

SUSSEX COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors Meeting

September 21, 2016- 4:00 PM

District Office- 186 Halsey Road, Suite 2, Hampton Township, Sussex County, NJ

NEXT MEETING: October 26, 2016 – 4:30 p.m. District Office

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Barbara Rosko, Philip Deacon, Natalie Burger and Richard Vohden

SUPERVISORS ABSENT: Matthew Fox

OTHERS PRESENT: Clifford R. Lundin-District Manager; Dan Mull, District Conservationist- USDA-NRCS

Chairman Rosko called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. declaring that adequate notice had been provided in accordance with the NJ Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE: The members joined in a salute to the flag.

OATH OF OFFICE: Mr. Lundin administered the oath of office to Natalie Burger and Richard A. Vohden, Jr, who were appointed to the Board by the State Soil Conservation Committee at its meeting of on September 12, 2016. Both Supervisors will be completing unexpired terms and will serve until June 30, 2018. Mr. Lundin provided the new members with a copy of the Supervisors Handbook and with a copy of the FY2017 Budget.

ROLL CALL: A call of the roll showed that Mrs. Rosko, Mr. Deacon, Mrs. Burger and Mr. Vohden were present. Mr. Fox had called earlier in the afternoon to report that there had been a death in his family and that he could not attend.

MINUTES:

On motion of Mr. Deacon seconded by Mrs. Rosko and properly carried on roll call vote, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 2016. The motion was approved on the following roll call vote: Mr. Deacon-yes, and Chairman Rosko-yes. The other members were ineligible to vote because they were not serving on the Board at the time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

On motion of Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mrs. Rosko and properly carried, the attached correspondence list was reviewed and approved for the files.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Monthly Report: On motion of Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mrs. Rosko and properly carried, the Treasurer’s Report was approved, subject to audit, by roll call vote as follows: Mr. Deacon-yes, Mrs. Burger-yes and Chairman Rosko-yes and Mr. Vohden-abstain. The Treasurer’s Report included the following items: Income Statement for the Three Month period ending September 30, 2016; Cash Disbursements-Check Register for

the period of July 12, 2016 through September 21, 2016; Cash Receipts Journal for the period of July 12, 2016 to September 21, 2016; Cash Account Balance Report as of September 21, 2016; Consulting Engineer-Cash Disbursements Journal for the period from July 1, 2016 through September 21, 2016; General Ledger Trial Balance as of September 21, 2016 and Balance Sheet dated September 30, 2016. The Board reviewed the financial condition of the District. For the first 3 months of FY2017, the District is showing a positive income of \$54,000.00. This is primarily due to the recertification of a large quarry operation. No accounts are significantly over-expended at this point.

Audit: Mr. Lundin reported that the District auditors are scheduled to be in-house on September 22-23, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS

Chapter 251:

Monthly Report: On motion of Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Vohden and properly carried, the attached 251 Project Card Summary Sheet dated September 21, 2016, the Project Status Report dated September 21, 2016 and the Performance Bonds Remaining Report as of September 30, 2016 were approved. The motion included authorization for the chairwoman to certify the 16 plans listed under the report heading: "Projects Certified 07/12/2016 to 09/21/2016." Since the July meeting, the District has received 18 new applications and 5 applications for recertification. The total number of active projects has decreased slightly to 310. Since the July meeting, 16 projects have been completed and 1 project was placed in dormant status.

Board discussion/review of specific sites: Mr. Lundin briefed the Board on the following sites:

- 1) Wallace- Uncertified Site-Vernon- 3 Silver Spruce Drive. The Stop Work Order remains in effect. The site was inspected earlier this week. Mr. Wallace has resumed work. Formal enforcement action may be necessary.
- 2) Gorovoy VR-902, 1 Silver Springs, Vernon. Mr. Lundin performed a joint inspection earlier this week with the Vernon Zoning Officer and with a representative of the Sussex County Health Department. Fill material continues to be brought to the site. The site appears to have exceeded the authorized area of disturbance. A Notice of Violation has been served on the property owner. It appears tht Mr. Wallace (see above) is acting as a contractor for Mr. Gorovoy.
- 3) 522 Kemah Lake Road. This site accepted excess material from the Branchville sewer project. The owner has been directed to file an application. The owner has recently requested to meet on the site.

