



Cumberland-Salem Conservation District
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Meeting Minutes - March 24, 2024

Mike Bonham	Ralph Sickler	Maury Sheets
Henry Dubois	Ron Thomas	Tom Tedesco
Michelle Pedano		

Chairman Ron Thomas opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Due notice by order of the "Sunshine Law" was given and noted.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as written. Motion made by Ralph and seconded by Maury. Passed.

Financial Report

Mike reviewed the financial report and noted that the District's net income from October 15, 2023 through January 15, 2024 was \$71,654.01. Chapter 251 revenue was \$68,180.00. Funding support from Cumberland County was received during this reporting period. Motion to approve the financial reports made by Ralph and seconded by Maury. Passed

251 Report

Mike reviewed the 251 report. Carney's Point and the City of Vineland remain active with commercial and residential projects. A large transmission line upgrade project and senior housing were received during the reporting period. Wet weather has contributed to SESC issues and difficulties with stabilization. Motion to approve the report made by Maury and seconded by Tom. Passed.

NRCS - Cumberland & Salem Field Offices

Michelle presented Cumberland & Salem NRCS field office reports. Conservation Stewardship FY24 signup closes March 29 2024. Several conservation agreements, conservation plans and state cost share applications were presented for approval. Mona Peterson retired on March 1st after 37 years with NRCS. Bryan Stimpson will serve as acting District Conservationist in the interim. Motion to approve the NRCS action items made by Ralph and seconded by Tom. Passed.

SSCC report

Mike presented John's report to the Board. Ed Wengryn formerly of the NJDA and NJFB has been named NJDA Secretary. John is currently working on updating the SESC Standards. Major changes are being proposed for the Offsite Stability Standard and a new standard is being proposed for Solar Arrays. The SSCC is also looking to update the Chapter 251 rules to more closely align with SCD operations.

Staffing/Workload

Mike updated the Board on the current workload of soil erosion and sediment control applications and inspections. Residential and commercial projects submittals have been at higher levels than in previous years. Mike will work with the neighboring Districts to review the job descriptions for new staff.

CD Rates

Mike presented CD rates for Ocean First Bank. The current rate for 6 month CDs is 5.25% and 11 month CDs is 5.00%. After discussion it was motion to setup CDs at Ocean First for 6 months. Mike will work with the Branch Manager to secure the CDs.

Local Workgroup Report

The Cumberland Salem Conservation District and Gloucester Soil Conservation District partnered on a survey/follow-up meeting to assess the natural resource concerns and conservation practices in Southern New Jersey. The meeting was well attended by farmers and various agencies including, county staff, NRCS, Rural Development & SADC. The Gloucester SCD took the lead on preparing the final report and her efforts were commended by the District. The final report was submitted to NRCS with cooperator comments.

Regional Supervisors Meeting

The Southern Regional meeting will be held at the Maplewood on April 18.

Being no further open session business, the open portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Motion made by Henry and seconded by Ralph. Passed.