

**SUSSEX COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Board of Supervisors Meeting

June 15, 2011

7:30 PM SCSCD Office – Conference Room

186 Halsey Road, Suite 2, Newton, NJ

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**NEXT MEETING:** July 20, 2011–2:00 PM – SCSCD Office (Conference Room)

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**SUPERVISORS PRESENT:** Barbara Rosko, Fred Hough, Walter Ricker and Winifred Straub.

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**SUPERVISORS ABSENT:** James Kilduff.

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

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Chairman Rosko called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. declaring that adequate notice has been provided in accordance with the NJ Open Public Meetings Act. The members joined in a salute to the flag.

**MINUTES:**

On motion by Mrs. Straub, seconded by Mr. Hough and properly carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of May 25, 2011 were approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

On motion by Mrs. Straub, seconded by Mr. Ricker and properly carried, the attached correspondence list was reviewed and approved for the files. Special attention was given to the highlighted items.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

On motion of Mr. Hough, seconded by Mrs. Straub and properly carried, the Treasurer’s Report was approved, subject to audit, by Roll Call vote as follows: Mr. Hough- yes, Mr. Ricker – yes, Mrs. Straub- yes and Mrs. Rosko- yes. The Treasurer’s Report included the following: Income Statement for the Twelve Month Period ending June 30, 2011, Cash Disbursements-Check Register from May 25, 2011 to June 15, 2011, Cash Receipts Journal from May 25, 2011 to June 15, 2011, Cash Account Balance Report as of June 15, 2011, Consulting Engineer-Cash Disbursements Journal from July 1, 2010 to June 15, 2011, General Ledger Trial Balance as of June 15, 2011 and Balance Sheet dated June 30, 2011.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Chapter 251:**

Monthly Report. On motion of Mrs. Straub, seconded by Mr. Ricker and properly carried, the attached 251 Project Card Summary Sheet dated June 15, 2011, the Project Status Reports dated June 15, 2011 and the Performance Bonds Reports dated June 15, 2011 were approved. Mr. Hough recused himself from taking any action on application no. FF-

257, Renewable Energy Associates, due to the proximity of the project to his family farm property.

Problem sites: The Board also discussed the following SESC problem sites:

- 1) Eagles Nest. SP-125, SP-125B, SP-125C. Mr. Lundin is attempting to schedule a meeting with the District consulting engineer and the SSCC engineer
- 2) Jobeless site- Hopatcong. The District is still awaiting action by the NJDA-SSCC.
- 3) Whispering Woods- VR-748, VR-748A, VR-748B. Mr. Lundin reported that there are several outstanding issues with the site. An inspection was conducted on June 2, 2011. There has been no progress. A deficiency letter was sent to the applicant on June 3, 2011. Under the terms of the conditional recertification, the site must be in full compliance by June 30, 2011.
- 4) Grinnell Solar- SP-696. There has been a significant problem with mud tracking from the site. A Stop Work Order was issued but not posted. After multiple inspections of the site, the site was in compliance as of June 10, 2011.
- 5) Emerald Estates- HY-220. The site experienced a blow out of the silt fence on May 21, 2011. An NOV was issued. Recent inspections show compliance.
- 6) Ogdensburg Stream Cleaning. A joint inspection with was held on June 3, 2011. Mr. Lundin also requested NRCS input and assistance. Linda Peterson of NJCS visited the site with Mr. Lundin and the Borough Engineer on June 9, 2011. A report is expected in the near future. The Districts recommendations will be incorporated into a NJDEP Consent Order.
- 7) Maggio Site- Wantage. Mr. Lundin briefed the Board on the issues relative to the alleged uncertified site in Wantage Township. The owner claims the disturbance is agricultural tillage and that the site will be seeded with sweet corn in the near future. A district inspection on June 15, 2011 revealed that the site had still not been seeded. The District will continue to monitor.

**Agriculture-NRCS:**

- a) NRCS report. Mr. Mull provided the attached report to the Board. The Board approved the report on motion of Mrs. Straub, seconded by Mr. Ricker and properly carried. The motion included authorization for the Chairperson to sign four conservation plans involving properties in Lafayette, Frankford and Stillwater. Mr. Mull reported that the applications are currently being sought under the EQIP, WHIP and AMA programs.
- b) Cooperators. –This District has not received any requests for assistance in the past month.

**SSCC Report:** Mr. Minch was not in attendance. In his absence Mr. Lundin reported on the following items:

- a) NJ Transparency Report. The Legislation has been modified in Committee. There are still several areas of concern. Mr. Lundin will be contacting the sponsors as well as our local legislators to discuss the district's remaining concerns. The SSCC is expected to issue guidance to districts at its July 11, 2011 meeting. Once the guidelines are adopted, Mr. Lundin will contact several area website developers to obtain cost estimates for complying with the new requirements.

