

**MORRIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS MEETING
September 28, 2016**

*The regular meeting of the Morris County Soil Conservation District was held on the above date at 550 West Hanover Ave., Morris Township, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. The following individuals were present: Treasurer; Marc Slaff, Assistant Treasurer; Bob McEwan, Vice Chair; Louise Davis, Manager; Joe Dunn, Secretary; Shelly Hothouse, NRCS; Dave Schaff
Absent: Member Phillip Roehrlich*

Correspondence- Progress

Approval of minutes- Motion made by Member Slaff seconded by Member McEwan and all approved to approve minutes of August 24, 2016. Motion carried. Member Platt abstains.

Warm Welcome to our new Supervisor Nicholas Platt by Member Davis. Introduction to everyone present.

NRCS- Dave Schaff- Report as follows: We are currently accepting applications for 2017 Programs. We have 15 active Farm bill Contracts in Morris County. A Forest Stewardship plan is being developed for property in Chatham Township. We have 9 EQIP Applications. October 21 will be the sign-up deadline for first round of 2017 EQIP, AMA and RCPP applications.

New Business- Complaint forwarded to our office by Pequannock Township Engineer involving a rather substantial ditch dug by farmer to address runoff by neighboring lot owner. The issue revolves around water saturating the field where pots lay on fabric for planting. The board will need to decide whether this is a conservation agreement. A NOV was issued by DEP regarding the cleared area. NRCS indicated that they cannot give assistance due to NOV which will void right to farm.

Executive Session-Motion made by Member Slaff, seconded by Member McEwan to close public session and open Executive Session for project determination at 2:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Roehrlich and seconded by Member Slaff to close Executive Session and open public meeting at 3:03 p.m. Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Slaff to deny Conservation Agreement, seconded by Member Slaff and all approved. Motion carried.

Roll Call

Member Slaff Yes

Member Platt Yes

Member Davis Yes

Member McEwan Yes

Establish Pollinator Friendly Plant Boxes- “*Roehrich’s Roots*”- Proposal to construct raised beds for the establishment of pollinator friendly plants to attract butterflies and bees. Project Partners would include; NJACD, MCSCD,NABA, Garden Clubs, Schools, USDA, NRCS, NFWF, ANJEC and VMC.

NJACD can provide assistance seeking grants, donations of construction materials general outreach and publicity. MCSCD can provide facility, including irrigation/water hook up and small shed to house gardening tools. It was further suggested that the board empower a board member to sign the grant agreement between meetings if need be. Member McEwan indicated that he would be available.

Finance- Motion to pay bills for month of September made by Member Davis, Seconded by Member McEwan and all approved. Motion carried.

Personnel- Letter of retirement for our Administrative Assistant Shelly presented to the board. Member Davis thanked Shelly for her years of service and dedication. Shelly will finish out the year with official retirement of January 1, 2017.

Envirothon - Motion made by Member Slaff, seconded by Member McEwan and all approved to have MCSCD sponsor the 2017 Envirothon.

Mgr. Report- Progress- Emerald Ash Bore will cause a serious threat to our Ash trees in the next several years. Mr. Dunn is proposing Seminars to educate towns and land owners on the impending threat and steps they can take to divert damage. Member Platt indicated that he can find the funding for these seminars and Mr. Dunn will develop an outline for the seminar. It was suggested that we bring the Morris County Freeholders on board to insert information in their newsletter.

Retention Basins- There is a growing movement to replant basins with pollinators adding a dual purpose for the drainage structures. We will revisit this discussion at next month’s meeting.

Meeting attendance- Shelly-Progress

251 Certifications- Motion made by Member Slaff, seconded by Member Davis and all approved to certify 251 certifications. Motion carried.

RFA Authorizations- Motion made by Member Slaff, seconded by Member Davis and all approved to certify RFA Authorizations. Motion carried.

Let the minutes reflect Member McEwan abstained from any conflict of interest regarding 251 Certification or litigation.

Motion made by Member Slaff, seconded by Member Davis to adjourn meeting at 3:25 p.m. All Approved. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be held on October 26, 2016