

**MINUTES OF MERCER COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
590 HUGHES DRIVE
HAMILTON SQUARE, NJ 08690
AUGUST 13, 2026**

MCSCD SUPERVISORS

Scott Ellis
Lucia Huebner
Daniel Pace

STAFF

Paul Schiariti
Linda Sandusky

OTHERS

Lewis Goldshore, Esq.
Diane Kottas
Rodger Jany

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, S. Ellis at 12:33 pm. The attendees rose for the flag salute. The Statement of Adequate Notice was read.

Rodger Jany was introduced to the Board.

The Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. The district was in the black for the month with applications received increasing.

MOTION 1

A motion to receive and file the Treasurer's Report pending audit was made by D. Pace, seconded by L. Huebner, carried unanimously.

The Director's Report was given.

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION PROGRAM

13 - APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
1 - PREREVIEW INSPECTIONS
16 – CHAPTER 251 REVIEWS
66 – CHAPTER 251 INSPECTIONS
0 - PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING
34 - FINAL REPORTS OF COMPLIANCE
9 - CONDITIONAL REPORTS OF COMPLIANCE
1 - VIOLATION NOTICE
0 - STOP WORK ORDER
0 - DENIALS
3 - CERTIFICATION DELEGATIONS
9 - 251 EXEMPTION DETERMINATIONS

CHAPTER 251

The district issued a Violation Notice for a single-family residence in Hamilton Twp. as a result of the project starting without the applicant picking up the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans and notifying the district of start of construction. The applicant subsequently obtained the certified plans and provided the required notice. The plans were certified in February of 2026.

DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

The Nominating Committee met on Monday, July 27, 2026. The committee members represented various municipalities including Hamilton Twp., Robbinsville Twp., West Windsor Twp., and Lawrence Twp. They also had various resource backgrounds including Agriculture, Planning and Engineering. The committee nominated and approved two (2) candidates for the two (2) open supervisor positions. The district manager obtained the candidates' signatures on their respective nomination forms and prepared the necessary reports and information to forward to the State Soil Conservation Committee for their official approval during the September 14, 2026 SSCC meeting.

MERCER COUNTY

The District Chairman and District Manager met with the Mercer County Executive, the Farmland Preservation Coordinator, the Director of the County Planning Department and staff on July 8, 2026, to discuss succession planning and future direction of the district. The county executive and staff were extremely interested and engaged in the discussion regarding financial and staffing issues facing the district. All parties indicated a belief that the natural resource services provided by the district, for Mercer County and its residents, are best served by the district, maintaining a local presence and remaining a distinct entity, as opposed to being acquired by another district. The county executive indicated that there may be an opportunity to increase the annual grant funding provided to the district. He requested that the district provide a Budget with the updated grant amount for review and possible approval from the Mercer County Board of County Commissioners.

The district manager prepared an updated budget and forwarded the same to the director of the county planning department.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

The district's computer consultant, Zog, Inc. provided a new laptop for the office administrator. Their technician came to the office installed all of the necessary software and troubleshooted all connection and communication issues with the server, and desktop.

DISTRICT TOUR

The district held a tour at Waterfront Park in Trenton. The park recently underwent an updated turf field replacement, which included a significant amount of sub-surface drainage improvements. A presentation was provided by the President of the Trenton Thunder, on the history of the team and the stadium as well as the recent upgrade project to the stadium. The tour was coordinated by the office administrator and was very well attended. After the presentation, everyone was invited to stay for the game and dinner.

HUNT LAKE DAM

The District Manager gave an overview of the history of Hunt Lake Dam, and the current status of the dam maintenance to update R. Jany . This included the current tree that fell on the dam embankment and the removal process to take place. The District Manager suggested giving a presentation to inform R. Jany at the next meeting on the full history of Hunt Lake Dam.

MOTION 2

A motion to approve the Director's Report was made by D. Pace, seconded by L. Huebner, carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. New Jersey Board of Agricultural Legislative Breakfast will be held 9/4/26 at Needle Creek Brewery

CHAPTER 251 RATIFICATION

The district is ratifying Chapter 251 certifications from July 9, 2026.

