

**MINUTES OF MERCER COUNTY  
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
590 HUGHES DRIVE  
HAMILTON SQUARE, NJ 08690  
MAY 12, 2022**

**MCSCD SUPERVISORS**

Scott Ellis  
Gary Mount  
Lucia Huebner  
Theodora Wang

**STAFF**

Paul Schiariti, P.E.  
Linda Sandusky

**OTHERS**

Meredith Melendez  
Lewis Goldshore, Esq.  
Anthony Cucchi, Superintendent  
of Parks

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, S. Ellis at 12:05 pm. The Statement of Adequate Notice was read.

The minutes of the April 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed by the Board.

**MOTION 1**

A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by L. Huebner seconded by T. Wang, carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. The District was in the red for this period due to the Employer's annual pension appropriation payment.

**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**

17 - APPLICATIONS RECEIVED  
0 - PREREVIEW INSPECTIONS  
37 - REVIEWS  
109 - INSPECTIONS  
1 - PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETINGS

- 25 - FINAL REPORTS OF COMPLIANCE
- 6 - CONDITIONAL REPORTS OF COMPLIANCE
- 0 - VIOLATION NOTICES
- 0 - STOP WORK ORDERS
- 0 - DENIALS
- 1 - CERTIFICATION DELEGATIONS
- 2 – 251 EXEMPTION DETERMINATIONS

### **CHAPTER 251**

Field inspections have been geared towards project close outs and Final Reports of Compliance, since we are within one of the two optimum seeding seasons (March 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>). Due to wet weather conditions (5.7 inches of precipitation – 1.6 inches above average - throughout Mercer County from 04-03-22 to 05-02-22) and cooler temperatures, the season may be extended somewhat, on a case-by-case basis. There has been particular difficulty in finishing infiltration basins. Typically, at the end of a project, a sand layer or bio-retention soil mix is provided in the bottom of the infiltration basin. However, most basins have remained saturated throughout the season, making this task difficult.

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control plans are now being received that incorporate the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP's) latest stormwater management requirements that address Green Infrastructure (GI). Essentially, the use of GI, encourages infiltration and or capture and reuse of stormwater by infiltration basins, bio-retention, dry-wells, green-roofs, pervious pavements, and rain barrels. The concept requires treatment on a much smaller scale, which in turn, requires a greater number of facilities to accomplish the goals. These new requirements have created challenges for the review of plans from a technical aspect, with significantly larger and complicated stormwater management reports.

### **HUNT LAKE DAM**

The District Manager placed a request for the Dam embankments and spillway be mowed by the Hopewell Township Public Works Department.

The District Manager also reached out to Frank Minch regarding the pre-planning of a meeting to discuss Hunt Lake Dam.

The District Manager attended a virtual presentation regarding Dam Removal Funding on 04-27-2022, by the New Jersey Statewide Dam Removal Partnership. Speakers from the US Army Corps. of Engineers (USACE) provided guidance for the process of pursuing funding through the USACE.

### **POSTER CONTEST**

The District received posters from several other Districts, for statewide judging. The District Manager has been in contact with Executive Director of the NJACD regarding scheduling a time for them to retrieve the winning posters.

**MOTION 3**

A motion to approve the Director’s Report was made by T. Wang, seconded by L. Huebner, carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A Proclamation from Governor Murphy was received for Soil & Water Stewardship Week.

**CHAPTER 251**

2019-5707-T	2022-6244-T	2022-6253-E	2022-6255-H
NJG0295388	2021-6168-H	2019-5762-H	2018-5642-H
2016-5332-HT	2022-6264-HT	2022-6268-HT	2021-6103-L
NJG0282847	2022-6256-L	2022-6262-L	2022-6265-L
2022-6248-P	2022-6246-P	2021-6179-P	2022-6204-P
2022-6205-P	2022-6261-P	2022-6263-P	2022-6252-P
2022-6260-P	2022-6258-P	2021-6124-R	2021-6171-WW

**MOTION 4**

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

**EXTENSION UPDATE**

The Extension Office is fully open and 100% back to normal.

M. Melendez wrote a Plant & Pest Advisory entitled: The NJ Plastic Bag Ban and Your Retail Farm Market, to address the plastic bag ban in New Jersey. There were multiple questions related to this issue at the Vegetable Growers Association Meeting. M. Melendez contacted DEP for a clearer directive on this issue.

Wes Kline is scheduled to retire June 1, 2022. The Extension will have funding to keep Jen Mathews as a full-time employee on staff. She is basically conducting grant management and educator work.

M. Melendez is continuing to work with National Association State Departments of Agriculture on training for inspectors and technical assistance providers. She is also working with the Michigan State University Student Farm, conducting round two of the Readiness Review Training, and is in the field conducting risk assessments and hands on activities. M. Melendez will be talking about moisture and condensation in coolers and associated produce risks. The goal is to use this training in other student farms across the country.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**HUNT LAKE DAM**

L. Goldshore, Esq. and the District Manager received an email response from Paul Stofa, Chief Advisor, Office of the Deputy Commissioner Legal, Regulatory, and Legislative

Affairs for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The email spelled out the basic parameters of a Memorandum of Agreement that DEP would propose to enter into with the District and/or the Dept. of Agriculture to move forward with the Hunt Lake Dam decommissioning efforts.

1. DEP will commit to spending up to \$500,000.00 for design work associated with the decommissioning with the District and/or Dept. of Agriculture serving as the applicant.
2. DEP, the District and Dept. of Agriculture will agree to jointly seek a budget line item from the Legislature to fund the construction.
3. The District and/or the Dept. of Agriculture will serve as the applicant and seek out any potential grant applications or other potential sources of funding for decommissioning, that may become available. DEP will provide reasonable assistance to the District/Dept. of Agriculture in their efforts.
4. The District and/or Dept. of Agriculture will be responsible for performance of construction and construction-related activities upon securing of funds for decommissioning.

L. Goldshore, Esq. presented an overview of the email and drafted a response letter that the Board reviewed. Each Board member and the District Manager had comments and agreed to send the response letter with their recommended changes. L. Goldshore, Esq. also suggested having a meeting with Frank Minch and The Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas Fisher for further discussions.

#### **MOTION 5**

A motion for L. Goldshore, Esq. to send a response letter to Paul Stofa, Chief Advisor, Office of the Deputy Commissioner Legal, Regulatory, and Legislative Affairs for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, was made by G. Mount, seconded by T. Wang, carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Schiariti, P.E.  
Secretary to the Board