

**New Jersey Conservation District Employees Association
December 1, 2011
Meeting Minutes
Mercer County Soil Conservation District**

Michael Kent, President, called the NJCDEA meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Attendance:

Mike Kent (President), Bill Brash (Vice President), Karen Rowe (Secretary), Courtney Davidson (Treasurer), Paul Evans, Bob Dobbs, Mark Alliston, Mike Hill, Stacy Brady, Steve Grosch, Linda Sandusky and Frank Minch

Minutes:

Minutes of the October 6, 2011 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Stacy Brady made the motion, seconded by Karen Rowe, and passed to approve the minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Courtney Davidson reported that 30 members (29 renewed and 1 new) are signed up for 2012. The 2011 membership total is 49. The new NJCDEA checks arrived.

Beginning Balance from 10/06/2011 meeting:	\$4,196.84
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Income:

Deposits (October 2011 – to date)

Membership Dues (29 members)	\$ 290.00
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Total Income	\$290.00
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Expenses:

Dec. meeting food	\$ 30.32
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Total Expenses	\$ 30.32
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Ending Balance:	\$4,456.52
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Motion: Bob Dobbs made the motion, seconded by Mike Hill, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

President's Report:

Mike Kent reported on the Partnership Meetings between Districts, NRCS, NJACD, SSCC and NJCDEA representatives. The objective of these meetings is to get all parties to work together and to come up with ideas on ways Districts can generate revenue other than Chapter 251. Don Petit, new NRCS Conservationist, brings a different perspective as he comes from States that did not have Chapter 251.

Drafts of a Memorandum of Understanding and Roles and Responsibilities were reviewed

- A New York State model is being followed

- Meetings will be held quarterly
- There should be 2 representatives per group
- 15 Districts have to function as one entity, especially on the basics
- Chapter 251 is not going to be the sole long-term revenue answer for Districts
- Frank Minch said other sources of revenue, such as forestry, municipal stormwater, and NJDEP projects are potential sources. How we “move forward” is key to these agreements
- All Districts have to be “accountable”
- Need leadership from the State Association
- Bill Brash said each District should have, in writing, a list of their skills and technical expertise and be able to “market” these assets
- A Partnership “Status Update” should be provided to all groups
- Paul Evans stated Districts can be seen in a more positive light if a big dollar project is successfully completed and shows credibility
- District staff should regain a “passion” for their jobs
- Frank Minch stated District staff should already be aware that any “off-hand” comments made verbally, in emails or in project notes is not acceptable. Districts are on the Governor’s radar and not in a favorable way.
- Goal is to have the Partnership agreements formalized at the Regional Supervisors meetings in April
- Karen Rowe will pull together the NJCDEA “role” from our brochure, and clean up the NJCDEA section on the Memorandum, and forward to Mike Kent by December 5th

Motion: Karen Rowe made the motion, seconded by Mike Hill, and passed to have Mike Kent and Bill Brash serve as NJCDEA Representatives on the Partnership Committee

Mike Kent reported that a NJCDEA representative should be at each State Committee meeting. As incoming President, Bill Brash will attend. If he is unable, Paul Evans, incoming Vice President will attend.

Correspondence:

Courtney Davidson reported a request for 2012 \$200 dues from the National Employees Association was received.

Motion: Bob Dobbs moved, seconded by Mike Kent, and passed to approve payment to the National Employees Association for 2012 dues.

Old Business:

Ines Grimm will be asked to attend Employees Association meeting(s) at the National Conference as the NJ representative.

Tim Thomas (through Karen Rowe) reported the following:

- Legal testimony training will be scheduled in January and he is waiting for date confirmation from Cliff Lundin. An ethics session may be added to this training
- A Soil Health Conference is tentatively scheduled for May 30th at Ocean County College. Ocean and Burlington SCD’s are taking the lead, but all Districts are welcome to help. Training includes 3 sections – lectures, small class Q&A, and field tours
- Training survey to go out by mid-December

Drivers Training will be scheduled for March and held at Freehold. Karen will schedule.

Dave Reilly (through Mike Kent) requested to have retirement/pensions training. Karen will forward request to Tim Thomas.

Motion: Bill Brash made the motion, seconded by Courtney Davidson, and passed that any future training will be priced at an additional \$10 for non-members. The additional \$10 will be applied to membership.

New Business:

Mike Kent reported that for the 2012 Elections all nominees ran unopposed and the slate needs to be approved for: Bill Brash, President, Paul Evans, Vice-President, Courtney Davidson, Treasurer and Karen Rowe*, Secretary and Mike Kent, Past President. (*Mike Hill will take over as Secretary if Karen Rowe does not complete her term.)

Motion: Bob Dobbs made the motion, seconded by Stacy Brady, and approved to accept the 2012 Slate of NJCDEA Officers as presented.

Signature cards will need to be updated for the bank account.

Motion: Bob Dobbs made the motion, seconded by Paul Evans, and approved to change the bank signature cards to include new officers.

The Northeast and National Associations will need to be notified about the new Executive Board and our website will need updating too.

Bob Dobbs reported a 2012 Leadership Conference update will be coming once Ed Hoxie gets feedback from State Representatives. The NJ rep is Angelo Caruso.

Other:

Mike Hill said that engineers are interested receiving training on the Standards, expediting the review process, reading soil surveys, etc.

Frank Minch stated this would not be feasible until the Standards and Rule changes are in place, possibly in the fall of 2012. Staff will need to be trained on the updates too.

Updated Standards will be only available electronically.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 1st, 11am at Cracker Barrel in Hamilton.

Motion to Adjourn: Bill Brash made the motion, seconded by Mike Hill, and approved to adjourn at 12:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Karen Rowe, Secretary