2026-6912-EW	2020-5885-T(R)	2026-6957-E	2026-6959-H
2022-6257-HT(R)	2021-6101-HT(R)	2026-6952-HT	2026-6958-HT
2026-6935-L	2026-6926-R	2026-6897-R	2026-6953-WW
2020-5882-WW(R)			
NJG0310654			

MOTION 3

To approve the ratification of Chapter 251 plans from July 9, 2026 recommended for certification by staff was made by L. Huebner, seconded by D. Pace, carried unanimously.

CHAPTER 251 DENIALS RATIFICATION

The district had three denials from July 9, 2026 that require ratification at the August meeting. These denials were due to no response from review letters sent for corrections before certification could be authorized.

2019-5714-E	2021-6003-H	2022-6200-P
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MOTION 4

A motion to approve the ratification of Chapter 251 plan denials from July 9, 2026 was made by L. Huebner, seconded by D. Pace, carried unanimously.

CHAPTER 251

2026-6903-T	2025-6874-EW	2026-6923-E	2026-6972-E
2026-6964-E	2026-6963-H	2026-6975-H	2026-6961-HT
2022-6365-HT(R)	2022-6345-HT(R)	2026-6965-HT	2025-6754-HT(R)
2025-6795-HT(R)	NJG0365084	2026-6914-HT	NJG0369659
NJG0379034	2026-6971-L	2022-6310-P(R)	2026-6966-P

2026-6968-P
2020-5905-WW(R)
NJG0316547

2026-6942-R

2025-6859-R

2023-6550-WW(R)
NJG0363677

MOTION 5

A motion to approve plans recommended for certification by staff was made by L. Huebner, seconded by D. Pace, carried unanimously.

DISTRICT RATIFICATION

In the event that the district does not have a quorum to transact business at a regularly scheduled meeting, district counsel recommended authorizing the District Manager to approve the chapter 251 certifications, which action will be ratified at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

MOTION 6

A motion to permit the District Manager to approve Chapter 251 Certifications until ratification can be made at the next district meeting was made by L. Huebner, seconded by D. Pace, carried unanimously.

USDA/NRCS UPDATE

An August report from Morgan Devine was received by the district. Fiscal Year 2027 program deadline is September 18th 2026.

NRCS is responsible for monitoring and restoring 19 dams in the Assunpink watershed (current rehabilitation on 8 dams).

Target outreach to farms in the Assunpink Watershed for runoff and erosion control. Packets of information are being sent out on NRCS and programs to identified farmers and landowners in the watershed.

Freehold Office is hosting a Conservation Open House on September 3, 2026 from 9am-12pm. Some topics of interest are:

- EQIP & CSP program highlights
- How to apply for funding before 9/18/26
- Local conservation success stories
- One-on-one support from NRCS staff

EXTENSION UPDATE

An email was received by the district from M. Melendez with the following updates.

M. Melendez is currently harvesting peppers for an organic weed management project.

M. Melendez taught a soils lab for the RCE Mercer STEM summer camp with a focus on New Jersey Soil. The campers were junior high school age. The lab component involved soil classifications using the jar method to have the soil settle out into sand, silt, clay layers. pH testing and animal fecal matter ID was also done.

F. Minch, D. Wunderluch and M. Melendez continue to work with the New Jersey DoH on retail oversights on farm stands and markets.

M. Melendez attended the American Society for Horticulture Science annual conference in Dallas, TX where she presented on the New Jersey Organic and Regenerative Farm Board survey results as it relates to Extension outreach. One-on-one farm visits and technical assistance and research dedicated to farming in a changing climate stand out as two of the most common needs.

M. Melendez is partnering with Kate Brown, Somerset County, Sophia Lee, Extension Viability Specialist, and Thierry Besancon, Extension Specialty Crop Weed Specialist on a weed management project in the organic plots at the Snyder Research Farm. This project is evaluating yield impacts of different methods of weed management between rows in peppers including landscape fabric, cover cropping, robotic weeder, hand weeding and rototilling.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The district is required to clarify Theodora Wang's resignation. The district attorney will draft a letter to T. Wang for district manager's signature.

L. Huebner brought up the issue of succession planning when the District Manager retires next year and where the district wants to be in the future. The District Manager suggested hiring a District Manager to train first, and after he retires, hire an additional person. This effect will not be a burden on the payroll with three employees while two are in training. R. Jeny suggested looking for a hire soon to give time for the interview process and training.

Next Meeting: September 17, 2026 at 3pm

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Schiariti, P.E.
Secretary to the Board