



**Cumberland-Salem Conservation District**  
**1516 Route 77, P.O. Box 68**  
**Deerfield, NJ 08313**  
**Phone (856) 451-2422**  
**Fax (856) 451-1358**

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**Meeting Minutes - January 23, 2018**

Present

Mike Bonham  
Ron Thomas

Ralph Sickler  
Michelle Pedano

Tom Tedesco  
John Showler

Chairman Ron Thomas opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Due notice by order of the "Sunshine Law" was given and noted.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as written. Motion made by Ralph and seconded by Ron. Passed.

Financial Report

Mike reviewed the financial report and noted that the District's net income from September 16, 2017 through January 15, 2018 was \$5,910.40. Chapter 251 revenue was \$41,885.00. The yearly audit and attorney retainer were paid during this reporting period. Motion to approve the financial reports made by Ralph and seconded by Tom. Passed

251 Report

Mike reviewed the 251 report, and noted routine activity. New commercial project application submittals have increased. Motion to approve the report made by Ralph and seconded by Tom. Passed.

SSCC

John reported on the new soil restoration standards which aim to increase infiltration on all construction projects. The standards revise the amount of topsoil required and modify the land grading standard. Compaction testing and verification of the testing is required of the District. The regional supervisor meeting for the south will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Maplewood.

### NRCS - Cumberland & Salem Field Offices

Michelle and Mike presented the NRCS reports for the Cumberland and Salem Field offices. NRCS is currently ranking EQIP 2018 applicants. The Soil and Water Cost Share program for preserved farms and 8-year enrolled farms has been funded with the passage of the Farmland Preservation Program appropriations bill. Approximately \$500,000-\$1,000,000 will be allocated for soil and water cost share projects statewide. The South Jersey Local Working Group meeting for 2018 will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Gloucester Rutgers Extension office. Several conservation agreements were presented for approval. Motion to approve the NRCS action items made by Ralph and seconded by Tom. Passed.

### Agriculture

Currently there are three right-to-farm issues at the Cumberland County CADB. Two involve agriculture water runoff from nurseries and the other involves agriculture water runoff from City drainage and farm regarding. NRCS is working on a waterway design to help address the water runoff at one of the locations. Mediation sessions through the SADC have occurred to attempt to resolve these issues.

### Supervisor Appointments

Mike informed the Board that the terms for Ralph Sickler and Maury Sheets will expire on June 30, 2018. Mike will start working on the reappointment paperwork for Ralph and Maury.

### FY2017 Audit

The Board reviewed and approved the FY2017 audit. Motion to approve by Ralph and seconded by Ron. Passed.

### Soil and Water Cost Share Tables

Mike updated the Board regarding the use of the NRCS cost share schedules for the farmland preservation soil and water cost share program. NRCS currently does not have rates for agricultural production irrigation wells greater than 8 inches. Mike contacted Frank Minch to express the need to continue cost sharing on these wells. Frank indicated that it would be possible to add to the NRCS cost table to include such practices.

### Envirothon

Mike has been working with Rich Belcher from the NJDA and Karol Blew to plan for the 2018 Envirothon. The event will be held at Camp Grice and will be the first time Cumberland/Salem has participated. Teams will arrive on May 4<sup>th</sup> and the competition begins on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The District approved a \$1,000 donation to the Envirothon. Motion made by Ralph and seconded by Tom.

Being no further open session business, the open portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Motion made by Tom and seconded by Ralph. Passed.