

**Morris County Soil Conservation District
Supervisors Meeting
July 26, 2023**

July 26, 2023, meeting was called to order by Chair Louise Davis, 30 Schuyler Place, 2nd Floor - Schuyler Conference Room # 211, Morris Township, New Jersey Mrs. Connelly stated the Open Public Meetings Act requirements have been met. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. adequate notice of this meeting was provided by giving the time, date, and location and to the extent known the agenda of this meeting. At least 48 hours in advance this notice has been posted on the bulletin board, 30 Schuyler Place, Morris County Annex Building in Morristown; emailed to The Star Ledger, the Daily Record and filed with the Office of County Clerk.

The following individuals were present:

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| Chair: | Louise Davis |
| Vice-Chair: | Phill Roehrich |
| Treasurer: | Marc Slaff |
| Assistant Treasurer: | Bob McEwan |
| Secretary: | Robert Danowski |
| District Manager: | Joe Dunn |
| Bookkeeper: | Jacqueline Connelly |
| Resource Conservationist: | Kara Hasko |
| NRCS: | Kim Dalton |
| NACD: | Emily Allen |

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Louise Davis

Correspondence:

On July 14, 2023, Mr. Dunn received a resignation letter from Emily Allen effective July 28, 2023. In addition, the district received a letter from USDA-NRCS-NJ-Plan Grant our application was not selected for the award. Available funding was 2.5 million and requests exceeded 5 million.

Accept Minutes:

Accepted as Submitted

Chair:

On a motion made by Member McEwan and seconded by Member Roehrich the Office Manager job description was approved without additional pay as the current employee compensation exceeds the upper range of the salary. The Chair indicated the motion carried.

Personnel Reviews:

Motion made by Member McEwan and seconded by Member Roehrich to accept the performance evaluations. The Chair indicated the motion carried.

Finance:

Motion made by Member Slaff and seconded by Member McEwan to approve paying the bills. The Chair indicated the motion carried.

Manager:

Mr. Dunn discussed MOU – NRCS – Memorandum of Understanding, the general agreement with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation Districts and USDA. Mr. Dunn read an email from the Mercer County District Manager that explained that the Mercer District would not sign on to the MOU-NRCS. The district of past years took on the responsibility of a high hazard dam at great expense. The manager determined the old NRCS agreements as the source of this liability. Mr. Dunn indicated that the MOU should be a starting point to understand the relationship between the district and NRCS.

Resource Conservationist:

Kara completed her TSP orientation & Conservation Planning course on AgLearn. She updated the Board on a complaint regarding storm water run off sediment filling a pond. The source of the sediment was a nearby roadway.

NRCS:

Kim attended the meeting in place of Jill Ott. She reported NRCS is wrapping up FY23 with 136 total applications.

NACD:

Emily confirmed her last day would be Friday July 28, thanked the district for the opportunity and experience but realized this is not for her. She was granted permission to read a statement - she expected but received no management, no training, and no mentoring. Furthermore, stated she was not given a living wage and housing costs alone today far exceeded her income; she indicated that the Board comments at the last meeting were not supportive. She asked the Board to provide proper support to future NRCS partnership employees.

Mr. Dunn explained the salary range, interview and hiring for the position. Member Danowski discussed routine steps associated with new employees and how this was not followed in Emily Allen's hiring.

Environment / Personal Liability Insurance Policy Change:

After completing a professional coverage insurance questionnaire, the district is presented with an alternate policy decreasing the yearly premium by \$ 1200.00 and a deductible of \$ 5,000 from the current policy deductible of \$ 2500.00.

Motion made by Member McEwan to approve the new Environment / Personal Liability Insurance Policy changing and seconded by Member Danowski. The Chair indicated the motion carried.

FY2024 Meeting Dates:

Motion made by Member McEwan to approve FY2024 meeting dates and seconded by Member Slaff. The Chair indicated the motion carried.

NJACD Annual Conference:

This year's annual conference will be November 20, 2023, either at the Liberty Science Center or Bordentown, NJ- please advise Mrs. Connelly who will be attending.

Employee Phones or Tablets:

Member Danowski ask Kara to research with staff what works best and report finding to be discussed again.

Budget FY2024 – COLA-

Discussions to be continued.

251 Certifications:

Motion made by Member McEwan to approve 251 Certifications and seconded by Member Slaff. The Chair indicated the motion carried.

RFA Authorizations:

Motion made by Member McEwan to approve RFA and seconded by Member Roehrich. The Chair indicated the motion carried.

A motion made by Member McEwan seconded by Member Roehrich to closed public meeting and open Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion carried and all approved.

At 5:03 pm on a motion by Member McEwan and second by Member Roehrich both the Executive Session and Open Session were adjourned. The Chair indicated the motion carried.

Let the minutes reflect Member Slaff abstained from acting on any projects or conflicts affiliated with US Home Corporation DBA Lennar

Let the minutes reflect Member McEwan abstained from acting on any projects or conflicts affiliated with Bob McEwan Construction regarding 251 Certification or litigation.

Respectfully Submitted

Jacqueline Connelly