



Cumberland-Salem Conservation District
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Meeting Minutes - January 23, 2024

Mike Bonham	Ralph Sickler	Maury Sheets
Henry Dubois	Ron Thomas	Michelle Pedano

Chairman Ron Thomas opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Due notice by order of the "Sunshine Law" was given and noted.

Reorganization

Ron opened the meeting for discussion regarding reorganization of District Supervisor roles. After discussion a motion was made to continue with Supervisors in their current roles. Motion made by Ralph and seconded by Maury. Passed.

Meeting Minutes

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

Financial Report

Mike reviewed the financial report and noted that the District's net income from October 15, 2023 through January 15, 2024 was \$-22.62. Chapter 251 revenue was \$51,580.00. Payment for the FY2023 audit was made during the reporting period. Motion to approve the financial reports made by Henry and seconded by Ralph. Passed

251 Report

Mike reviewed the 251 report. Carney's Point and the City of Vineland remain active with commercial and residential projects. The District has been issuing winter compliances for projects requiring occupancy. These projects will be re-inspected in the Spring for seeding/stabilization. Motion to approve the report made by Maury and seconded by Henry. Passed.

NRCS - Cumberland & Salem Field Offices

Michelle presented Cumberland & Salem NRCS field office reports. ACTNOW accelerated funding is being offered for climate smart soil health practices, high tunnel greenhouses and tree mortality. Several conservation agreements, conservation plans and state cost share applications were presented for approval. Erica Boyland from NRCS-Arizona is serving as the Acting State Conservationist for NRCS-New Jersey. For 2024 NRCS cooperators will be able to sign up for cover crop, no-till and reduced tillage on agricultural lands previously contracted and sign up is extended through 01/26/2024. Motion to approve the NRCS action items made by Ralph and seconded by Henry. Passed.

NRCS Civil Rights

Michelle presented the annual review of NRCS Civil Rights policies to the NRCS partners. Copies of the NRCS Civil Right policies were mailed to District Supervisors.

Staffing/Workload

Mike updated the Board on the current workload of soil erosion and sediment control applications and inspections. Residential and commercial projects submittals have been at higher levels than in previous years. The size of the projects, particularly with the commercial warehouse projects has also increased. Mike will work with the neighboring Districts to review the job descriptions for new staff.

FY2023 Financial Audit

Mike reviewed the FY2023 Financial Audit prepared by Nightlinger Colavita and Volpa. After discussion a motion was made to approve the FY2023 Financial Audit. Motion made by Ralph and seconded by Henry. Passed.

CD Rates

Mike updated the Board regarding the District accounts. The District currently has funds at OceanFirst that were removed from the checking accounts which were closed. Mike presented CD rates for Ocean First Bank and will look into other interest bearing options.

Local Workgroup

The Cumberland Salem Conservation District and Gloucester Soil Conservation District are partnering on a survey and follow-up meeting to assess the natural resource concerns and conservation practices in Southern New Jersey. The survey is available on the District website and the LWG meeting will be held on February 21st at the Salem NRCS building in Woodstown.

Being no further open session business, the open portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. Motion made by Henry and seconded by Ralph. Passed.