

New Jersey Conservation District Employees Association
October 6, 2011
Meeting Minutes
Holiday Inn, Clinton at NJACD Annual Conference

Michael Kent, President, called the NJCDEA meeting to order at 9:20 am.

Attendance:

Mike Kent (President), Karen Rowe (Secretary), Tim Thomas, Stacy Brady, Ines Grimm, Matthew D'Alessandro, Andy Graybush, John Showler, Frank Calo, Joe Dunn, Janet Rekesius, Eileen Greason, Sandra Myers, Scott Boyer, Cliff Lundin, Holly Reynolds

Minutes: Minutes of the July 6, 2011 Executive Board Meeting were tabled due to lack of quorum.

Treasurer's Report:

Tim Thomas (for Courtney Davidson) reported that 49 members are signed up for 2011.

Beginning Balance from 4/28/2011 meeting: **\$4,776.49**

Income:

Deposits (May 2011 – to date)

Membership Dues (2 members)	\$ 20.00
Joint Training (16 ppl @ \$25)	\$400.00

Total Income **\$420.00**

Expenses:

Food Cross Training	\$171.16
E. Thurlow Resolution Frame	\$ 23.53
Joint NRCS Training beverages	\$ 47.34
Joint NRCS Training ice	\$ 6.62
Joint NRCS Training Food (Grub Hut 15ppl)	\$360.00
Mercer SCD (Joint Training refund)	\$ 25.00
Final Cut (Employee Choice x3)	\$366.00

Total Expenses **\$999.65**

Ending Balance: **\$4,196.84**

Motion: Frank Calo made the motion, seconded by Scott Boyer, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

President's Report:

Michael Kent opened up the floor for discussion on the decline in NJCDEA membership numbers over the past few years. He stated that the Executive Board is always open to new ideas on increasing participation. It was agreed that the NJCDEA has an important role in offering trainings. Our training prices have been kept low as a reflection of the economic downturn.

The open discussion suggestions/ideas follow:

- Hold NJCDEA meetings in north/south/central locations alternately
- Demonstration trainings showing new products that coordinate with the new standards
- Have cross training amongst the districts. Northern districts could go to southern districts (and visa-versa) to experience the differences in project site issues and activity
- Speak/meet with other states to see how they deal with issues
- Networking
- Multi-day trainings not feasible at this time because of district budgeting issues
- Hold a brief NJCDEA meeting during lunchtime at training sessions
- Newsletter
- The Northeast Association has a travel stipend for employees who will present at their conference. It could cover the cost of registration. See Ines Grimm for details
- John Showler has a Yahoo webpage to post SESC issues/ideas. Karen Rowe will send him the membership email addresses so he can invite staff to get onto the site
- Conference call or Skype meetings

Correspondence:

None

Old Business:

Tim Thomas reported that the NRCS Joint Training held at the Duke Estate went well. The Districts have "somewhat" of a say of the agenda and that SCDs were on the planning committee. NRCS wants to be inclusive with the Districts. The goal of the NJCDEA is to offer worthwhile training and to get the "biggest bang for the buck".

Tim and Ines Grimm attended the Northeast Conference in Plymouth, MA. He is the Vice President and Ines is the Treasurer.

New Business:

Ines Grimm and Tim Thomas reported that there will be a leadership conference in 2012 (somewhere in NY) and NRCS is providing \$50,000 in funding. Districts should send at least 1 person and take advantage of the chance to gather new income ideas as there are funding sources out there.

Tim Thomas said upcoming trainings will be:

- Legal Processes (Understanding issues that may come up in court, project notes are legal documents) Cliff Lundin will facilitate
- Rain gardens

Training surveys will go out electronically this year

Surveying was another suggested training topic.

Tim Thomas and Mike Kent are co-chairing the Elections Committee and nominations are due today. Ballots will go out by the end of October.

2012 Membership brochures will go out next week per Karen Rowe.

Joe Dunn suggested using "stories with examples" when talking to legislators about District roles. District attorneys should notify managers when laws that pertain to districts (i.e. OPRA, emails, cell phones, etc.) change or otherwise impact district operations.

John Showler suggested Districts may be capable of performing audits (for a fee) for municipalities to implement the stormwater rules.

Mike Kent announced the following 2011 Employee Choice Award Winners:

- Richard Dovey – Supervisor Cape Atlantic
- David Friedman – Manager Ocean SCD
- Ken Taaffe – South Jersey RC&D (retired)

Awards will be presented during lunch today.

NEXT MEETING DATE: At the Mercer SCD office with time and date to be announced

Motion to Adjourn: Tim Thomas made the motion, seconded by Joe Dunn, and approved to adjourn at 10:35 am.

Minutes submitted by Karen Rowe, Secretary