

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
November 8, 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: Ines Zimmerman and Christina F. LaBianca

Others Present: none

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 September 13, 2017, regular meeting. Bob Dreyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Wayne VanHise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

VI. Treasurer's Report

The Board members reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Robert Dreyer made a motion to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion was passed was passed by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. Patterson – yes, Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. VanHise-yes and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

The board discussed the merger at the bank where the District currently houses our money market accounts. Mr. Buscaglia spoke to the bank that holds our certificates of deposit and they offered a higher interest rate for these accounts. We are still waiting on a rate from the bank where the day-to-day accounts are held. Wayne VanHise made a motion to move or leave the money market accounts in whichever bank will offer the District the highest interest rate. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

VII. Bills for Payment

The board reviewed the bills for payment from October as approved by the Committee of Purchase (in the amount of \$154,913.53, list attached).

The board reviewed the bills for payment for November (in the amount of \$169,030.58, list attached). Robert 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. Gravatt – yes, Mr. Dreyer – yes, Mr. Patterson – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

VIII. Correspondence

Education Report

Pricing suggestions from C.W. Gravatt & Son, Inc. for the Cost Share Table

Copy of the Proposed 2018 NJACD budget

October 6, 2017

SSCC meeting request from the Hudson-Essex-Passaic SCD regarding critical looming issues

Copy of Invoice of donated plants from Pinelands Nursery & Supply for a Middlesex Park project

IX. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

1. Education Outreach:

- *Monroe Green Fair:* Brian and Courtney attended the Green Fair in Monroe Twp. where over 1,500 visitors went through the soil tunnel.
- *Trout in the Classroom:* Eggs were delivered to all the schools. Eggs have hatched across the state. We are continuing to raise rainbow trout instead of brook trout.
- *Photo Contest:* 20 entries were received this year. The winner will be selected and notified by the end of the month.
- *Plants for Pollinators:* Reports are coming in from teachers on their fall garden activities and observations.

2. NJ Conservation

- *Poster Contest:* Holly is finishing the brochure for the poster contest. The theme for the 2018 contest is - *Water Sheds: Our Water, Our Home.*
- *Envirothon:* A meeting will be taking place this month. The 2018 event will be held at Camp Grice in Elmer, NJ. Holly is editing the Envirothon annual newsletter.
- *Flower Show:* We are planning for the 2018 Flower Show, which will be held February 22-25. The theme is “Disney.”

X. District Manager's Report

1. State Association Meeting

The NJACD approved their proposed budget. Mike Brown from NRCS spoke to everyone about the importance of more and more agencies partnering with NRCS. Districts used to be the first line partner, but now such groups as Trout in the Classroom, Pollinators in the Classroom and Ducks Unlimited have been involved. More agencies are now tapping into the federal monies available through NRCS. Mr. Brown feels there needs to be a tighter network between the district and NRCS.

NACD and NRCS have paired to offer a grant. Ines explained this grant in length and feels it is worth if for the District to apply for \$25,000 to be used towards training Courtney to assist NRCS in conservation plans. The money would cover the cost of her to be an apprentice in these tasks. Roger Gravatt made a motion to apply for the \$25,000 grant and if it is approved will readdress the uses/acceptance. Wayne VanHise seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

2. Computer Upgrades

The upgrade to MS Office 16 seems to have gone well so far. Still working some merging issues for correspondence. The next set of computers that are due to be ordered for the clerical staff will have a little bigger and better processors since these are used all day long.

3. Mapping Proposal

The new mapping system we would like to purchase is updated every 6 to 8 weeks compared to the one we currently use which has a much longer period between updates. The current proposal is for \$10,000. Ines and Mike have been speaking with them and are trying to negotiate it to \$8,500 a year for up to 5 years. More information will follow at next meeting with an update.

4. Changes to Standards

The change in the standards to include the soil compaction component will take effect on December 7th and will affect any plan received on this date and after. The SSCC had a training session yesterday with 95 attendees to discuss these changes and another training is scheduled for November 29th and it will have 95 attendees as well.

5. Truck Bids

One dealer bid and two private bids were received. Hertrich Fleet Services had the only bid for the 2018 Ford Escape and had the highest bid for the trade-in 2008 Ford Ranger. The Escape cost is \$21,110 and the Ranger trade-in value is \$4,400; therefore, making the net price to be \$16,710.00. Per resolution 2018-007, Robert Dreyer made a motion to accept the bid package from Hertrich Fleet Services. 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. Van Hise – yes and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

6. Audit

The Fiscal Year 2017 audit was received and reviewed by the board members. Robert Dreyer made a motion to accept the audit as presented and forward to the State Soil Conservation Committee. Wayne VanHise seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

XI: Old Business

- The High Density Waste Management Plan for Gaitway Farms in Manalapan is ready for District signature. Robert Dreyer made a motion to accept and sign the plan and send it to the NJ Department of Agriculture for review. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.
- All hotel reservations and registrations for the 2018 Annual NACD Conference have been made.

XII: New Business

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

XIII: Reports from other agencies represented

None

XIV: Adjournment

Robert 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, December 13, 2017, at 1:30 pm.

Charles Buscaglia
Chairman

Christina F. LaBianca
Secretary