

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
March 12, 2014

4000 Kozloski Road

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 Frank Minch, SSCC and Gabor Grunstein, FSA

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 12, 2014, regular meeting. Roger Gravatt made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Don Patterson 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. Wayne Van Hise seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Bills for Payment

The list of bills for payment was reviewed. Bob Dreyer made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. Van Hise – yes, Mr. Patterson – yes, Mr. Gravatt – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

VIII. Correspondence

Education Report

IX. Committee Reports

Education Committee

1. Education Outreach:

- *Plant for Pollinators:* 6 new schools for 2014 have been selected and the teachers have returned their letters of agreement. The kits will be assembled and delivered next month.
- *Trout in the Classroom:* Mid-project reports have been received. 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, colleges, and online scholarship sites.
- *Annual Report:* Agency reports are being submitted.
- *Stewardship:* The 2014 Stewardship “Dig Deeper: Mysteries in the Soil” materials are ordered and will be distributed by Earth Day.

2. NJ Conservation Partnership

- *NJ Flower Show:* Over 20,000 people attended the NJ Flower & Garden Show. The NJ Conservation Partnership display of “Conservation Keeps America Blooming” was well received and we distributed our supply of seeds and most of the literature.
- *Envirothon:* Teams are registering. A planning meeting is set for the beginning of March. The 2014 event is May 3rd at the School of Conservation in Sussex 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.

X: *Reports from other agencies represented*

Frank Minch, SSCC

- The HEP District has requested assistance from the Attorney General, but the case is still being reviewed at this time. It is unclear if the Department will be involved.

Gabor Grunstein, FSA

- The 2014 Farm Bill was sign by President Obama on February 7th. Most of the programs included are authorized and funded through 2018 as administered by FSA.
- A Fact Sheet on the Bill was handed out for review.

Nicole Ciccaglione, NRCS

- New Farm Bill information is still coming in and being reviewed.
- Applications are coming in for many programs and they are being processed as much as possible for now.
- Deadlines are: EQIP-CAPS 3/21, 4/18, & 5/16
WHIP 4/18
WHIP-WLFW 3/21
EQIP – Energy 3/21 & 4/18
EQIP – Health Soil 3/21
EQIP – Organic/Transition 3/21 & 4/18
- A Conservation Plan for Upper Freehold is ready for District signature. The plan was prepared because the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board received a complaint and asked NRCS to assist as an expert. Don Patterson made a motion to sign the Plan, Wayne Van Hise seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Patterson – yes, Mr. Van Hise – yes, Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. Gravatt – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – abstained.
- A Cooperator’s Agreement with the Highland Park Environmental Commission is ready for District signature. Bob Dreyer made a motion to sign the Agreement. Don Patterson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.
- April 18th is the deadline for the Flood Plain Easement Program for those affected by Superstorm Sandy.

XI. District Manager’s Report

1. Possible fee appeal update for FSCD file 2013-0238
 - Ines spoke to Doug Widman, and he spoke to the applicant’s attorney regarding what action they wanted to take at this point
 - Ines, Mike and Mark reviewed the plan together and came up with two possible options combining multi-unit residential and commercial use. Doug will present these options.
 - If these options are not acceptable to the applicant, Ines will bring it back to the Board for discussion and further action.
2. Fiscal year 2015 Budget
 - Letters have been sent out for estimates for the new FY15 budget
3. New Standards
 - Changes went into effect on 2/20/14
 - The Standards are not in print, they are online only. Ines printed out copies for our staff
 - There are a few errors that have been found and need to be corrected
 - Our staff is having a meeting to run through the new standards as a group and discuss the changes
4. Manalapan Brook Grant
 - Our next meeting is set for March 24th

5. Regional Supervisor Meeting

- The Central meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th
- All five supervisors and Ines plan to attend

XII: Old Business

Travel expense guidelines from the Middlesex County Mosquito Commission and other states regarding travel and meetings were distributed. Ines is working on a policy for a new administrative manual for all districts to use.

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. Don Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
4. The Northeast Regional Meeting will be August 24th – 26th in Newport, Rhode Island this year.
5. The Annual State Conference will be either November 16th-17th or 23rd-24th in Jersey City this year.

XIV: Adjournment

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

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at 7:30 pm

Charles Buscaglia
Chairman

Christina F. LaBianca
Secretary