

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
February 12, 2014

4000 Kozloski Road
Freehold, NJ

I. Call to Order

Chairman Charles Buscaglia called the meeting to order at 1:30 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, Christina F. LaBianca, Michael Hill, & Mark Alliston

Others Present: Nicole Ciccaglione, NRCS and Tim Fekete, SSCC

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 January 8, 2014, regular meeting. Don Patterson made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Wayne Van Hise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

VI. Treasurer's Report

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. Patterson – yes, Mr. Van Hise – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

VII. Bills for Payment

The list of bills for payment was reviewed. After some discussion regarding the reimbursement of a tour taken during the NACD National Convention, Bob Dreyer made a motion that all expenses for the Hollywood Tour be refunded to the District (for both spouses and supervisors), since the tour was not necessarily conservation related. Don Patterson seconded the motion.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows: Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. Patterson – yes, Mr. Gravatt – abstain, Mr. Van Hise – abstain, and Mr. Buscaglia – abstain. Per Robert’s Rules of Order, “Since as majority in the affirmative is necessary to adopt the motion in the case mentioned, a final result in the form of tie rejects it. When there is a tie without the chair’s vote, the chair can vote in the affirmative, and such a vote adopts the motion; but if the chair abstains from voting, the motion is lost.” In this case, since the chair has abstained, the motion is lost.

It was discussed that prior to upcoming conservation conferences, activities shall be reviewed to determine the value to the mission of the districts. It shall also be stressed to conference planners, regionally and nationally, that activities should focus on the program. This tour was an unusual choice, considering all other tours focused on conservation practices and water conservation concerns in the west.

Wayne Van Hise made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Van Hise – yes, Mr. Patterson – yes, Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. Dreyer – abstain, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

VIII. Correspondence

Education Report

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 14, 2014 | Thank you note to Ms. Popkin for meeting with Ines and Doug Widman regarding the contract work to be done with the Manalapan Brook Grant |
| January 16, 2014 | Staff meeting minutes |
| January 21, 2014 | Memo from Frank Minch regarding N.J.A.C 2:90-1 et seq Rules adoption. The effective date for the new rules and the new SESC Standards in February 20, 2014. |
| January 29, 2014 | Memo from Frank Minch regarding Administrative Bulletin 2013-2.0 |
| January 30, 2014 | Request to Don Knesick at Pinelands Nursery for a plant stipend for the maritime forest garden in Bradley Beach |
| January 31, 2014 | Widman, Cooney & Wilson, LLC has announced the addition of Michael E. McGann (Widman, Cooney, Wilson, McGann & Fitterer) |
| February 4, 2014 | Thank you from NJ Agricultural Society for our donation |

February 7, 2014

Memo from Frank Minch regarding Administrative Bulletin 2013-1.0

Non-Profit Exhibitors Registration Form for NJ Mosquito Control Association Annual meeting

IX. Committee Reports

Education Committee

1. Education Outreach:

- *Stewardship:* The 2014 Stewardship theme is “Dig It: Mysteries in the Soil” and orders are coming in from teachers for the materials which will be received in April
- *Plants for Pollinators:* We have 18 applications and are in the process of selecting the 10 new schools for 2014.
- *Trout in the Classroom:* Mid-project reports are due by the end of February. Trout Release Day at the Forest Resource Education Center will take place May 21st.
- *Scholarships:* The 2014 Scholarship applications are available on our website and a release has gone out to the newspapers.
- *Annual Report:* Agency reports are being submitted.
- *Soil Summit:* The soil tunnel was provided for the first NJ Soil Summit at Rutgers University, hosted by NJ 4-H. There were 86 students from across the state as well as 25 teachers that participated in hands-on activities in understanding soil science. Holly provided an activity on soil erosion. The event went very well.

2. NJ Conservation Partnership

- *NJ Flower Show:* The NJ Conservation Partnership display of “Conservation Keeps America Blooming” is February 13th-16th at the NJ Convention Center in Edison.
- *Envirothon:* The next planning meeting is set for late February. Fundraising continues. The 2014 Envirothon is set for May 3rd at the School of Conservation in Branchville, NJ.
- *NJ Conservation Poster Contest:* Holly created the NJ brochure for the 2014 Poster Contest with the theme *Dig Deeper: Mysteries in the Soil*.

X. District Manager’s Report

1. Public Agency Compliance Officer Resolution

- Per a resolution by attorney, Doug Widman, Ines will be designated as an appointee to serve as the *Public Agency Compliance Officer* (PACO) for all District matters as well as those related to the Manalapan Brook Grant.
- For the grant work, this will mean that there will be verification of appropriate wages being paid based on the prevailing wages for said projects.
- Bob Dreyer made a motion to appoint Ines as the PACO. Wayne Van Hise seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

2. Possible appeal of fee schedule decision – file 2013-0238

- For FSCD project 2013-0238, Camelot at Helmetta (parcels 2, 3 & 4). Based on what the applicants filled out on the application and the set of plans that were submitted and the new fee schedule, it was determined that the fee received was insufficient for this project.
- Mark Alliston explained to the Board what the project involved and how the fee was calculated by him and Assistant District Manager, Mike Hill. The full fee has since been paid by the applicant, but per an email from the applicant's attorney, it is being paid under protest. They are requesting another review of the project and fee schedule. At this time, the fee has been received and review is underway.
- Doug Widman, FSCD attorney will reach out to the applicant's representative for clarification.

XI: Old Business

NACD National Conference was held in Anaheim, CA. The overall conference went well and was very informative.

XII: Reports from other agencies represented

Nicole Ciccaglione, NRCS

- Handed out a newsletter from FSA as well as information on an upcoming open auction of land in Cranbury owned by FSA.
- There was a press release regarding an easement program for Sandy Areas. The deadline for the sign up for this program is April 18th. The projects have to have non-tidal impacts from Superstorm Sandy
- There will be a Soil Health Form on February 18th, all are welcome to attend
- The new Farm Bill was signed on February 7th. NRCS continues to work on the ranking evaluations, but all program disbursements have been frozen until the new Farm Bill changes are edited.

Tim Fekete, SSCC

- Had a few handouts regarding activities at the state level and by Secretary Fisher from the State's website
- The two main phones lines are currently down at the state offices, but they hope to be up and running by the end of the week

XIII: New Business

1. Bob Dreyer made a motion to approve the attached list of certified plans. Don Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed.
2. There were no denied plans.
3. Bob Dreyer made a motion to approve the attached list of authorized stormwater permits. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

XIV: Adjournment

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

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at 1:30 pm

Charles Buscaglia
Chairman

Christina F. LaBianca
Secretary