

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
April 12, 2017

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: Michael Hill and Christina F. LaBianca

Others Present: Clare Flanagan, 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 March 8th, 2017, regular meeting. Wayne VanHise made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Donald 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. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by the following roll call vote: Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Gravatt – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

VII. Bills for Payment

The board reviewed the bills for payment for March (in the amount of \$290,261.34, list attached). Bob Dreyer made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Wayne VanHise seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes, Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. Patterson – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

VIII. Correspondence

Education Report

April 3, 2017

This Week in Farm Bureau

IX. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

1. Education Outreach:

- *County Fairs:* We have applied for space in both the County Fairs.
- *Plants for Pollinators:* Kits will be delivered to the new schools and seeds and starter soil will go to the 26 returning school. All the teachers were excited to have their equipment.
- *Trout in the Classroom:* We started promotion for two new schools to join TIC for 2017-2018. New release permits from NJDEP have been delivered and are now good for three years. Trout Release Day is set for May 17th.
- *Scholarships:* The 2017 scholarship applications are available on our website and a release has gone out to newspapers, colleges and online scholarship sites. The deadline is May 12th.
- *Annual Report:* Reports are being worked on.
- *Stewardship:* The 2017 Stewardship “*Healthy Soils Are Full of Life*” materials will be delivered and will be used by 3,000 students.

2. NJ Conservation

- *NJ Flower Show:* The bills were submitted to NJACD for reimbursement.
- *Envirothon:* 33 teams are registered. Fundraising continues. The Central Jersey Team Training will be held this month at the Forest Resource Education Center for 48 students. The 2017 event is May 13th at Schooley’s Mountain County Park in Morris County.
- *NJ Conservation Poster Contest:* District winners were selected and 1st place entries will be sent to Trenton for the State level competition.

X. District Manager’s Report

1. Exempt Municipality Review

- All reports and documentation are now submitted to the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) via an online portal per the new regulations.
- Piscataway is receiving a satisfactory rating.
- Sayreville is receiving a NOT Satisfactory rating. Copies of quarterly reports as well as photos of problematic sites were supplied to the board for examples.
- Bob Dreyer made a motion to accept and endorse the recommendations of the District staff for the Exempt Municipality reviews. Wayne VanHise seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

2. Electronic Plan Submittal

- Electronic copies of an engineer’s seal will now be accepted on plan. Hard copies of the actual plans will still need to be submitted.

3. Computer Inventory

- The sale of the computer surplus has been completed per the online GoveDeals.com application. The District will receive \$130.00 for the surplus.

- While reviewing the upcoming proposed computer budget for FY18, it was determined that there is a surplus in category 11 (Vehicle and Equipment Purchase) of this year's budget. Mike proposed the purchase of five towers, one scanner and one battery back-up unit to be purchased in this fiscal year to reduce the proposed budget for FY18. The upgrade of Windows is a necessity in FY18 and the estimated cost is about \$11,000.
- Bob Dreyer made a motion to purchase the 5 towers, scanner and battery in this fiscal year. Donald Patterson seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. Patterson – yes, Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.
 4. Supervisor re-appointments.
- There terms of both Robert Dreyer and Wayne VanHise are due to expire on 6/30/2017. Both have voiced their interest to continue to serve on the District's Board. Both signed their respective re-appointment and self-evaluation forms.
- The Nominating Committee will be meeting in the beginning of May to approve the re-appointments and send the necessary paperwork to the SSCC for approval.

XI. Reports from other agencies represented

Clare Flanagan– NRCS

1. There are three conservation plans ready for District signature:
 - In Millstone on tract 1495
 - In Allentown on tract 69
 - In Colts Neck on tract 2976
2. Bob Dreyer made a motion to sign the three conservation plans presented to the board. Donald Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
3. One cooperator's agreement is ready for District signature with Donna Rue in Cream Ridge. Bob Dreyer made a motion to sign the cooperator agreement, Donald Patterson seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

NRCS is looking into starting an Apprentice Planner program. Courtney Davidson from our office may be a good candidate since she has completed the NRCS "Boot Camp."

XII: Old Business

- There was no old business to discuss this month.

XIII: New Business

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

4. The Open Space Conservation Cooperative (OSCC) is requesting to borrow \$38,200 from the District to cover payments on current projects since per the USDA-NRCS CIG Grant in which the OSCC is funded only reimburses up receipt of a paid invoice. Per the grant, repayment to the District is guaranteed. Bob Dreyer made a motion to “loan” the \$38,200 to the OSCC once the District’s attorney (Mr. Widman) has reviewed the contracts and found them to be sound. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Patterson – yes, Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

XIV: Adjournment

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10th, 2017, at 7:30 pm.

Charles Buscaglia
Chairman

Christina F. LaBianca
Secretary