

**Morris County Soil Conservation District
Supervisors Meeting
August 24, 2011**

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 1:00 a.m. The following individuals were present. Chair, David Welch, Treasurer; Jeanette Bonin, Vice Chair; Louise Davis, Supervisors Marc Slaff, Manager; Joseph Dunn, Secretary; Shelly Zellars, Staff Jackie Connelly, Joe McEvoy, Sheila Hall, Dan Mull; NRCS.

Adequate Notice of this meeting on this date has been provided through resolutions adopted by the Board of Supervisors at its annual meeting at 26 High View 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.

Roll Call for Supervisors

Member Slaff- Yes
Member Davis-Yes
Member Bonin- Yes
Member Welch- Yes
Member Nordstrom- absent

Staff attendance for Program review:

The purpose of staff attendance is to review cost benefits of Forestry, nursery, Rain Barrels and Seedling Sale.

Issues with Nursery- Issues with Nursery include maintenance, drought issues, broken irrigation system, shortage of staff to work on nursery. Joe McEvoy explained that the nursery is very labor intense and we are down to a bare bone staff and unfortunately the nursery is not billable at \$85.00 per hour like our #251 work.

The following issues were discussed:

- We have not sold many trees and one large order was canceled. The nursery will need to be closed in the fall
- There has been significant loss with nursery. Our contract will have to be renewed with Morris County.

- We would need a dedicated person to run the nursery and drive sales if we decided to keep nursery program alive.
- There is a Mercer County program willing to take trees over and clear inventory.
- Our biggest loss for nursery is 400 man hours each year..
- Starting costs were approximately \$20,000.00 which would be lost.
- Our species of trees are not favorable to many groups as they are primarily used for restoration areas.

It was the final decision of the board to put the nursery in maintenance mode and do outreach opportunity for sales for the upcoming year.

Forestry- Mr. Dunn commented that he has a 10 year commitment to forestry clients in which a \$70.00 charge has been paid for state T & E Search check.

It was suggested that we possibly raise fees 3% each year but this would probably result in loss of clients. Chairman Welch asked Mr. Dunn if he would consider possibly taking over on personal basis. This would need board discussion and no conflicts with district.

Seedling- Mr. Dunn commented that customers are no longer interested in large orders We will put seedlings on hold for one year and notify Crowshaw that our usual order for spring of 2012 will not be placed.

Shelly put Forestry and Nursery on agenda for next month.

Rain Barrels- The decision by the board would be to sell remaining inventory and end program. We have approximately 60 barrels left.

Comments from Staff: Sheila Hall commented that she felt we should be dwelling on 251 only as there are remaining single family homes to be regulated.

Mrs. Hall also suggested looking at electrical permits which indicates new hook ups. Sheila will check with code officials.

Joe McEvoy- Mr. McEvoy commented that the nursery is too labor intense and we lack sale of trees.

Jackie- Mrs. Connelly commented that these additional programs just do not generate any revenue and we need to pay attention to 251

Mac suggested that Data base be revised to indicate red flag when project is expiring to collect recertification fees. We will ask John Satta to make this addition to our data base.

Chairman Welch requested that a financial cost outline be done by Mr. Dunn for the Forestry program at next months meeting.

Regular meeting The monthly Soil Conservation District Meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chairman Welch

Approval of minutes Motion made by Member Davis, seconded by Member Bonin and all approved for approval of minutes of July 2010. Motion Carried.

Correspondence-

- Annual conference in Clinton NJ Oct 5-6
- Bill for discussion- \$5,077 for Environmental Insurance.
- \$100.00 Renewal for Soil and Water Society
- District manager of Burlington District-New Manager Robert Redemeyer
- Ken Sicknick resignation

Motion made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Slaff to purchase Environmental Insurance at a cost of \$5,077.00 per year. All approved. Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Slaff and seconded by Member Bonin to renew Soil and Water Membership in the amount of \$100.00. All approved. Motion carried.

Health Benefits- It is the recommendation of the board that we keep employee contribution at 10% for now even after the resignation of staff member Ken Sicknick.

Finance- Motion made by Member Davis, seconded by Member Slaff and all approved to pay the monthly bills for August 2011. Motion carried.

NRCS- Report by Dan mull

EQUPI contract for Alstede Farms in chester for Fence (Organic) and Ag Chem Handling.

WHIPContracts include: Schiff Natural Lands Trust in Mendham, Michael Catania in Mendham, Township of Chester and State of NJ/Tilcon in Mt. Olive
Cost Share Form for Centenary College Equestrian Center.

Mgr report – Managers report as accepted

Potential Revenue- Revenue discussion to be put on hold for the September meeting.

Member Welch would like Mr. Dunn to accompany him to Princeton, New Jersey for meeting with our attorney about data base.

Request for assistance received for Shot lane of the South Branch a/k/a former Mortizi property in Mount Olive

County College of Morris certification today will be a conditional. Mr. Dunn has issue with some house keeping on the site.

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

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

Motion to adjourn Motion made by Member Bonin, seconded by Member Davis and all approved to adjourn meeting at 3:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Meeting for next month will be held on September 28, 2011.