring owners. The neighbors were in the office and completed an Open Public Records Act request. Within that request, they were given a copy of a review of certified revisions letter. Their engineer sent correspondence addressing his thoughts to the items to be addressed to the District as well as the SSCC. The District forwarded the request to the State Committee for a determination.

5. *Conservation Innovation Grant Request*: This grant is through the NRCS. Ines has submitted an application to the grant in partnership with the Mercer County SCD. It is for work in open space that borders agricultural land. It promotes better conservation management on county parks, forestry, fish & wildlife, etc. and examples include but are not limited to pollinator habitats. All applications have been received and are currently under review.

#### *XII: Old Business*

- The Central Regional Supervisor meeting was held on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Charlie, Wayne, Roger, Ines and Mike Hill attended. This meeting had better attendance than the other two regional meetings. The overall meeting was informative and good conversation between districts took place.

#### *XIII: Other Agency Reports*

##### **Laura Coover, NRCS**

- There are seven conservation plans ready for District signature:
  - In Howell for transition to organic farming
  - In Millstone for an energy CAP

These are all on Preserved Farms

- In Cranbury for West Orange Baby on tracts 87 & 88
- In Colts Neck for Ed Barney on tract 2257
- In Millstone for Bruce McNab on tract 1867
- In Allentown for Wayne Blanda on tract 1720
- In Colts Neck for Richard Amdur on tracts 2274 & 2276

Bob Dreyer made a motion to sign all seven conservation plans. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

*XIII: New Business*

1. Bob Dreyer made a motion to approve the attached lists of certified plans from March and April. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion passed.
2. There were no denied plans in March or April.
3. Bob Dreyer made a motion to approve the attached lists of authorized stormwater permits from March and April. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion passed.

*XIV: Adjournment*

Roger Gravatt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Dreyer seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously carried.

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 7:30 pm.

Charles Buscaglia  
Chairman

Christina F. LaBianca  
Secretary