

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
September 11, 2019

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 VanHise

x

Staff Present: Ines Zimmerman and Christina F. LaBianca

Others Present: Clare Flanagan, Natural Resource Conservation Services

IV. Compliance Statement

Christina F. LaBianca confirmed that the Open Public Meeting 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 July 10, 2019, regular meeting. Robert Dreyer 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

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

VII. Bills for Payment

The Board reviewed the bills as approved by the Committee of Purchase for August (in the amount of \$201,341.18, list attached). Robert Dreyer 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. Dreyer – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

The Board reviewed the bills for payment for September (in the amount of \$179,566.65, list attached). Robert Dreyer 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. Dreyer – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

VIII. Correspondence

Education Report

- July 17, 2019 SADC approval letter for project in Manalapan
- August 6, 2019 Copy of South Jersey RC&D grant financial report
- August 12, 2019 Letter from Frank Minch, SSCC, regarding stormwater rule compliance on agricultural development activities
- August 16, 2019 This Week in Farm Bureau
- August 16, 2019 Meeting agenda between FSCD and FPA Engineering regarding reconstruction of bridges in Monmouth County. The County is setting up pre-construction meetings for bridge projects to streamline the process when it is not an emergency repair.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

1. Outreach:

- *County Fairs:* The Middlesex County Fair was well attended with more than 85,000 visitors, and ran for a full week. Our display included a small pollinator garden. We gave out literature, activity books, seeded bookmarks, bags, photo contest and Tour de Farms information,
- *Bird, Bugs and Beyond:* We had the Soil Tunnel at Birds, Bugs and Beyond Day hosted by the 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 will have new teachers joining the program this year.
- *Photo Contest:* The release has been sent to newspapers and is on our website. Monmouth and Middlesex Parks have received copies of the brochure, along with the Forest Resource Education Center. The deadline is October 25th.

2. NJ Conservation

- *Envirothon:* The event went very well with the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) from Ocean County winning the event. 26 teams participated and 12 schools of students and advisors camped out on Friday night.
- *NJ Conservation Poster Contest:* Holly is creating the NJ brochure for the 2020 Poster Contest – *Where would we BEE without Pollinators?*

X. District Manager's Report

1. State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) Proposal

- The agreement between the District and SADC has been signed. Holly Reynolds will be trained to perform the inspections for the office.

2. Hosting the 2020 Annual Conference

- Ines has offered to have the District be the host for the 2020 conference
- This would allow us to feature and showcase some of the projects in our area through the District as well as the Open Space Conservation Cooperative
- With the Board's permission, Ines would like to move forward with making arrangements with Dennis Dougherty, NJACD President on this process

3. Audit

- The audit was in the office in August and we should have the completed audit by the October meeting

4. Fee Schedule Analysis

- We have begun the process of a fee schedule evaluation. It is recommend this be done at least every 3 years
- Our last increase was in 2013, changing the hourly rate to \$110. Based on the current evaluation, the new hourly rate would be \$125
- It is easier to roll out smaller adjustments every few years instead of one large one

5. National Conference Registration

- The 2020 NACD National Conference will be held February 8-12 in Las Vegas, NV
- At this time Charles Buscaglia and Robert Dreyer do not plan to attend
- Donald Patterson, Roger Gravatt, Wayne VanHise, and Ines plan to attend and possible send a staff member as well

XI. Old Business

- Roger Gravatt, Wayne VanHise, Ines M. Zimmerman, and Timothy P. Thomas attended the Northeast Regional Conference.
- There is not a lot of local municipal involvement in the northeast areas
- The tours were interesting. They pointed out the water is cleaner, but much warmer
- There has been quite a bit of work done to retro-fit basins to clean the stormwater

XII. New Business

1. Robert Dreyer 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 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.

XIII. Reports from other Agencies

Clare Flanagan, NRCS

- There is a cooperator's agreement ready for district signature for Senaca Drive in Middletown. Robert Dreyer made a motion to sign the agreement. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

XIV. Adjournment

Roger Gravatt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Robert Dreyer seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9th, 2019, at 7:30 pm.

Charles Buscaglia
Chairman

Christina F. LaBianca
Secretary