

Minutes

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Dr. William Pollock at 8:03am. 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. Meeting was held via WebEx.

Supervisors present: Dt. William Pollock, Chairman, John Tiedemann, Vice Chairman, Dr. Michael Gross, Secretary, Gary Paxton and Ray Bukowski. Others present: Christine Raabe, District Director and Becky Laboy, Education Outreach Specialist, both from Ocean County Soil Conservation District (OCSCD). Also present was Nicole Ciccaglione from National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).
- II. **FLAG SALUTE:** Dr. Pollock led the salute to the flag of the United States of America.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting made by Dr. Michael Gross, seconded by Ray Bukowski. Christine Raabe added one item to New Business: an announcement about a NJDEP Press Release. Roll call vote: unanimous.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (11/10 & 11/21/22):** Motion to approve the Minutes from 11/10/22 and 11/21/22 made by Dr. Michael Gross, seconded by John Tiedemann. Roll call vote: unanimous.

REPORTS TO BOARD: Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) -Nicole Ciccaglione, the District Conservationist with NRCS, stated her role, that she typically presents Conservation Plans for the Board to review and sign. (This was provided as a summary for the newly elected Board members.) Ms. Ciccaglione stated she did not have anything that needs a signature today. She stated that OCSCD has agreed to USDA/Farm Bill requirements (Section 1619 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 which provides that USDA, or any "contractor or cooperator" of USDA, "shall not disclose personal and identifiable information of applicants) and stated that the information she shares can't be shared publicly, nor can it go into the Minutes. She stated that 14 conservation plan applications have been accepted for this year for Ocean County. (Two were found ineligible.) Applications include aquaculture, forestry and one for a high tunnel. The results for ranking and funding will be reported at the next meeting. The Local Working Group (LWG) meeting for Central Jersey has been set for February 23, at the Burlington SCD. Some Ocean SCD staff will be attending the Cape Atlantic LWG on February 1; she suggested that SCDs should be more active in future LWG meetings. Ms. Ciccaglione stated that the past few LWG meetings have been a mix of NRCS staff and SCD staff, and that it would be appreciated for SCDs to play a more active role.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Memo from Frank Minch: Election of District Supervisor Members to the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) Ms. Raabe stated she forwarded this information to all Board Members. No questions were posed from the Board.
- B. John Showler – is seeking SCD comments re: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Flood Hazard Area Emergency Rule Proposal- Comment period closes 2/3/23. Link to proposed rule: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/inland-flood-protection-rule/docs/ifpr-fhaca-and-stormwater-rule-proposal.pdf> Brittany Moore is compiling OCSCD board and staff input, and stated that Mr. Showler requested one document sent from each district. Mr. Bukowski wondered what District Staff thoughts are; Ms. Raabe stated she will send Mr. Bukowski OCSCD's comments for review prior to submittal. Mr. Bukowski inquired if the result of the rule changes would require more time and effort in reviewing plans by district staff. Mr. Tiedemann inquired if the rule changes would add areas currently not in a flood hazard areas. It was affirmed stated that as a possibility.

- VI. **MONTHLY STATEMENT OF TREASURER (November & December):** Motion to accept the Monthly Statement of Treasurer (November and December) made by Dr. Michael Gross, seconded by John Tiedemann. Roll call vote: unanimous.
- VII. **BILLS AND CLAIMS - (October, November & December) Chapter 251 & Motion to accept the BILLS AND CLAIMS:** (October, November & December) Motion to approve by Dr. Michael Gross, seconded by Gary Paxton. Roll call vote: unanimous.
- VIII. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES - Education update** –Ms. Laboy announced this year’s Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable will be held on Wednesday April 19, and invited all Board Members to mark their calendars and attend and theme may include ‘data collection’. The District launched the Poster Contest with the theme of “One Water” and stated the District would be awarding a \$50 prize to OCSCD’s Grand Champion Winner. An overview of programs: over 20 programs offered this year (just over 30 last year) that reached over 2000 people. Many of our programs were webinars. Ms. Laboy anticipates more in-person programs will be offered this year. Ms. Raabe stated that Cape-Atlantic SCD has hired an Educator and anticipates collaboration between the two Districts on programs. OCSCD has a few grants in the works.
- IX. **REPORTS OF SPECIAL (AD HOC) COMMITTEES** - None
- XI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** No public present.
- XII. **CHAPTER 251 – Certified Plans, Re-Certifications, Amendments, Incomplete and Denied Plans (attachment B)**
 - A. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Bukowski recused himself from all projects pertaining to NJNG and The Arc of Ocean County. Motion to accept was made by Dr. Michael Gross, seconded by Mr. Ray Bukowski. Roll call vote: unanimous.
 - B. Pending Denied Plans. Approval to deny the following plans:
 - i. 20913 Brick Estates - Site Plan Brick Township
 - ii. 21159 Floor & Décor - Site Plan Toms River Township
 - iii. 21309 Seasonal World - 1 Lot Toms River Township
 - iv. 21014 Brick Petroleum- Site Plan Brick Township
 - v. 20246 728 Princeton Ave LLC -(4 Units) Brick Township
 - vi. 19653 Messano - Site Plan Brick Township
 - vii. 19901 O'Donnell - One Lot Brick Township
 - viii. 21072 Osprey Pointe - Subdivision Brick Township

