

**Morris County soil Conservation District  
Supervisor Meeting  
August 25, 2010**

*The regular meeting of the Morris County Soil Conservation District was held on the above date at 16 Highview Ave., Cedar Knolls, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. The following individuals were present: Chair; David Welch, Treasurer; Jeanette Bonin, Secretary; Margaret Nordstrom (arrived late), Vice Treasurer; Michael Beneduce, Vice Chair; Louise Davis, NRCS; Jim Wick, Manager; Joseph Dunn, Secretary; Shelly Zellars.*

*Adequate notice of this meeting on this date has been provided through resolutions adopted by the Board of Supervisors at its annual meeting at 16 Highview Ave., Cedar Knolls, N.J. 07927 by posting at the District's office, by mailing to the Star Ledger and by filing with the Morris County Clerk's office.*

**Supervisor Roll Call-** Chair requested that Shelly Zellars call the roll.

Member Bonin-present  
Member Beneduce-present  
Member Welch- present  
Member Nordstrom- absent (arrived 2:30 p.m.)  
Member Davis- present

**Correspondence-** Mr Dunn indicated that there were only two actionable items.

- NJ Agricultural Society request for Donation.
- NJ Conservation Magazine
- Letter from DEPE-purchase of land in Morris and Hunterdon County for green acres.
- Letter from Dept of Agriculture regarding language in Harding Twp. Ordinance.
- Congratulations letter for Member David Welch, Supervisor Renomination.
- 2010 Achievement Awards-NJACD September 20-21
- American Soybean pamphlet
- New Jersey Farmer
- Forestry Source magazine
- Service Awards for staff/supervisors, years on job
- Festival on the green Morristown

### **Actionable Items-**

*Donation NJ Agricultural society-* Motion made by Member Beneduce to donate \$100.00 to the NJ Agricultural Society. Second by Member Bonin. All approved. Motion carried.

*Achievement Awards* are presented to individuals in the conservation field with outstanding achievements in the following categories: Supervisor, Professional Conservationist, Communication, Legislative, Technical, Developer Administration and Organizations. The deadline for submission is Sept 1, 2010. Chairman Welch commented that any recommendations may be brought to his attention during the meeting.

*Festival of the Green-* This event will be held on October 3, 2010 in Morristown. The registration fee is \$150.00 and must be received by Friday August 27, 2010. The District may be able to share a table with another county agency. It was suggested Member Davis that we hold a raffle for a free rain barrel enabling us to collect names and emails for future sales of barrels and seedlings. One of our other goals would be to target conservation groups in the hopes of circulating our organizations name. It was pointed out by Member Davis that an email list could not only provide futures sales for Seedlings and rain barrels but would allow individuals to address any other interests in the district they may have.

Motion made- Motion made by Member Beneduce to approve \$150.00 registration fee for Festival of the Green. Second by Member Davis. All approved. Motion carried.

*Harding Township Ordinance-* A draft of the Harding Township ordinance is included in each packet for supervisors to review.

**Approval of minutes-** Motion made by Member Bonin to approve minutes of July 28, 2010 meeting. Second by Member Beneduce. Member Davis to abstain. All approved. Motion carried.

**Personnel-** Member Davis reported that our personnel reviews have been completed with the help of Mr. Dunn. There were some corrective measures discussed with the staff.

**Finance-** Motion made by Member Davis to pay the bills for August 2010. Second by Member Beneduce. All approved. Motion carried.

Chairman Welsh suggested that we wait for Member Nordstrom and give her the opportunity to be included in the discussion.

**NRCS- Jim Wick**

We are continuing with farm applications. Mr. Wick announced the beginning of a new federal fiscal year. We have received no reports on the new budget as of this date.

Motion to leave public meeting, open executive session at 2:30 p.m. by Member Bonin, second by Member Davis. All approved. Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bonin to close executive session at 2:50 p.m. and open Public meeting. Second by Member Davis. All approved. Motion carried.

**NRCS- Jim Wick**

Jim reported an all employees meeting was held yesterday with the various Districts. There was good attendance and useful discussion amongst the attendees.

**RC&D- Progress**

**SSCC- Progress**

**Extension- Progress**

**Managers Report- Joseph Dunn-** Motion made by Member Beneduce to accept Managers report for month of August 2010. Second by Member Davis. All approved. Motion carried.

*Resolutions-* We have been asked by our attorney Jack Pidgeon to update and file all resolutions and perspective minutes passed by the board. A packet of resolutions has been provided for board review and approval. The board will vote on packet of resolutions during our September meeting. Chairman Welch requested that Shelly move this meeting item to old business in September.

