

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
January 15, 2025

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, Chairman	x	
Bob Dreyer, Vice-Chairman	x (via phone)	
Don Patterson, Treasurer	x	
Roger Gravatt, Supervisor	x	
Wayne Van Hise, Supervisor	x (via phone)	

Staff Present: Timothy Thomas, District Manager, Paul Califano, Assistant District Manager and Andrea Farparan, Board Secretary

Others Present: None

IV. Compliance Statement

Secretary Farparan confirmed that the Open Public Meetings Act has been satisfied by notifying the Asbury Park Press, the Home News Tribune, Monmouth and Middlesex County Clerks and posting at the entrance to the District office.

V. Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the December 11, 2024, regular meeting. Supervisor Dreyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Supervisor Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Treasurer's Report (read by Supervisor Buscaglia)

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Supervisor Gravatt made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Supervisor Van Hise seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Bills for Payment

The Board reviewed the bills for payment for January in the amount of \$236,805.14 (list attached). Supervisor Gravatt made a motion to pay the bills as presented for January. Supervisor Dreyer seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Supervisor Dreyer – yes, Supervisor Patterson – yes, Supervisor Gravatt – yes, Supervisor Van Hise – yes, and Supervisor Buscaglia – yes.

VIII. Correspondence

The District received registration information for the 2025 New Jersey Agricultural Convention & Trade Show being held February 3-6, 2025 at Harrah's Resort & Waterfront Conference Center. If any board member would like to attend, please advise District Manager Thomas by January 20.

IX. Committee Report

No reports this month

X. District Manager's Report

1. New Hires

- The new secretary and urban forester started at the District on January 2, 2025 and are acclimating well.

2. Annual Meeting

- As stated at the November Board of Supervisor's Meeting, the 79th National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting is being held in Salt Lake City, Utah February 8 – 12, 2025. Supervisor Dreyer made a motion that expenses be paid as allocated in the Professional Development and Public Information category of the Fiscal Year 2025 District Budget for District Manager Thomas and Secretary Farparan to attend the NACD Annual Meeting. Supervisor Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Supervisor Dreyer – yes, Supervisor Patterson – yes, Supervisor Gravatt – yes, Supervisor Van Hise – yes and Supervisor Buscaglia – yes.

3. New Copier

- The new copier (purchase approved the December 11, 2024 Board of Supervisor's Meeting) has been delivered.

4. Certificate of Deposit

- Columbia Bank provided notice that a Certificate of Deposit (CD) is maturing on January 17, 2025. After comparing interest rates and terms with other financial institutions, Columbia Bank offered the best rate. Supervisor Dreyer made a motion to renew the CD at Columbia Bank for a term of 24 months at an interest rate of 4%. Supervisor Van Hise seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Supervisor Dreyer – yes, Supervisor Patterson – yes, Supervisor Gravatt – yes, Supervisor Van Hise – yes, and Supervisor Buscaglia – yes.

5. Bank Account

- Fraudulent activity was performed on the District checking account. The payable to and amount of a check was edited and cashed. An affidavit was completed and the bank is investigating the claim.

6. Project Status

- The District has received the settlement for the eight (8) lot subdivision project in Upper Freehold.
- Zachary J. Styczynski, Esq., attorney for the District, has contacted the attorney representing the mine in Millstone matter with an offer of settlement and is awaiting a response.

7. Fiscal Year 2024 Audit

- Brian Logan of Suplee, Clooney & Company notified the District that the completion of the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit is delayed. The audit is expected to be completed by the end of February. District Manager Thomas requested an extension from the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) for the submittal of the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit.

XI: Reports from other Agencies

- None in attendance

XII: Old Business

1. Unclaimed Funds

- The review of the District's claim has not yet been completed.

XIII: New Business

1. Supervisor Van Hise made a motion to approve the attached list of certified Soil Erosion and Sediment Control plans. Supervisor Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. There were no denied plans this month.
3. The Board has acknowledged the list of Authorization to Discharge permits granted by the NJ DEP.

XIV: Adjournment

Supervisor Gravatt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 1:30 pm.