

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
May 14, 2025

4000 Kozloski Road
Freehold, NJ

I. Call to Order

Chairman Charles Buscaglia called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Present

Absent

Charles Buscaglia, Chairman

x

Bob Dreyer, Vice-Chairman

x

Don Patterson, Treasurer

x

Roger Gravatt, Supervisor

x (via phone)

Wayne Van Hise, Supervisor

x

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

Others Present: Tairi Melchiorre, Acting District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS),

IV. Compliance Statement

Secretary Farparan confirmed that pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq., adequate notice of this meeting was provided at least 48 hours in advance by publishing in the Asbury Park Press and the Home News Tribune, mailing the Monmouth and Middlesex County Clerks and posting at the entrance to the District office, a notice giving the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting, and stating whether formal action may or may not be taken.

V. Reports from other Agencies

An Irrigation State Cost Share Plan within western Monmouth County was presented for signature. Supervisor Van Hise made a motion to sign the plan. Supervisor Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Tairi Melchiorre, Acting District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also provided updates on the status of funding for programs due to recent executive actions.

VI. Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the April 9, 2025, regular meeting. Supervisor Dreyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Supervisor Van Hise seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Treasurer's Report (read by District Manager Thomas)

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

VIII. Bills for Payment

The Board reviewed the bills for payment for May in the amount of \$218,708.65 (list attached). Supervisor Van Hise made a motion to pay the bills as presented for May. Supervisor Dreyer seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Supervisor Dreyer – yes, Supervisor Van Hise – yes, Supervisor Gravatt – yes and Supervisor Buscaglia – yes.

IX. Correspondence

1. National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) Board Member, Ray Cywinski provided updates from Jeremy Peters, NACD CEO. Mr. Peters reported that the budget request for FY2026 "...outlines significant cuts to a variety of agencies..." NACD will continue to follow the budget discussions and provide updates. Mr. Peters also stated, "Executive orders continue to be introduced... the impacts of many recent actions are still unclear".
2. A Proclamation from the Governor's office was received proclaiming April 27 through May 4, 2025 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week.

X. Committee Report

No reports this month

XI. District Manager's Report

1. Audit

- Clarification was provided on the recommendation in the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit that "Interfunds be liquidated". Supervisor Dreyer made a motion to pay \$270,292.49 to liquidate the interfunds. Super Van Hise seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Supervisor Dreyer – yes, Supervisor Van Hise – yes, Supervisor Gravatt – yes and Supervisor Buscaglia – yes. Supervisor Van Hise made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit. Supervisor Dreyer seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Supervisor Dreyer – yes, Supervisor Van Hise – yes, Supervisor Gravatt – yes and Supervisor Buscaglia – yes.

2. Administrative Committee

- The Administrative Committee met immediately preceding this Board meeting to discuss the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. The Budget will be presented at the June Board Meeting.

3. Procedure Improvements

- Several District forms and procedures have been revised. These changes will streamline operations and enhance the efficiency of our processes.

4. June Meeting

- District Manager Thomas requested that the June Board Meeting be rescheduled to June 18, 2025. The Board agreed to change the date for the meeting from June 11, 2025 to June 18, 2025.

5. Certificates of Deposit

- Columbia Bank provided notice that two (2) Certificates of Deposit (CD) are maturing on June 2, 2025. Supervisor Dreyer made a motion that terms/rates must be compared among various financial institutions. CDs are to be renewed at the best available term/rate option. Supervisor Van Hise seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Supervisor Dreyer – yes, Supervisor Van Hise – yes, Supervisor Gravatt – yes and Supervisor Buscaglia – yes.

XII: Old Business

1. Master Gardeners Project

- The cooperative project, a 3-bin composter, approved at the March 12, 2025 Board Meeting, has been completed.

2. Unclaimed Funds

- The District has received payment in the amount of \$10,133.84 for the unclaimed funds claim.

XIII: New Business

1. Supervisor Dreyer made a motion to approve the attached list of certified Soil Erosion and Sediment Control plans. Supervisor Van Hise 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 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

XIV: Adjournment

Supervisor Van Hise made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Dreyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 1:30 pm.

Charles Buscaglia
Chairman

Andrea Farparan
Secretary