No response to the denial letters sent to the SCD#s above (B i-viii) and repeated attempts to obtain certification. OCSCD is obligated to deny them, close the application and return any unexpended fees. Motion to approve the denial of these applications made by Ray Bukowski and seconded by Gary Paxton. Roll call vote: unanimous.

- C. SCD#18556; Cong. Rachmistrivka – Site Plan; Block 2.04, Lots 2.04, 2.05, 2.06, 22, 24; Delaware Trail; Lakewood Township - SCO Rescinded 12/20/22
- D. SCD#18711; Rabinowitz – 74 Units; Block 1081; Lot 4; 124 Locust Street; Lakewood Township – SCO Rescinded 12/20/22
- E. SCD#11281; 961 Main Street LLC – Subdivision; Block 4, Lots 260.01-260.04, 260.12, 260.15; Eagleswood Township – SCO Rescinded 12/14/22
- F. SCD#23507; Bennett Center Landfill – Site Plan; Block 1160.01, Lot 228; Airport Road; Lakewood Township – SCO Rescinded 11/16/22

The Stop Construction Orders (SCO) have been rescinded and the plans for items C, D, E and F have come into compliance. Dr. Pollock asked for a motion to accept the rescinded SCO for Items C, D, E and F. Motion moved by Mr. Tiedemann and seconded by Mr. Bukowski. Roll call vote: unanimous.

- G. Quarterly Report (FY23-2nd Quarter) This Quarterly Report is simply provided to the board for information and does not need a motion to be accepted.

XIII. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **New vehicle status update** Ms. Raabe stated there is no update.
- B. **Hiring Part-time Admin Asst/Bookkeeper Update** Ms. Raabe stated there are 18 applicants and interviews will take place soon; the new employee will start in February. Ms. Rachel Hammack will be moved into a full-time SESC Inspector, the new staff person will assist Christina Mooney with administrative office duties.

XIV. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Accept Audit proposal from Suplee, Clooney & Company for FY23 Audit** Ms. Raabe stated the District put out another bid for proposals for an auditor, and proposes to retain the services of Suplee, Clooney & Company. Mr. Tiedemann asked if their proposal is comparable to the usual cost services. Ms. Raabe responded in the affirmative. Dr. Pollock asked for a motion to accept Item A. Motion moved by Dr. Gross and seconded by Mr. Tiedemann. Roll call vote: unanimous.

- B. **Annual Resolutions: 2023-1, Election of Officers; 2023-2, Professional Services; 2023-3, District's official publications** Dr. Pollock asked for a motion to accept Annual Resolutions, Professional Services and District's official publications. Motion moved by Mr. Bukowski and seconded by Dr. Gross. Roll call vote: unanimous.

2023-4, Standing Committees: Brief discussion about the roles of each Standing Committee. The Standing Committees are as follows:

General Operations: John Tiedemann, Mr. Ray Bukowski

Legislative: Mr. Ray Bukowski

Environment Education/Public Information: Dr. Bill Pollock, Dr. Mike Gross, Mr. John Tiedemann, Mr. Gary Paxton, Mr. Ray Bukowski

Building: Dr. Bill Pollock

Fiscal Management: Dr. Mike Gross, Mr. Gary Paxton

Motion to approve Standing Committees moved by Mr. Tiedemann and seconded by Mr. Bukowski. Roll call vote: unanimous.

- C. **Approval of Soil and Water Conservation Society Membership Dues** Motion to approve made by Dr. Gross, seconded by Mr. Bukowski. All in favor.
- D. **Other :** A NJDEP press event RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative) Natural Climate Solutions Grant Program announced \$23 million in projects. (www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/mitigation/ncs-grant.html) In Ocean County, Brick Twp obtained a grant for 5 million, to restore wetlands that are part of the USFWS Reedy Creek property. In addition, The Nature Conservancy was awarded 1 million to continue the living shoreline project at the Lighthouse Center in Waretown (the site of OCSCD Roundtable).

XV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** Dr. Pollock stated there is no Executive Session

XVI. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT DISTRICT MEETING** March 16, 2023

XVII. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Dr. Pollock stated there are no items for the next meeting.

XVIII. **ADJOURNMENT** Dr. Pollock asked for a Motion for Adjournment. Motion moved by Mr. Bukowski and seconded by Dr. Gross. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.