

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
May 13, 2020

4000 Kozloski Road
Freehold, NJ

Conference Call per CoVid-19 Protocol

I. Call to Order

Chairman Charles Buscaglia called the meeting to order at 1:00 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 M. Zimmerman and Christina F. LaBianca

Others Present: Douglas Widman, FSCD attorney

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 April 8, 2020, regular meeting. Roger Gravatt made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Wayne VanHise seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

VI. Treasurer Report (read by Christina F. LaBianca)

The Board members reviewed the treasurer report. Roger Gravatt made a motion to approve the treasurer report as presented. Bob Dreyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Bills for Payment

Before the bills were presented, resolution 2020-008 was discussed. This resolution was to move funds within budget categories. Don Patterson made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-008. Wayne VanHise seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Patterson – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes, Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. Dreyer – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

The Board reviewed the bills for payment for May (for \$237,867.95, 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. Patterson – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes, Mr. Dreyer, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

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VIII. Correspondence

Education Report

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| April 27, 2020 | Email regarding lease agreement. Ines and FSCD counsel, Doug Widman, also had a conference call with Mike Fitzgerald (new to the Monmouth County) who wanted to learn more about the District and the agricultural service grant that the County gives to the District. |
| May 1, 2020 | This Week in Farm Bureau |
| May 6, 2020 | SADC reviewed and granted funding for project |
| May 6, 2020 | Township of Monroe Breaking News article |

IX. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

1. Outreach:

- *Trout in the Classroom:* Schools have released their trout into approved locations that were picked at the beginning of the school year. Due to the COVID-19, many teachers had to release early without students.
- *Scholarships:* The 2020 Scholarship applications are available on our website and a release went out to newspapers, colleges and online scholarship sites. The deadline is May 30th.
- *Annual Report:* Is in progress.
- *Pollinators in the Classroom:* This program is on hold due to COVID-19. Schools in NJ have been closed since March 13, 2020, and will remain closed for the rest of the school year.
- *County Fairs:* Applications have been submitted for spaces at both Monmouth and Middlesex County Fairs. The Monmouth County Fair will be July 22nd-26th. The Middlesex County Fair will be August 3rd-9th. Due to COVID-19, the fairs have yet to be confirmed.

2. NJ Association of Conservation Districts

- *Envirothon:* Due to COVID-19, the NJ Envirothon as well as the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon were cancelled this year. Freehold SCD will host the 2021 NJ Envirothon in May 2021 at Camp Topanemus, Monmouth County.
- *NJ Conservation Poster Contest:* District winners were selected and 1st place entries were sent to Trenton for the State level competition.

X. District Manager's Report

1. Staff Updates

The District staff is continuing to work from home and in the office spread out and doing no contact inspections. Waiting for more guidance from the State Soil Conservation Committee before any changes are made to return to a regular routine

2. Budget Highlights

- a) New Vehicle: A new 2021 Ford Ranger truck and trade-in/sell a 2013 Ford Escape (\$21,000).
- b) Computer Equipment: new server, licenses, new database system, one desktop computer and one laptop
- c) Database Migration: The District's database was last updated in 1999, when it went from an Unnix system to a Windows based system. It is time to move forward at this point due to our amount of data as well as technology.

3. Data Transfer

MacGuyver Media has been working remotely and has almost completed the letter conversion. So far, everything appears to be working well.

4. New Stormwater Rules

There are changes are being presented for review and implementation. These changes are due to new "green" incentives and requirements.

XI. Old Business

- There was no old business to discuss this month

XII. 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 this month.
- 3. The Board has acknowledged the list of Authorizations to Discharge permits granted by the NJDEP.

XIII. Reports from other Agencies

None

XIV. Adjournment

Roger Gravatt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 pm. Bob Dreyer seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10th, 2020. The time and location to be determined based on the working restriction still in place at that time.

Charles Buscaglia
Chairman

Christina F. LaBianca
Secretary