

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
March 13, 2024

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

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Charles Buscaglia	x	
Bob Dreyer	x (via phone)	
Don Patterson		x (medical)
Roger Gravatt	x	
Wayne VanHise	x (via phone)	
Staff Present:	Timothy Thomas, Paul Califano and Christina LaBianca	
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 10, 2024, regular meeting. Roger Gravatt made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Robert Dreyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Treasurer's Report (read by Christina)

The Board members reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Wayne VanHise made a motion to approve the Treasurer Report with the one correction to the District totals. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Bills for Payment

The Board reviewed the bills for payment as approved by the Committee of Purchase for February in the amount of \$137,844.63, (list attached). Wayne VanHise made a motion to pay the bills as presented for February. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes, Mr. Dreyer – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

The Board reviewed the bills for payment for March in the amount of \$238,133.43, (list attached). Wayne VanHise made a motion to pay the bills as presented for March. Robert Dreyer seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Mr. Gravatt – yes, Mr. VanHise – yes, Mr. Dreyer – yes, and Mr. Buscaglia – yes.

VIII. Correspondence

None to be discussed

IX. Committee Report

No reports this month

X. District Manager's Report

1. Staffing

- Matthew Pereira started 2/20/2024 and Kayla Fenning started 2/26/2024. Both have settled in well so far and training is moving along smoothly.

2. Community Forestry Management Program

- Was going to have Bill Brash here today, but postponed until a majority of board members will be here in person
- Still proposing hiring another staff member as a forester and reviewer.

3. State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) 2/11/24 Meeting

- The SSCC had requested that each district complete a self-evaluation form supplied by them. The results were tabulated and presented at this meeting.
- The district audit were part of this. The rule state that audits should be initiated no later than September 1st.
- A copy of the completed audit should be sent to the SSCC within 180 days of the end of the fiscal year. This is not always possible because of the government figures needed to complete the audits are not always provided to the auditors by this time.
- The NJACD adopted a rough draft of their budget. Ines Zimmerman was hired as the Executive Director. The Association is currently working on the NACD Fly-In and the NJ Envirothon.

4. NACD Recap

- There were about 800 attendees at the NACD National Conference in San Diego, CA.
- The conference was very informative, but the hotel accommodations were a concern for those attending since it was land locked.

5. Shared Services Agreement

- The agreement between Middlesex County and the District to perform the farm audits has been completed. It now awaits signatures for final approval to begin the audits.
- Roger Gravatt made a motion to sign the shared services agreement with Middlesex County. Robert Dreyer seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

6. Twin Peaks Nursery

- This nursery in Monroe has a Conservation Plan ready for signature. The plan was created by John Clouth, an approved TSP, and approved by NRCS.
- Wayne VanHise made a motion to sign the Conservation Plan. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

XI: Reports from other Agencies

None

XII: Old Business

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

XIII: New Business

1. Roger Gravatt made a motion to approve the attached list of certified Soil Erosion and Sediment Control plans. Robert Dreyer 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.

XIV: Adjournment

Wayne VanHise made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roger Gravatt seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously carried. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 10th, at 1:30 pm.

Charles Buscaglia
Chairman

Christina F. LaBianca
Secretary