

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
March 13, 2019

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 and Stephen Grosch

Others Present: none

IV. Compliance Statement

Christina F. LaBianca confirmed that the Open Public Meetings Act has 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 9, 2019, regular meeting. Wayne VanHise made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

VI. Treasurer's Report (read by Wayne VanHise)

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 passed unanimously.

VII. Bills for Payment

The Board reviewed the bills as approved by the Committee of Purchase for February (in the amount of \$176,634.08, list attached). Wayne VanHise made a motion to accept the listing as presented. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

The Board reviewed the bills for payment for March (in the amount of \$191,847.62, list attached). Roger Gravatt 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. VanHise – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

VIII. Correspondence

February & January Education Reports

- January 10, 2019 Letter to Mr. Ettore, P.E., regarding three Monmouth County Bridges, with supporting District issued letters. Two bridges are in Neptune and one is in Howell. Stop Work Orders were issued. The one in Howell has been fixed and is complete. The two in Neptune are still being worked on.
- January 16, 2019 SADC approval of cost share request for Down to Earth Farms, LLC
- January 17, 2019 Letter to District from John Showler, SSCC State Engineer, regarding 25 Harvey Road in Upper Freehold. This letter is in response to an on-site meeting with FSCD staff, John and Roger Gravatt.
- January 17, 2019 Letter to District from John Showler, SSCC State Engineer, regarding Montgomery Cannon Estates on Gina Drive in Upper Freehold
- Senate No 1073, Clean Stormwater & Flood Reduction
- The regional supervisor meeting will be: Central-4/3, South-4/9, and North-4/11. Locations are the same as last year. Registration information will be sent out soon.

IX. Committee Reports

A. **Education Committee**

FEBRUARY

1. Education Outreach:

- *Stewardship:* The 2019 Stewardship theme is “*Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper*” and orders are coming in from teachers for the materials which they will receive in April.
- *Plants for Pollinations:* We have applications and are in the process of selecting the new schools for 2019.
- *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 on May 21st.
- *Scholarships:* The 2019 scholarship applications are available on our website and a release has gone out to newspapers as well as online on *FastWeb* and *Wintergreen Orchard House* (college scholarship websites).
- *Annual Report:* Requests for agency reports have been requested with the deadline of February 28th.
- *Soil Tunnel:* We had the Soil Tunnel program provided to a group of students from the Red Bank Charter School at the Agricultural Building where they were educated on important factors of healthy soil.

2. NJ Conservation

- *Envirothon:* A next planning meeting is set for mid-March. Fundraising continues. The 2019 event is set for May 11th at Great Times Day Camp in Camden County.
- *Poster Contest:* The 2019 Poster Contest brochure has been sent out with the theme of: *Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper*.

March

1. Education Outreach:

- *Plants for Pollinations:* New schools for 2019 will be selected and the teachers have returned their letters of agreement. The kits will be assembled and delivered by next month.
- *Trout in the Classroom:* Mid-project reports have been received. Trout Release Day at the Forest Resource Education Center will take place on May 16th.
- *Scholarships:* The 2019 scholarship applications are available on our website and a release has gone out to newspapers, colleges and online scholarship sites. *Annual Report:* Reports are coming in.
- *Stewardship:* The 2019 Stewardship “*Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper*” materials will be ordered and will be distributed by Earth Day.

2. NJ Conservation

- *Envirothon:* Teams are registering. A planning meeting is set for the end of March. The 2019 event is set for May 11th at Great Times Day Camp in Camden County.
- *Poster Contest:* Posters are due and will be judged this month. First place winners will be submitted to Trenton for the state level contest.

B. **Nominating Committee**

The terms of Donald Patterson and Roger Gravatt will expire June 30, 2019. Both have agreed to remain on the Board; therefore, re-nomination forms have been completed and signed and will be given to the State Soil Conservation Committee for re-appointment.

X. District Manager's Report

1. Sweetmans Lane Project

- This is a Manalapan Brook Grant project. The grant received the drawn down funds from DEP so we are able to move forward. Ines met with Dawson Corporation, the contractor. Since the bid was accepted prices have gone up while awaiting the funds; therefore, the District and Rutgers will assist with plant plugs to keep the project in budget.

2. NACD Presentation

- Ines created a booklet and PowerPoint presentation regarding the work done by the Open Space Conservation Cooperative, then handed out and presented at the NACD Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX. The booklet was a deliverable for the grant requirements as well. Both were well received.

3. Exempt Municipalities

- Brian Governale and Courtney Davidson have been working on the exempt municipality reports for Sayreville and Piscataway.
- Piscataway will receive a satisfactory rating this year.
- Sayreville is still not performing to the standards. There have been town projects that have begun without plans being submitted to the District.

4. District Review

- The review was sent out as a survey to all the districts. Upon receipt of the responses, it was determined that some assistance is needed with human resources, safety for the inspectors and new staff training. This information has been passed along to the training committee for review and will be discussed at the Regional Supervisors' meetings.

5. Drone Program

- While Ines was attending/presenting at the NACD National Meeting she discussed a drone program used by a district in Wyoming.
- This district uses a drone for mapping watersheds and is able to utilize the video captured to create an explanation of the watershed to be shared with their community.
- Steve spoke to the district and researched what would be necessary to be certified to operate a drone in our area as well as costs.
- A part 107 FAA certification is required in our area. This certification can be obtained at the Allaire Airport in Wall Township with a test fee of \$150.
- Training for the certification is available on RemotePilot101.com, at a cost of \$150. The certification must be renewed every two years and is included in the original fee.
- The drone type recommended is the DJI Pro Version-Color. This drone can be purchased in a bundle package that includes three batteries, SD cards, a handheld monitor and case for \$2,090.
- The drone can also interface with the District's current ARC-GIS programs that have been paid for.
- Roger Gravatt made a motion to purchase the drone as a bundle package, have Stephen Grosch take the training and test, not to exceed \$2,900 using District funds. Wayne VanHise seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

XII: Old Business

Discussed during the District Manager's report

XIII: New Business

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

XIV: Reports from Other Agencies

none

XV: Adjournment

Wayne VanHise made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 pm. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10th, 2019, at 1:30 pm.

Charles Buscaglia
Chairman

Christina F. LaBianca
Secretary