**Education:**

- a) SC Birding and Nature Festival- June 11, 2011. The District arranged for a table and for the display of the Soil Tunnel at the Festival held at the Sussex County Fairgrounds on June 11, 2011. Attendance was disappointing due to inclement weather.
- b) Sussex County Farm and Horse Show/NJ State Fair- August 5- 14, 2011. Mr. Lundin attended a meeting earlier this date relative to the requirements for the displays in the County Building. There is a possibility that the District might display the soil tunnel at Children's Day on August 9, 2011.
- c) NJ Stormwater Rules training. Mr. Lundin reported that District Inspector Jeff Eckert attended the training held at Rutgers on June 13, 2011.
- d) Supervisor Training- July 11, 2011. Mr. Lundin distributed information relative to training of new supervisors to be held in Trenton on July 11, 2011.

**Meetings:**

- a) Northeast Regional NACD Meeting. Mr. Lundin reported that the 2011 Northeast NACD meeting is scheduled for August 7 through August 9, 2011 in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Information is not yet available. Mr. Ricker indicated a desire to attend.

**Clean Waters Initiative:** Mr. Lundin indicated that the District had received payment from the Pinchot Institute for reimbursement for District activities for the period of Feb 15, 2011 through May 15, 2011 in the amount of \$2,158.78. Two Sussex County applications have been submitted to date for the second funding round which closes on August 1, 2011.

**RC&D Funding:** Mrs. Rosko reported that the RC&D Board has determined to continue to function despite the absence of NRCS support. The Morris SCD has determined to withdraw as a sponsor. The RC&D office has temporarily relocated to a shared facility with the South Branch Watershed Association.

**Forestry Grant:** Mr. Lundin reported that the grant application jointly submitted by the SCSCD, the Warren County SCD and the Nature Conservancy to the US Forest Service had not been approved. The grant had sought funds to develop additional forestry capacity within the Districts.

**Other Old Business:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) FY2012 Budget. Chairman Rosko and Mrs. Straub met with Mr. Lundin on June 9, 2011 to develop a budget. At the current time, there are several unknown factors relative to the state budget and health insurance costs. The Committee suggested that formal action on the budget be deferred to the July meeting pending the receipt of the additional information. On Motion of Mrs. Straub, seconded by Mr. Hough and properly carried, action on the FY2012 budget was deferred until the July meeting. On Motion of Mrs. Straub, seconded by Mr. Hough, a temporary budget was adopted for the month of July 2012 consisting of 1/12 of the approved appropriations and expenditures for the FY2011 budget. Motion was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Mr. Hough-yes, Mr. Ricker-yes, Mrs. Straub-yes and Chairman Rosko-yes.

- b) Supervisor Per diem/mileage. At its May 25, 2011 meeting, the Board had directed Mr. Lundin to initiate a survey of the other NJ SCDs as to the payment of Supervisor per diem and mileage in light of the NJDA decision to eliminate the same. A copy of the survey is attached. Nine districts responded. None of those have determined to assume the per diem payments. However, six of the nine have assumed the mileage payments. Two additional districts are considering the mileage payments but are hoping that the state will reverse its policy. Mr. Lundin also presented the Board with a summary report of the mileage charges per supervisor for the past year. On Motion of Mr. Ricker, seconded by Mrs. Straub and adopted by roll call vote, the Board approved the payment of Supervisor mileage reimbursement effective July 1, 2010 at the approved IRS rate (currently at \$0.51 per mile.). The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Hough-yes, Mr. Ricker-yes, Mrs. Straub-yes and Chairman Rosko-yes.
  
- c) July Meeting. The members reviewed their schedules for July. It appeared that the Board would be unable to achieve a quorum for the regular meeting scheduled for July 27, 2011. On motion of Mr. Hough, seconded by Mrs. Straub and properly carried, the date of the July meeting will be changed to July 20, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Chairman Rosko opened the meeting to the public at 8:17 p.m. Having no one come forward, the meeting was closed to the public.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

On Motion of Mr. Hough seconded by Mrs. Straub and properly carried, the Board went into executive session at 8:18 p.m. for the discussion of personnel items, minutes of the meeting to be made available upon authorization of the Board.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

**ADJOURN:**

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on motion of Mr. Hough, seconded by Mr. Ricker and properly carried.

Respectfully submitted for Walter C. Ricker, Secretary

By Clifford R. Lundin