

**New Jersey Conservation District Employees Association
December 3, 2009
Meeting Minutes
Mercer SCD Assunpink Center @ 11:00 am**

Michael Kent, President, called the NJCDEA meeting to order at 11:10 am.

Attendance:

Mike Kent, Bill Brash, Karen Rowe, Tim Thomas, Courtney Davidson, Mike Hill, Linda Sandusky, Victor DeVasto, Duane Copley, Holly Posna, Sydele Chamoff and Stacy Brady

Minutes: Minutes of the September 17, 2009 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Mike Hill made the motion, seconded by Courtney Davidson, and passed to approve the 9/17/09 minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

Michael Kent [for Lori Hartzell] reported that 57 members are signed up for '09 and 33 members were signed up already for 2010.

Beginning Balance as of 12/3/09: **\$4,840.51**

Income:

Deposits (Sept. – Nov. 09)	
GIS Training	\$540.00
Membership Dues	\$200.00
Total Income	\$740.00

Expenses:

Refund (for overpayment GIS Training)	\$ 5.00
Award Partners (Employee Choice Plaques)	\$287.50
Total Expenses	\$292.50

Ending Balance: **\$5,288.01**

Michael Kent reported the bank account is being updated to reflect Courtney Davidson as the new NJCDEA Treasurer. Courtney will contact Lori Hartzell verify the filing of any necessary paperwork to the State and she will request that Bob Dobbs forward all NJCDEA mail to her at the Freehold SCD office.

Motion: Victor DeVasto made the motion, seconded by Duane Copley, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

President's Report:

Michael Kent reported the Executive Board elections results are as follows:

- Michael Kent – President
- Bill Brash – Vice President
- Karen Rowe – Secretary
- Courtney Davidson – Treasurer
- Angelo Caruso – Past President

Thank you to Ernie Thurlow for the fine job he did chairing the elections.

Michael reported that Dale Ledden, Gloucester SCD supervisor, and Mike Hill, Freehold SCD, received their 2009 Employee Choice Awards at the NJACD Annual Conference.

Bill Brash reported that NJCDEA sponsored numerous trainings over the past year including:

1. Hydrology (Advanced & Basic)
2. Defensive Driving
3. Hydrology (Advanced Basic)
4. No Net Loss Tree Planting Inspection
5. Plant ID Training
6. District Administrative Workshop
7. GIS Training (upcoming)

District Employees had the chance to earn 25 Professional Development Units for CPESC by attending the above trainings.

The upcoming GIS Training has 36 registered. Mike Hill shared some materials from the MAC-URISSA conference that he will order for the GIS training.

Discussion ensued about promoting the accomplishments of NJCDEA and it was agreed Karen Rowe, with assistance from Tim Thomas, will create an electronic newsletter which will go to all members, districts, SSCC, NJACD, partners, etc., and will be posted on the EA website by Victor. It should also include contact info, such as Bill Brash is the go-to guy for forestry, Nick Cassetta is the go-to guy for farmland preservation, etc. Michael Kent said this could serve to make more headway in getting over the \$10 dues factor that makes some district employees reluctant to join the EA.

Bill reported that Michael Kent did succeed in getting a "semi-official seat" on the State Committee and he will be attending those meetings.

Correspondence:

Michael Kent received the 2010 \$200 dues invoice from the National Conservation District Employees Association.

Motion: Bill Brash made the motion, seconded by Victor DeVasto, and passed to pay the \$200 NCDEA dues.

Old Business:

Bill Brash reported that the Data Training Survey results are not in yet and that a 2010 Training Survey will be included in the GIS Training packets.

Angelo Caruso reported that the State Committee staff has been in contact with EPA to schedule a meeting with Districts about EPA inspections/violations/fines, etc.

Mike Kent reported the NJACD Annual Conference on Oct. 27th was a 1-day event and that Tim Thomas, Angelo Caruso and John Showler did a great job with their presentations.

New Business:

Bill Brash reported that ½ day supervisor orientation sessions are being planned to include technical, legal, fiduciary, historical, partnership and core information.

The EA has been asked to host a Sunday Tour and a Spouses Tour for the 2010 NJACD Annual Conference and Michael Kent was asked to sit on the NJACD Conference Planning Committee. Michael stated that since the conference is scheduled for Avalon his district will be selecting tour sites/topics. Angelo agreed to represent the EA at the Planning Committee meetings since they are held at the NRCS Somerset office and Angelo already sits on the committee. Angelo and Michael will coordinate these efforts.

Tim Thomas asked Angelo Caruso to be the NJ Representative to the Northeast. Tim stated that many meetings are done by teleconference, that travel stipends may be available, and that the NJCDEA has paid for registration expenses in the past. Angelo agreed, but needs to clear it with his board and requested a letter to be sent to the Bergen Board, from Mike Kent, outlining the duties of the Northeast rep. Tim now serves as the NE Vice-President and Ines Grimm is the NE Treasurer.

Motion: Bill Brash made the motion, seconded by Victor DeVasto, and approved for Angelo Caruso to be the NJ Representative to the Northeast with Ernie Thurlow as the alternate.

Bill Brash reported that 2010 training topics may include the following:

- No Net Loss Tree Planting
- Plan Review
- Documentation
- Data Collection Consistency
- Soil Health within Chapter 251
- Minimum Inspection Checklist
- Court preparation/testimony

Bill requested the Training Surveys that will be given out at the GIS Training be returned by January 4, 2010. He also stated that soil mitigation legislation is now being written.

Tim Thomas reported that he and Steve Grosch were only able to attend 1-day of a 2-day Soil Class sponsored by Ocean SCD and that it was excellent.

Michael Kent asked Victor DeVasto to see if Darlene Hess can do the NJCDEA annual audit.

Michael Kent presented Sydele Chamoff with a Certificate of Recognition for her 22 years of NJCDEA membership. Sydele is retiring from Freehold SCD in late January.

Motion to Adjourn: Duane Copley made the motion, seconded by Michael Hill, and approved to adjourn at 12:45 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 4th at 11:00 am @ Cracker Barrel (Hamilton Market Place, 825 Marketplace Blvd., Hamilton Twp., NJ 08691)

Minutes submitted by Karen Rowe – Secretary