- 4) Red Hook, LLC. - Wantage. This site is located at SC Route 565 and Roy Road. The property was previously utilized as agricultural land. The new owner has taken down several trees and brought heavy equipment onto the site. The owner has been contacted and is now aware of the need for municipal site plan and District approval. An inspection earlier this week confirmed that all work has ceased.
- 5) Hopatcong Shooting Range- HC-074. The District is in receipt of a letter from the Borough asking that all action be deferred for a period of 6 months while the Borough determines whether or not it wishes to proceed. The soil erosion and sediment controls will be maintained in place during the interim time period.
- 6) Augusta Solar Farm. HP-322. Mr. Lundin inspected the site on September 20, 2016 with John Showler of the NJDA-SSCC. Mr. Showler will issue a formal report.
- 7) Mountain Creek-South- Vernon. The District is still awaiting a plan to address the blowout onto State Highway 94 from a "Mud Race" conducted on the premises. Mr. Lundin will contact the engineer for Mountain Creek to determine the status.
- 8) Maggio Site- WT-154. Mr. Lundin inspected the site on September 14, 2016. The site was in compliance at that time. Mr. Maggio has filed a site plan application with the Township.
- 9) Brecia Farms- HY-206. The controversy between the builder and the new homeowner has apparently been resolved.
- 10) Hardyston Middle School- Solar Project-HY-286. The developer posted a CROC bond and the site is functional. The bond requires full stabilization by November 1, 2016.
- 11) Bahr-Anderson Litigation. Mr. Lundin indicated that the attorneys for two of the defendant litigants have requested to meet with him during the week of September 26 to review the District file. This request is in lieu of a subpoena.
- 12) North Village of Sparta- SP-670, SP-682 and SP-761. This is a large proposed mixed use development off Route 15 and White Lake Road. Due to the complexity of the proposal as well as the fragmentation into three separate certifications, Mr. Lundin has requested the assistance of John Showler, engineer for the NJDA-SSCC. Mr. Showler and Mr. Lundin toured the site on September 20, 2016 for approximately 3 hours.

Agriculture-NRCS:

Monthly Report: Mr. Mull presented the attached NRCS report for September 2016. There are currently 54 active Farm Bill contracts within Sussex County representing financial assistance in the amount of \$1,065,939.05 on 2,412.9 acres. These consist of 3 AMA contracts, 37 EQIP Contracts, 10 WHIP contracts and 4 RCPP contracts. There are 4 remaining pending AMA applications, 3 RCCP applications and 15 EQIP applications currently under review for FY2017. Mr. Mull also presented 16 EQIP Farm Conservation Plans for Board approval. Mr. Vohden moved, seconded by Mrs. Burger and properly carried, to approve the report and to authorize the chairwoman to sign the plans.

Cooperators: There was 1 new application for conservation assistance received by the District since the July 12 meeting. The Board reviewed the application of Brian Cramer for assistance relative to a 117 tract on Hunts Road, Newton. Mr. Deacon moved, seconded by Mrs. Burger to approve the request and to forward it to NRCS.

NRCS-FRPP Contract: Mr. Lundin reported on his work effort under a contract with NRCS for easement monitoring under the Farm and Rangeland Protection Program (FRPP). This involved site inspections on 15 sites that have been preserved using federal funds on properties located in Bergen, Morris, Warren, Sussex and Hunterdon Counties. All reports have been submitted in accordance with the contractual requirements.

SC Agricultural Development Board. Mr. Lundin reported that he was unable to attend the September 19, 2016 meeting.

SC Board of Agriculture: Mr. Lundin noted that the next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2016. He noted tht Ms. Burger serves as secretary to the organization.

