

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
September 13, 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: Clare Flanagan, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Tim Fekete, State Soil Conservation Committee

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 12, 2017, regular meeting. Bob Dreyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

VI. Treasurer's Report

The Board members reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Roger Gravatt made a motion to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Wayne VanHise seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

VII. Bills for Payment

The board reviewed the bills for payment from August as approved by the Committee of Purchase (in the amount of \$181,398.94, list attached). The board reviewed the bills for payment for September (in the amount of \$165,038.04, list attached). Donald Patterson 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

July 24, 2017	This Week in Farm Bureau
August 14, 2017	This Week in Farm Bureau
August 23, 2017	This Week in Farm Bureau
August 28, 2017	This Week in Farm Bureau
September 5, 2017	This Week in Farm Bureau

IX. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

1. Education Outreach:

- *County Fairs:* The Middlesex County Fair was well attended with more than 85,000 visitors and ran a full week. Our display included a small pollinator garden and an aquaponics setup. We gave out literature, activity books, lip balm/sunscreen sticks, seeded bookmarks, bags, photo contest and Tour de Farms information.
- *Birds, Bugs & Beyond:* We had the Soil Tunnel at Birds, Bugs & 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. Middlesex and Monmouth County Park have received copies of the brochure, along with the Forest Resource Education Center. The deadline is October 20th.

2. NJ Conservation

- *Poster Contest:* Holly is creating the NJ brochure for the 2018 Poster Contest, the theme is - *Water Sheds: Our Water, Our Home.*

X. District Manager's Report

1. Sayreville SSCC Update

At the July FSCD meeting it was determined that the District would send a request to the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) to have the exempt municipality status revoked from Sayreville. This request was discussed at the SSCC meeting on September 11th. It was determined that the SSCC would write a letter to the Borough of Sayreville stating that their exempt status is under State review and the they have received a failed status from the Freehold District.

2. Exemption Applications

The Freehold District is one of four districts that do not charge for exemption determination. After review, Ines feels this is still a good policy to keep.

3. Right to Know Farm Information

A meeting was held in the Burlington office of NRCS to hand out information and get feedback from local work groups to discuss changes. The meeting was well received.

4. NRCS Cost Share Assistance

Tim Fekete from the SSCC office discussed this topic. The SADC cost share program is set to roll out in the next thirty days. NRCS will be performing the technical work since CAP employees are no longer available. Dave Klapp has been checking the current applications for necessary information. The District was asked to let the farming community know that the cost share program is open again. State preserved lands have first priority then county preserved lands. Over the last eight months or so about thirty applications have been received and are under review. The reimbursement rate will be 50% with a maximum of \$60,000.

5. Soil Restoration Standards

The new soil restoration standard goes into effect on December 8, 2017. All plans received on and after this date will need to meet the new standards for compaction treatment and will be subject to the new inspection rules as well. Builders will have to demonstrate the work has been done before the District can issue a report of compliance. The new standard does not need to be demonstrated within twenty feet of a foundation, but other areas will need to demonstrate friable soil at least 6" deep before seeding.

XI: Old Business

- The attendance at the Northeast Regional meeting in Burlington, VT was discussed.

XII: New Business

1. Bob Dreyer made a motion to approve the attached lists for 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 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

Clare Flanagan, NRCS

- All EQIP application are due by October 20th for FY 2017
- Forestry and CAP applications need to be sent in as soon as possible.
- The funds for this fiscal year will be split into three section to represent applications received in North, Central and Southern New Jersey.

- There are eight (8) conservation plans ready for District signature.
 1. Morganville, tracts 2393 and 2396
 2. Howell, tract 735
 3. Monroe, tract 1221
 4. North Brunswick, tract 602
 5. Wall, tract 2983
 6. Howell, tract 2087
 7. Millstone, tract 2984
 8. South Brunswick, tract 800

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

Tim Fekete, SSCC

- Handed out copies of Secretary Fisher's report to the NJ Board of Agriculture.
- State Ag officials applaud FDS for extending FSMA farm inspection and water quality timeline.
- NJ FFA member a finalist for National Proficiency Award
- Grants available for Gleaning organizations
- The NRCS Cost Share table was presented for District approval. Bob Dreyer made a motion to approve the NRCS cost share table and additions, but holding the last page for further review by Roger Gravatt. Wayne VanHise seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

XIV: Adjournment

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at 7:30 pm.

Charles Buscaglia
Chairman

Christina F. LaBianca
Secretary