

MINUTES
Morris County Soil Conservation District [District]
Board of Supervisors [Board]
30 Schuyler Place, Morristown, NJ - 2nd Floor Conference Room
December 4, 2024 at 1:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Board Vice Chair Phil Roehrich.

Members Present:

Robert Danowski, Secretary
Bob McEwan, Assistant Treasurer
Phil Roehrich, Vice Chair
Marc Slaff, Treasurer

Also Attending:

Jennifer McCulloch, District Manager

Absent:

Louise Davis, Chair

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Ms. McCulloch announced that in accordance with the *Open Public Meetings Act*, adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and filed with the Town of Morristown, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record, and the Star-Ledger. Public notice was also posted at the County Clerk's office and the 30 Schuyler Place Annex in Morristown.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the October 23, 2024, meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Bob McEwan, seconded by Robert Danowski, the Board approved said Minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORTS

• **Chair Report**

○ **251 Program Certifications**

There were 56 *Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans (Plans)* certified since the last Board meeting on September 25, 2024, a detailed list was provided [attached]. All *Plans* were recommended for ratification by the Board. On a motion by Marc Slaff, seconded by Bob McEwan, all aforesaid *Plans* were duly ratified

- **Requests for Authorization [RFA]**

All Requests for Authorization of NJDEP 5G3 Permit applications, since the last Board meeting on October 23, 2024, were reviewed by staff and recommended for authorization by the Board. On a motion by Bob McEwan, seconded by Marc Slaff, the Board approved authorizing these RFAs.

- **Finance Report** – Mr. Slaff presented the Financial Report and bills, which were reviewed by the Board. On a motion by Robert Danowski, seconded by Marc Slaff, the Board accepted the Financial Report and approved the payment of regular bills.
- **District Manager (DM) Report** – A written report was provided to the Board. Team morale is up, Kathe Benjamin (Administrative Assistant) agreed to increased hours and responsibilities. The District is providing the same level of service as before our Bookkeeper’s termination. DM has been handling all bookkeeping and payroll responsibilities and is researching other banks due to our current bank’s deficient capabilities and services.

Envirothon is requesting scholarships from Districts to increase participation. New Affordable Housing (AH) rules are beneficial to the District. It is estimated that there will need to be 10,000 new AH units; since builders usually build 4-luxury units to each 1 AH unit – this translates into 50,000 units in the County.

Supervisor training opportunities were discussed. Performance evaluations and increased compensation recommendations will be discussed in Executive Session.

- **NRCS Report** – Jill Ott was not in attendance; no written report was provided

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the *Open Public Meetings Act*, Vice Chair Roehrich announced that in compliance with the *Open Public Meetings Act*, the Board considered closing the open portion of the meeting to discuss matters related to personnel in Executive Session. On a motion by Bob McEwan, seconded by Marc Slaff, the Board unanimously approved this motion and entered Executive Session at 1:16 pm.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

On a motion by Robert Danowski, seconded by Bob McEwan Danowski, the Board voted to return to Open Session; the Board unanimously approved this motion and returned to Open Session at 1:37 pm.

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Bob McEwan, seconded by Robert Danowski, **Resolution #2024-08 Change Banking Institution** was approved unanimously by the Board.

On a motion made by Marc Slaff, seconded by Bob McEwan, **Resolution #2024-10 FY 2025 Compensation and Promotion** was approved unanimously by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Cell Phones for Staff** – as previously presented, assuming 4 cell phones: Year 1: \$2,100 (phones \$1,200, carrier \$720/year) and subsequent years: \$720/year carrier fee. On a motion by Bob McEwan, seconded by Robert Danowski this expenditure was unanimously approved.
- **Envirothon Scholarships for High Schools** – NJACD is requesting scholarships to encourage new high school teams, DM recommended \$100 each for 3 new teams. On a motion by Marc Slaff, seconded by Robert Danowski this expenditure was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Bob McEwan, seconded by Marc Slaff, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 1:46pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22nd at 1:00 pm in the 2nd floor Conference Room at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, Morristown, NJ.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer N. McCulloch