

## FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting  
September 14, 2016

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

Roger Gravatt

x

Wayne Van Hise

x

Staff Present: Ines Zimmerman and Christina F. LaBianca

Others Present: Nicole Ciccaglione, Natural Resources Conservation Service

*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 July 13, 2016, regular meeting. Wayne VanHise 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 Wayne VanHise)*

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, Mr. VanHise – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

*VII. Bills for Payment*

The board reviewed the bills for payment from August as approved by the Committee of Purchase (in the amount of \$193,964.47, list attached). Wayne VanHise made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Bob Dreyer seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

The board reviewed the bills for payment for September (in the amount of \$162,111.08, list attached). Wayne VanHise 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, Mr. VanHise – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

VIII. Reports from other agencies represented

**Nicole Ciccaglione, NRCS**

- October 21<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to sign up for all programs for current budget year.
- Clare Flannagan has been hired as the new District Conservationist to cover the Monmouth/Middlesex/Mercer office her in Freehold. She is coming to New Jersey from Seattle, WA and will be starting on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Doug Kauffman will be working full time in the Columbus office.
- There are six conservation plans ready for District signature:
  1. In Howell for 1 year cover crop
  2. In Howell for forestry stewardship (CAP)
  3. In Howell for forestry CAP
  4. In Upper Freehold for equine initiative
  5. In Upper Freehold for equine initiative
  6. In Monroe for a conservation stewardship plan (CSP)

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

- There is one Cooperator Agreement ready for District signature in Old Bridge for 19 acres on Spring Valley Road. Wayne VanHise made a motion to sign the agreement. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

IX. Correspondence

Education Report

August 8, 2016 Request for sponsorship to the Farm Credit East fundraiser to support the NJ Agricultural Leadership Program

X. Committee Reports

**A. Education Committee**

1. Education Outreach:

- *County Fairs:* The Middlesex Fair was well attended with more than 85,000 visitors and ran for a full week. Our display included a small pollinator garden and an aquaponics setup. We gave out literature, activity booklets, lip balm/sunscreen sticks, seed sticks and poster contest and Tour de Farms information.
- *Birds, Bugs and Beyond:* We had the Soil Tunnel at the Birds, Bugs and Beyond Day hosted by 4-H and the Master Gardeners at our building. Over 300 visitors went through the tunnel as they entered the event.
- *Trout in the Classroom:* The equipment and supplies will be delivered this month. We have four new teachers joining the program this year.
- *Photo Contest:* The release has been sent to newspapers and is on our website. Monmouth and Middlesex Parks have received copies of the brochure along with the Forest Resource Center. The deadline is October 14<sup>th</sup>.

2. NJ Conservation

- *Poster Contest:* Holly is creating the NJ brochure for the 2017 Poster Contest – “Healthy Soils Are Full of Life.”

XI. District Manager’s Report

1. Bids for the Manalapan Brook Grant

- Princeton Hydro prepared a bid package for work to be done at Station 37 as part of the grant. Christina attended the bid opening on 9/7/16 and the minutes of the opening have been given to the board members. Princeton Hydro created a comparison sheet to make sure that each bid was reviewed on the same level. It is their recommendation that the bid be awarded to Down to Earth Landscaping. An Availability of Funds has been presented. Per resolution MBG 17-001, Bob Dreyer made a motion to accept the recommendation of Princeton Hydro and award the bid to Down to Earth Landscaping. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

2. Audit

- The auditors were in the office for seven days and have finished all they can do here. They are still waiting on some information from outside entities (lawyer and banks) to finish up. We may have a draft by the October meeting and a full audit to act upon by the November meeting.

3. Internet Cable Installation

- Optimum snaked the cable through to our office today. All remaining hook-up requirement should be completed by Friday.

4. Buck Mining

- Ines, Stacy and Paul C. have been speaking with Doug regularly regarding this project
- Buck has requested a new consent order. Doug has recommended that they write their own order with their own deadlines.

5. Driscoll Bridge area dust problem

- The District has received complaints regarding large amounts of dust rolling over the Driscoll Bridge causing hazardous conditions
- There are two projects currently active in the area. One is a small parkway ramp addition and one is a 27 acre commercial site.
- We have requested an on-site meeting with the engineers for both projects at the parkway headquarters.

6. Siloam Road

- The District has received complaints regarding runoff from the horse paddock on this site. Complaints have also been sent to the SSCC office.

- The opinion of the SSCC is that the project does not constitute an agricultural business; therefore, it is under the jurisdiction of the Chapter 251 program.
- The District is trying to gain compliance for the soil disturbance.

7. Conservation Innovative Grant Inventory

- A meeting was held on 7/15 to discuss the areas of need that may qualify for this grant's assistance. A deadline of 9/16 was given to receive these applications.
- As of today, there are six parcels in Middlesex County that have applied. Roosevelt Borough has also sent applications.
- All applications will be reviewed with the NRCS staff to determine implementation.

Bob Dreyer made a motion to accept and file the District Manager's report as presented. Wayne VanHise seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

*XII: Old Business*

- There was no old business to discuss this month.

*XIII: New Business*

1. Bob Dreyer made a motion to approve the attached lists from August and September of certified Soil Erosion and Sediment Control plans. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
2. There were no denied plans.
3. The Board has acknowledged the list of Authorizations to Discharge permits granted by the NJ DEP.

*XIV: Adjournment*

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at 7:30 pm.

Charles Buscaglia  
Chairman

Christina F. LaBianca  
Secretary