

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
June 18, 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

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

Tairi Melchiorre, Acting District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) presented a Farm State Cost Share Plan within Monmouth County for signature. Supervisor Van Hise made a motion to sign the plan. Supervisor Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the May 14, 2025, regular meeting. Supervisor Van Hise made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Supervisor Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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.

VIII. Bills for Payment

The Board reviewed the bills for payment for June in the amount of \$245,456.35 (list attached). Supervisor Van Hise made a motion to pay the bills as presented for June. Supervisor Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Supervisor Van Hise – yes, Supervisor Gravatt – yes and Supervisor Buscaglia – yes.

IX. Correspondence

1. National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) Board Member, Ray Cywinski has continued to provide updates from Jeremy Peters, NACD CEO regarding Executive Orders and budget cuts affecting conservation districts and other agencies.

X. Committee Report

No reports this month

XI. District Manager's Report

1. Next Generation Farmer Program

- The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) provided the District with copies of *The Next Generation of Farming in New Jersey Report on Cultivating the Future of Farming in the Garden State*. This report summarizes the challenges the next generation of farmers may face and provides recommendations for solutions to the potential challenges.

2. Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget Key Points

- Category One – Salaries Wages and Benefits reflects current employees as of July 1, 2025 and a potential 'Cost Share' position of an Engineer Technician, provided that funding is approved with NRCS and SADC.
- Category Six – Professional Development and Public Outreach is increasing due to the addition of two (2) line items, Digital Education and Jersey Yards.
 - ♦ Digital Education – craft an agreement with the Ocean County Soil Conservation District to produce digital newsletter and contact list.
 - ♦ Jersey Yards - money budgeted to help expand the Jersey Yards program; currently the program is Barnegat Bay centered.
- Category Eleven – Vehicle and Equipment Purchase increased due to higher prices for vehicles.

Supervisor Van Hise made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Supervisor Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Supervisor Van Hise – yes, Supervisor Gravatt – yes and Supervisor Buscaglia – yes.

3. Fiscal Year 2025 Allocations

- The rates for Allocations were reviewed and updated for the Fiscal Year 2025.

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XII: Old Business

No old business to discuss

XIII: New Business

1. Supervisor Gravatt 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. Supervisor Van Hise made a motion to approve the denial of four (4) Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Applications. Supervisor Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
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 Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 1:30 pm.

Charles Buscaglia
Chairman

Andrea Farparan
Secretary