*Deerfield-* Our inspector Sheila Hall has been checking site weekly and reporting no major issues.

*Service Awards-* Two individuals in our district will be receiving service awards at the conference on Sept 20-21. Those individuals are Joe McEvoy with 15 years and Jackie Connelly with 5.

*Spoil and Borrow-* Arial maps were distributed to the board members showing projects that are non compliant with Soil Conservation.

**Member Nordstrom arrived at 2:40 p .m**

Mr Dunn reported a very active operator has begun work at the McNear Quarry in Landing. The increase in activity along with a pending public hearing has resulted in numerous complaints being filed by the Township and local residents. In turn the Quarry owner has filed complaints against other neighbors. Mr. Dunn has researched these sites and it appears that they could be regulated for 251 sites.

Mr. Dunn pointed out that Mr. McNear also has several outstanding violations on his site. Member Beneduce remarked that our resources are limited in pursuing all of the sites. Member Davis agreed, but did stress that we need to address non compliant sites or they

will continue to be violations. It was suggested by Member Beneduce that maybe we compile a priority list with projects of most importance. Member Davis also suggested that maybe we set up a line item in budget dedicated specifically for enforcement actions, and then any reimbursement go directly back into that account. The consensus of the Board was to prioritize these projects and address them as staff resources would allow.

*Payroll approval* to call 8/26/2010 payroll- Motion made by Member Davis to call in payroll on 8/26/ due to Jackie Connelly's absence during vacation. Second by Member Bonin. All approved. Motion carried.

*Leed Training* for Joe McEvoy and Joe Dunn- Motion made by Member Davis to approve Leed Training for Joe McEvoy and Joe Dunn. Second by Member Bonin. All approved. Motion carried.

*Volunteer lunches* for Nursery work in planting willows. Motion made by Member Bonin to provide lunches for volunteers during planting of willows in Nursery on August 30, 2010. Second by Member Davis. All approved. Motion carried.

*Budget Review-* A revised budget is available for each supervisor in their packet. . Mr Dunn commented that based on discussions with the Chair and the Auditor the revenue's have been modified to removed the large one time revenue sources. These modifications are as follows: \$45,000.00 Marvel land farms, \$20,000.00; PSE&G; \$8,000.00; Renewal fees; \$25,000.00 Deerfield negotiation. Our staff member Ken Sicknick will not need medical benefits from District which is added revenue. Member Nordstrom commented there is a possible 12% increase in health benefits looming. The revisions this gives us a possible \$141,000 deficit for coming year. Chairman Welch felt that with looming deficit and increase in health costs a 2 ½ salary increase is not advisable at this moment and would certainly be reconsidered in the event our revenue should increase. The board discussed and decided to keep these expenditures: Approval for a Flat screen TV and Net books with limit of \$2500.00. Board also decided to eliminate \$1,000.00 for file cabinet upgrades. Motion made by Member Davis to accept amended budget for 2011. Second by Member Bonin. All approved. Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bonin to accept amended budget for fiscal year. Seconded by Member Davis, All approved. Motion carried.

District Summer Camp - Member Davis has been working with Sheila Hall on an outline for a District Summer Camp program.

Rain Barrels- The rain barrel program has become quite successful. We are offering barrels for \$60.00 and additional \$15.00 for downspout connection. Our office made a presentation which was well received on July 14 to the Morris County Freeholders during their monthly meeting. We have received many orders following a press release. An artist has decorated two sample Rain Barrels for display. The Board discussed the details on how to offer these decorated barrels to the public. A discussion followed.

Member Nordstrom that we contact Slap to do the background color and then have artist do design to save money. Member Davis suggested that SLAP could also be used for the nursery work. Mr. Dunn suggested locating cheaper components and increasing purchase price in the spring. We will firm up our rain barrel plans for next months meeting.

**251 Certifications-** Motion made by Member Bonin to certify 251 Certifications. Second by Member Davis. All approved. Motion carried.

**RFA Authorizations-** Motion made by Member Davis to certify RFA Authorizations. Second by Member Beneduce. All approved. Motion carried.

**Executive Session-** Motion made by Member Beneduce to close public meeting and open Executive Session at 3:40 p.m. for the purpose of litigation. Second by Member Davis. All approved. Motion carried. Member Nordstrom excused herself due to conflict of interest.

Motion made by Member Beneduce to close executive session and return to public meeting at 3:45 p.m.. Second by Member Davis. All approved. Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Beneduce to adjourn meeting at 3:50 p.m.. Second by Member Davis. All approved. Motion carried.

**Next meeting to be held at 2:00 p.m. on September 22, 2010.**