State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) Report: Mr. Minch was unavailable to attend the meeting. In his absence Mr. Lundin briefed the Board on the following matters from the SSCC meeting on September 12, 2016.

- a) Appointments to the SCSCD. The SSCC voted unanimously to appoint Mrs. Burger and Mr. Vohden to the Board. (A copy of the minutes of the District Nominating Committee meeting of August 25, 2016 is attached.)
- b) Soil Health/Compaction regulations. The SSCC reviewed and adopted a preliminary draft. The proposed new standard was published in the NJ Register on September 19, 2016. The public notice provides for a 60 day comment period. Mr. Lundin agreed to distribute a copy of the proposal to each Board member.

- c) Time Tracking System. The District continues to investigate options to establish a time tracking system.
- d) Records Disposal: The SSCC has adopted a new computerized records disposal system. The District experienced some issues in getting approval. Nevertheless, the approval was received and on September 16, 2016, the District destroyed the records for 2007 and 2008 as authorized. The various papers were shredded using the facilities available through the SCMUA. The cost of the shredding was approximately \$120.00

Education:

NJ State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show: Mr. Lundin discussed the reduced display area that was provided to the District in the County tent. The Supervisors reviewed the display poster. Mr. Lundin thanked Mim Dean of NRCS for assisting in the layout and printing of the display. In addition, the District sponsored the soil tunnel for Green Day on August 8, 2016. Approximately 400 individuals toured the tunnel. This was a slight decrease from the 2015 utilization.

NACD-UCC Webinars: Mr. Lundin participated in a NACD webinar on climate change conducted on September 14, 2016. He also provided a list of the upcoming webinars for the coming year.

Soil Tunnel: Mr. Lundin reported that the District has been requested to arrange to bring the soil tunnel to a NJDEP event to be sponsored at the Fairview Lake YMCA camp on October 15, 2016. Mr. Deacon moved, seconded by Mr. Vohden and properly carried to authorize the District to participate in the educational event.

Meetings:

NACD Urban and Community Conservation Committee: Mr. Lundin briefed the Board on his activities with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Urban and Community Conservation (UCC) Resource Policy Group (RPG.) He participated in meetings held on July 15 and August 26, 2016.

NJ District Liaison Meeting: Mr. Lundin participated in the District Liaison meeting held in Freehold on July 21, 2016. The next meeting will be held on October 20, 2016.

NACD Northeast Regional Meeting: The NJ Association of Conservation Districts hosted this meeting from August 14-17, 2016 in Cape May County. All NJ Districts were

requested to co-sponsor the event. After consultation with Chairman Rosko the Sussex District pledged \$200.00 to co-sponsor the event.

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting: Mr. Lundin reported that the NACD Annual National Meeting had been scheduled for January 28 to Feb 1, 2017 in Denver. Colorado

North Jersey RC&D: Mrs. Rosko reported that the RC&D had hired Laura Tessieri, P.E. as the new Assistant Executive Director. Ms. Tessieri commenced work on September 19, 2016. Ms. Rosko indicated that the Warren County SCD had recently determined to withdraw from the RC&D. She expressed concern with the lack of projects within Sussex County and suggested that the District might explore seeking grants and other funding opportunities to address water quality issues outside of the RC&D process.

Other:

OPRA request: Mr. Lundin reported on a recent OPRA request in which the District was compelled to release the names of all employees as well as their salaries. The request which had been directed to all 15 districts was initially referred to the SSCC DAG. The Districts were directed to provide the information.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Rosko opened the meeting to the public at 6:00 p.m. There being no one desiring to speak, the meeting was closed to the public at 6:01 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Deacon moved, seconded by Mr. Vohden and properly carried on roll call vote to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Roll call vote as follows: Deacon-yes, Burger-yes, Vohden-yes and Rosko-yes.

The Board returned from executive session at 6:40 p.m.

ADJOURN:

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. on motion of Mr. Deacon seconded by Mr. Vohden and properly carried.

Respectfully submitted for Philip Deacon, Secretary/Treasurer

By Clifford R. Lundin, District Manager