

# **Morris County Soil Conservation District**

## **Supervisor Meeting**

**August 26, 2009**

*The regular meeting of the Morris County Soil Conservation District was held on the above date at Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 550 West Hanover Ave., and Morris Township N. J. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. The following individuals were present: Treasurer; Jeanette Bonin, Vice Treasurer; Larry Ashely; Louise Davis, Vice Chair; Director, Joseph Dunn; Margaret Nordstrom, secretary; David Welch, Chairman; Jim Wick, NRCS; Jackie Connelly, Staff; Shelly Zellars, Secretary; Mr. Joe Seneca, guest;*

*Adequate notice of the meeting on this date has been provided through resolution adopted by the board of supervisors at its annual meeting at 550 West Hanover Ave., by posting at the District office, by mailing to the Daily Record and the observer Tribune newspaper and by filing with the Morris County Clerks Office.*

### **Roll Call for Supervisors**

Member Bonin, yes  
Member Welch, yes  
Member Davis, yes  
Member Nordstrom, yes  
Member Ashley, yes

### **Correspondence-**

- Email John Showlar- RFA Graft
- NACD thank you for 100 contribution
- Greenhouse Grant gas
- Achievement awards form for state
- NRCS Letter
- Grant for Roehrichs Roots- declined
- USDA Questionnaire

**Approval of minutes-** motion made to approve minutes for July 2009 made by member, Ashley, seconded by member Davis and all approved with correction to vacation date for Mr. Dunn. Deadline for vacation usage would be 12/31/09. Correction date for Farm Fresh Dinner would be September 16, 2009.

*Woodland Subdivision-* Joe Seneca

Member Nordstrom rescued herself by leaving room, conflict of interest

The Site was cleared prior to approval and a stop work order was issued. Under the penalty schedule for Soil Conservation, the fee would total \$750.00 for a Penalty of three days. Mr. Seneca asked for the boards consideration to waive penalty as he was told it was acceptable by the township. Agreement by board to enforce penalty of \$3150.00. Total (\$2250.00 penalty + \$900.00 for staff time)

Check was received from Mr Seneca. Motion made to empower chairman to sign approval between meetings made by Member Ashley, seconded by Member Davis and all approved.

Member Nordstorm returned to meeting room (2:30 p.m)

**Budget-** Jackie Connelly

*Review of budget.* Budget figures do not reflect a future furlough. All major expense items have been cut. Jackie pointed out that a furlough would bring a maximum savings of \$36,000.00.

Member Davis indicated that a cost reduction would be a personnel issue. Personnel committee will meet for discussion.

*Options for costs reduction-*

Member Davis suggested a possible sharing of services with Warren, Sussex and Morris districts. Member Davis will be receiving feed back from the Sussex district this evening regarding a possible merger during their meeting.

Member Davis has indicated to other districts that our district engineer Mr McEvoy would be available for outside use.

Member Welch asked that Shelly and Jackie keep statistics on tear downs and single family projects for comparison reasons.

Motion to approve budget made by member Davis, seconded by member Welch and all approved. Roll call Member Welch yes, Member Davis yes, Member Bonin yes, Member Nordstorm yes and Member Ashley yes.

**Finance-** Motion to pay bills for August 2009 made by Member Bonin , seconded by member Welch and all approved

**NRCS-** Jim Wick- Plans have been signed and we are finishing up contracts for year ending 2009.

**RC&D-** Walnut Brook stream bank cleanup done with Army Corp of Engineers

**Director-** Mr. Dunn has been out for two weeks with knee surgery, Staff member Colin Clavadetscher became temporary director for the office during this time.

**Frank SSCC-** Reported by Member Davis

*New Supervisor-* Warm welcome to our new supervisor Margaret Nordstrom. Member Nordstrom is from Washington Township. She will be attending supervisor training at the Somerset office on October 3rd 2009. Member Nordstrom had the opportunity to meet our new Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas Fisher during a tour of farms in Washington and Chester Township.

*NJACD Conference-*Conference to be held October 27th in Freehold NJ. This will be a one day event with staff training and the annual business luncheon.

*Farm Fresh Dinner -* Our Farm Fresh Dinner has been scheduled for September 16th, 2009 at Wightmans farm, Harding N.J.. The Dinner is scheduled for 5 p.m. Sheila will set up our soil tunnel for the children. To date only two tickets have been sold.

**Rutgers Extension-**Progress

**Supervisor attendance-** progress

*RFA Email Permit-* RFA Agreement with DEP to begin Oct 1. has been approved by the state. Memo of Agreement will be forwarded to all supervisors prior to next meeting for review.

*New Attorney-* We presently have two resumes for the law firm of Pidgeon and Waccker for consideration. Under suggestion of Member Nordstrom we might look into the county attorney and retain Mr. Pidgeon for the present case regarding Deerfield Estates.

*Deerfield-* To be discussed in Executive Session.

*Benkendorf-* Snowbird Farms, Schooleys Mt Rd. Long Valley

Applicant started a mulching operation on this site which is not agricultural. Our office Issued a stop work order and shut the project down. Practices were installed and then the stop work order was vacated. Highlands's exemption was never issued along with a Request for Authorization certification  
State has determined that this is not a farming activity. Highland requirements must be put in place.

*Marvelland farms-* Letter from Maser Consulting regarding Marvelland Farms in Mt. Olive. This site is in the early stages of permits. Applicant is requested phasing of fees'. Denial by Board. Fee to be paid up front. Member Ashley out of room due to conflict of interest.

251 Certifications- Motion made to approve 251 certifications made by Member Bonin, seconded by Member Ashley and all approved.

RFA Authorizations- Motion made to certify RFA Authorizations made by Member Ashley, Seconded by Member Nordstrom and all approved.

Executive Session-

Motion made by Member Ashley, seconded by Member Bonin and all approved to to move into executive session and out of public meeting. Executive Session for the purpose of litigation. 3:30 p.m.

Motion made by Member Bonin, seconded by Member Davis and all approved to move out of executive session and into public session at 4 10 p.m.

Motion made to adjourn meeting made by Member Norstrom, seconded by Member Bonin and all approved at 4:15 pm.

Next meeting to be held on September 23, 2009.