Morris County Soil Conservation District Supervisors Meeting September 22, 2021

The September 22, 2021, meeting was called to order by Chair Louise Davis at Morristown Park - 468 South Street, Morristown, 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:

Chair: Louise Davis Treasurer: Marc Slaff Assistant Treasurer: Bob McEwan Secretary: Robert Danowski

District Manager: Joe Dunn

Office Manager: Jacqueline Connelly

Director NJACD: Lily Mehl **Technical Specialist:** Kara Hasko **Technical Support USDA:** Jenna McNally

The following individual was absent: Vice-Chair: Phil Roehrich

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Louise Davis

Correspondence:

No actionable items

Accept Minutes:

Accepted as Submitted

Chair:

Chair Davis introduced Jenna McNally to the Board of Supervisors and each one introduces themselves.

Chair Davis attended the State Committee meeting and commented they want the Conservation Districts to be more involved in Agriculture and to be a backup for Farmland Assessment.

Also mentioned because of storm IDA they discovered stormwater structures have not been maintained and need to be inspected. The plan is to start training at on this at the Partnership Meeting in March 2022.

Finance:

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

ACS:

Kara completed a Conservation Plan packet on 9/15 and obligated 2 CSP contracts as well as a Brush Management certification in Morris and implemented a site visit in Warren. She is continuing with her teleconferences and management training with NRCS and staff meetings.

Congratulations on her Certified Planner Certification granted for 3-years covering the period 9/21/2021 to 9/21/2024, because of her recent performance she will be receiving a 20% salary increase amount approved by the board.

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

USDA:

Jenna is currently training at the NRCS office on forestry management planning and other additional skills when possible.

Manager:

Mr. Dunn noted the Hickory Tavern Road project in Long Hill has started and after inspecting is in compliance.

Concerning the Farmland assistant program Mr. Dunn made two requests for assistance to be made in a timely manner and a disclaimer defining the limitations on the district responsibilities.

Under the order, state employees who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 shall be required to demonstrate a negative COVID-19 test. Mr. Dunn requesting the staff be able to use sick time during office hours for testing the same as if the staff needs to quarantine.

Conservation Agreement:

Mr. Dunn commented on a Conservation Agreement requesting assistance in Chester Township which is an exempt municipality. He mentioned it has conservation issues and is in the Highlands.

Motion made by Member McEwan to Deny approval for assistance and seconded by Member Danowski. The Chair indicated the motion carried

NJACD Annual Meeting:

The meeting will be on Wednesday November 10, 2021 @ 12 - 1:30PM – Virtual. Lily will email the link to Mrs. Connelly, and she will forward to all the supervisors to attend.

Farmland Forestry Fee Increase:

Mr. Dunn is requesting a fee increase for forestry client for year 2022.

Motion made by Member McEwan to approve forestry fee increase for 2022 and seconded by Member Danowski. The Chair indicated the motion carried

251 Certifications:

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

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

Motion made by Member McEwan second by Member Slaff to leave public meeting and open Executive Session for negotiations. Motion carried and all approved

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

With no more business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm