

**OCEAN COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
714 LACEY ROAD, FORKED RIVER, NJ 08731
March 18, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Dr. William Pollock at 8:08am. Dr. Pollock confirmed that announcements for the meeting were made pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act and forwarded to the Asbury Park Press, The Press of Atlantic City and the Ocean County Clerk. The meeting was remotely held via WebEx. Meeting number (access code): 132 512 5278. Meeting password: pEYHPenF247 (73947363 from phones and video systems). Join by phone +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll. Access code: 132 512 5278.

Supervisors present via teleconference: Dr. William Pollock, Chairman, Tony DiLodovico, Vice Chairman, Dr. Michael Gross, Secretary, Charlene Costaris, Treasurer, Martha Maxwell-Doyle.

Others present via teleconference: Nicole Ciccaglione, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), Christine Raabe, District Director, Jean Baluski, Assistant District Director and Becky Laboy, Education Outreach Specialist, Ocean County Soil Conservation District (OCSCD).

II. FLAG SALUTE – Dr. Pollock led the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

III. AGENDA – Approval of the agenda. Charlene Costaris moved the motion to approve the Agenda, Martha Maxwell-Doyle seconded. Roll call vote: unanimous.

IV. MINUTES – A motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting was moved by Charlene Costaris, seconded by Martha Maxwell Doyle. Roll call vote: unanimous.

V. REPORTS TO THE BOARD – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC)

Nicole Ciccaglione reported on the NRCS cost tables. Christine suggested approval of the existing NRCS cost share table. Ms. Ciccaglione stated that some of the prices are mid-Atlantic based not NJ specific and some discrepancy to pricing exists. NRCS has no contracts for OCSCD approval/ signature. NRCS is in process of reviewing 2021 applications, 6 of the 42 are in Ocean County. Nicole reported what those 6 were: one is for a forestry plan, two are to implement quail habitat, the remaining three are aquaculture. By the next OCSCD meeting Ms. Ciccaglione will report on the status. Nicole added that Kristin Adams' training and field involvement with NRCS is working out well. Christine Raabe reported that Kristin is enjoying it and learning a lot during field visits and getting a diverse NRCS initiation, which is the goal.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE –

- A. Ocean County Agriculture Development Board meetings have reconvened in person, with an option to meet via WebEx. Jessica Pinto is representing OCSCD and has opted to join meetings via WebEx.
- B. The NJ Association of Conservation Districts regional meetings –A tentative date of May 11, meeting in-person at 6:00pm. Registration requested by April 22. Concerns about meeting “in-person” due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Discussion. Christine will bring concerns back to NJACD and keep the Board informed.
- C. Dr. Pollock reported an update that the NJDEP Stormwater Management Rules were implemented March 2, 2021. The District Review staff is working with John Showler, SSCC engineer, and are being very diligent about their reviews regarding the new rules.

VII. MONTHLY STATEMENT OF THE TREASURER (Jan and Feb) – Dr. Pollock asked if there were any questions. There were no questions. Monthly Statement of the Treasurer. Roll call vote: unanimous.

VIII. BILLS AND CLAIMS – (Dec, Jan, Feb), Chapter 251 and General (attachment A), Dr. Pollock asked for a motion to accept the bills and claims. Dr. Gross moved the motion, Charlene seconded. Roll call vote: unanimous.

IX. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES – Education update – B. Laboy Report

Becky Laboy, Education Outreach Specialist, reported on the NACD Poster Contest. OCSCD received entries from only 2 of the 4 grade groups: (2-3) and (4-6). District staff voted on the winner of these two grade groups, and Becky asked the Board to select the Grand Champion Winner. The Board unanimously voted on the winning poster submitted by David Benson, Grade 5th Grade, Ms. Nadine Burgess, Stafford Intermediate School. The artist will be awarded a \$50 cash prize from OCSCD. Becky informed the Board that this year's Roundtable theme is “Inspiration for Your Jersey Friendly Schoolyard”. She reported that our Roundtable is “hybrid” this year. In partnership with Barnegat Bay Partnership, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County and Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, the District is offering 3 webinars; and in partnership with The Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education, Cattus Island County Park and Save Barnegat Bay and is also offering 3 in-person garden tours with limited attendance and implementing CDC guidelines. Limited registrants to date.

X. REPORTS OF SPECIAL (AD HOC) COMMITTEES –

Tony reported that Christine had shared that Stormwater Rules which are now in affect and changes to the stormwater rules are already under discussion by NJDEP to align them with PACT (Protecting Against Climate Threats) rules.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

XII. CHAPTER 251 – Certified Plans, Re-Certifications, Amendments, Incomplete and Denied Plans

- A. Roll call vote – Dr. Pollock asked for a motion to approve the submitted recommendations. Dr. Gross moved motion. Martha seconded. Tony reported that he would abstain from Plans #21412 and #21875. Roll Call vote: unanimous.
- B. Approval of the Enforcement of SESC ordinances by exempt municipalities report for 2020. Jean Baluski reported that Long Beach Island is the only exempt municipality in Ocean County, and they are following all regulations and are compliant. Ms. Costaris asked, how do we know that they are following the regulations? Ms. Baluski replied that OCSCD staff inspects sites, they submit forms, applications, quarterly reports, and their ordinance as part of the process. If the project requires an RFA, they must submit the RFA for processing. They are fully compliant. Charlene moved the motion, and Martha seconded. Passed/Approved. Dr. Pollock gave permission to stamp the report and submit.
- C. Stop Work Order (SWO) issued on 2/11/21 for Block 882, Lot 29, 31: Berkeley Twp. Jean clarified issues: OCSCD had an original plan, work outside limit of disturbance of the certified plan and requested to submit an updated plan. Applicant submitted a new plan which is not yet certified, and there are some erosion issues near a retaining wall. SWO issued. Dr. Pollock asked for an acclamation vote on the SWO – all agreed/ none opposed. SWO was approved.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS –

- A. Resolutions: 2021-5, Authorizing Dental Benefits Insurance Premium Payment. Charlene asked if this is something the District has provided employees. Jean replied, the District is currently providing it to all employees, but we need a resolution to officially ratify/formalize. Roll call vote - unanimous.
- B. 2021 Roundtable – being held virtually and plans are well underway.
- C. District Safety Manual – Under final development and will be sent for review. Christine reported that staff have been working on it: Jessica Pinto, Sean Yeats, and Ramon Mejia. Due to COVID/pandemic, it needs to be a bit more robust than originally planned. Martha offered to take a hard look at it and offer suggestions. Dr. Pollock suggested we need to at least match OSHA requirements and rules.
- D. Funding opportunity through NRCS – the RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) Christine and Kristin worked on submitting an application entitled- COASTAL (Conservation Opportunities Advancing Sustainable Technologies for Aquaculture Leases). Waiting for Nick Saumweber, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist – Field Operations NJ to approve next step. OCSCD Total Request: \$586,071.00 (2022-2024). There is a 50 % match required & 70% of the funds go directly to aquaculture producers for best management and conservation practices.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS –

- A. Review/Approval of FY 22 Annual Plan of Operations (APO). Christine requested approval at the next meeting as it is still under development. All in favor to table the Review/Approval of the FY22 APO. Unanimous.
- B. Approval of the FY22 Draft Budget – Martha moved the motion. Dr. Gross seconded. (Budget needs to be submitted to SSCC by April 1 but can be always amended.) Dr. Pollock requested a roll call vote: unanimous.
- C. Approval of 2021 Soil and Water Cost Share Rates –The District can change the rates, but common practice is to adopt the NRCS rates. Dr. Gross moved a motion to adopt the NRCS rates, Martha seconded. All approved on a roll call vote.
- D. Approval to Sell or Donate the 2008 Ford Focus. Dr. Pollock called for a motion to discuss. Martha moved the motion, Dr. Gross seconded. Christine reported that the car is old and needs an alternator, which is \$800. The last time the District sold a Ford Focus we got \$1950. Discussion. Martha and Dr. Gross suggested it might be easier to donate. Dr. Gross stated that donating is very easy. Christine asked for suggestions for groups to donate vehicle. Charlene suggested PBS or NPR. Jean said she will investigate donating. All in favor of donating the vehicle. Roll call: unanimous.
- E. Approval to purchase NJ State Contract #209-FLEET-01387 (T2007), Item#33, Class-Item 071-80 Section 12 Price Line#23 SUV, Small/Compact AWD with Hybrid Engine. (2021 Toyota RAV4 LE Hybrid AWD for \$25,964 and include all weather line package for \$269.00) Total price \$26,233.00) All approved through roll call vote.
- F. NACD/TAG – SPARC Update – Gap Funding of additional \$5,000.00 awarded for current grant recipients. OCSCD received additional funding.
- G. NACD/TAG – SPARC Update – Year 2 (2021-2022) – OCSCD submitted for year 2 for another \$35K (\$43,750 including match), which covers Kristin’s time for working on SPARC. OCSCD was invited to Co-Chair the

Barneгат Bay Partnership Shellfish Working Group. (A broad- based group overseeing aquaculture in this region.)

- H. Donna Cramer letter of resignation dated 2/23/21.
- I. Update Office Manger Position Description, Advertise & Hire new Office Manager – Christine reported that she and Jean are updating the position description for Office Manager and will begin the hiring process. Dr. Pollock asked for a motion to accept Donna’s letter of resignation and hire a new Office Manager. Martha moved a motion to, Dr. Gross seconded. All agreed, no opposed.
- J. Updates Planned for Employee Manual due to law and policy changes. It will be completed by January 1, 2022 for formal adoption/distribution.

XV. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING –The next meeting will be May 20, 2021.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT – Dr. Pollock asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Martha Maxwell-Doyle moved a motion for adjournment – seconded by Dr. Gross. All agreed. Dr. Pollock adjourned the meeting at 9:07 am.

Respectfully,

Christine R. Raabe
District Director

CRR: rl

Dr. Michael Gross, Secretary