

**MINUTES OF MERCER COUNTY  
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
590 HUGHES DRIVE  
HAMILTON SQUARE, NJ 08690  
JULY 13, 2023**

**MCSCD SUPERVISORS**

Scott Ellis  
Theodora Wang  
Lucia Huebner  
Gary Mount  
Dan Pace (virtual)

**STAFF**

Paul Schiariti, P.E.  
Linda Sandusky

**OTHERS**

Lewis Goldshore, Esq.  
Meredith Melendez

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, S. Ellis at 12:37 pm. The Statement of Adequate Notice was read.

The minutes of the June 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed by the Board.

**MOTION 1**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by G. Mount seconded by T. Wang, D. Pace abstained, motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. The District was in the red for this period. The Fiscal Year 2023 ended June 30, 2023 with the District in the black for the year.

**MOTION 2**

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

The Director's Report was given.

**NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION PROGRAM**

15 - APPLICATIONS RECEIVED  
1 - PREREVIEW INSPECTION  
27 - REVIEWS  
130 - INSPECTIONS  
2 - PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETINGS  
46 - FINAL REPORTS OF COMPLIANCE  
6 - CONDITIONAL REPORTS OF COMPLIANCE  
1 - VIOLATION NOTICE

- 0 - STOP WORK ORDERS
- 1 - DENIAL
- 0 - CERTIFICATION DELEGATIONS
- 6 - 251 EXEMPTION DETERMINATIONS

### **CHAPTER 251**

A Violation Notice was issued for the Raajipo, LLC project in Robbinsville Twp. Several site related issues including past due Conditional Reports of Compliance; an unprotected storm drainage inlet; site stabilization; and desilting the wet pond were included in the Violation Notice. The wet pond was pumped down to the point where the inlet discharges were visible. Some sediment was noted, but relative to the size of the pond, it did not warrant removal from the pond.

The district received an OPRA request for Violation Notices issued for the Raajipo, LLC project. The Office Administrator responded and provided the requested documents. The district also received several complaint emails from the President of the HOA, discussing their concerns and the history of the project. The email outlined fines and violations from NJDEP. The district was also informed that the Municipality officially issued a Stop Construction Order for the project.

### **HUNT LAKE DAM**

The district received an invoice for the mowing of the embankments for the last three (3) months. The district manager conducted an inspection to verify the last mowing. The mowing was obviously just completed. The office administrator paid the Invoices.

The NJDEP informed the district that a pre-bid meeting for the lake lowering, and breach analysis was held on Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Dam. Four (4) consultants attended the meeting.

### **STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

The district manager and T. Wang attended (in person and virtually, respectively) the State Soil Conservation Committee meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Topics of discussion included: Supervisor Reappointments; Daniel's Law and District Websites; Fee Schedule update for Somerset Union; the quarterly Engineering Report; and NJDOT Standards.

The State Soil Conservation Committee officially appointed Daniel Pace as a Supervisor. D. Pace's initial term will be for the remainder of E. DiPolvere's term – 2 years, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. G. Mount was reappointed to a full term, and L. Huebner was reappointed for an additional year.

A Resolution recognizing E. DiPolvere's 44 years of service to the program was also presented to the State Committee. The resolution acknowledged the various positions held and contributions made by Ed over the years and acknowledged their gratitude for his service to the program. A copy of the Resolution will be sent to the Governor's office as well.

## **CHAPTER 251 ASSISTANCE**

The Freehold District inspectors began inspecting the requested projects that the district identified within Mercer County. A Google Drop Box was established to allow access to the data tracking system for both districts. As inspections are performed, the Excel files are updated by the Freehold employees, and are accessible by the Mercer district for updating.

## **POSTER CONTEST**

The district received the results of the statewide judging for this year's poster contest. A Mercer district contestant placed second in the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade category. Posters were returned to the district upon request. The office administrator purchased frames for several of the outstanding posters, to be hung in the district office.

## **MOTION 3**

A motion to approve the Director's Report was made by G. Mount, seconded by T. Wang, carried unanimously.

## **CHAPTER 251**

2023-6390-EW	2023-6490-P	2022-6339-E	2023-6479-E
2023-6474-H	2023-6478-H	2023-6475-HB	2023-6472-HT
2023-6467-HT	2023-6476-HT	2023-6462-HT	2023-6471-L
2020-6849-L(R)	2022-6234-P(R)	2023-6477-P	2023-6486-P
2020-5831-R(R)	NJG0333921	2021-6128-R(R)	2019-5808-R(R)
NJG0305006	2023-6484-WW	NJG0338371	NJG0304107

## **MOTION 4**

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

## **CHAPTER 251 DENIAL**

2018-5615-E

## **MOTION 5**

A motion for plan denial recommended by staff for no response to Engineers review letter from 2018 was made by G. Mount, seconded by L. Huebner, carried unanimously.

## **NRCS UPDATE**

The District Manager received a notice that Evan Madlinger is now the new Acting State Conservationist for New Jersey.

## **EXTENSION UPDATE**

A new horticulturist has been hired and will start July 24, 2023.

There is also a new Family Consumer Health Sciences Agent at the Extension Office, Ricardo Kairos. He has a strong interest in farms and local foods being introduced to schools. M. Melendez visited Capital City Farm with Ricardo. Spanish is his second language which will help the communities.

Yesterday M. Melendez participated in a Wellness Webinar with a presentation on the Cottage Food Law. There are over 1,200 Cottage Food Permits issued in the State of New Jersey.

M. Melendez has another webinar in August focusing on hydroponics and produce safety. She has been receiving multiple calls about hydroponic produce. The wholesale market is taking an interest in hydroponic produce.

M. Melendez will be attending the International Association for Food Protection Meeting in Toronto, Canada. This is the largest food safety meeting in the world.

### **SSCC UPDATE/NJACD UPDATE**

1. There is a new Acting Secretary of Agriculture, Joe Atchison
2. The Inland Flood Rules have been adopted and staff is working on guidance for Districts.
3. The New Supervisors information packets will be sent out soon.
4. The Annual Conference and Business Meeting will be held at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, NJ on November 20, 2023.

### **HUNT LAKE DAM**

L. Huebner asked when the Hunt Lake Dam maintenance and District involvement will be over. The District Manager felt when the dam is decommissioned. This is still open due to the engineering study and the lake lowering by DEP, along with the actual decommissioning process. The process will likely take several years to complete.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The District Manager received a request from a Resident from Honey Lake Dam. He requested a letter from the District, stating the District no longer has easement rights along Honey Lake. He wants to put up a fence on his property. L. Goldshore suggested we receive the request in writing.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Next Meeting: August 10, 2023 at 12:30 pm

The District picnic will be held after the September District Meeting. Everyone was asked to think of something to contribute.

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Schiariti, P.E.  
Secretary to the Board