

New Jersey Conservation District Employees Association
12/10/2007
Meeting Minutes
Mastoris, Bordentown @ 11:00 am

Angelo Caruso, President, called the NJCDEA meeting to order at 11:25 am.

Attendance: Lori Hartzell, Mike Kent , Angelo Caruso, Karen Rowe, Ernie Thurlow, Tim Thomas, Jean Baluski, Courtney Davidson, Steve Grosch, Mike Hill, Stacy Brady, Dave Reilly, Bill Brash, Myrna Dudash, Bill Engisch, David Pfurr, Dawn Schwenderman, Barb Urcinas, John Bauer, Roberta Huffner

Minutes: Minutes of the March 22, 2007 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: It was moved by Myrna Dudash, seconded by Lori Hartzell, and passed to approve the 3/22/07 minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Lori Hartzell reported that for 2007 there were 54 members.

Beginning Balance as of 3/22/07: **\$3,472.82**

Income:

Deposits (March '07 – Dec. '07)	\$ 688.00
Interest (March '07 – Nov. '07)	<u>\$ 8.11</u>

Total Income \$ 696.11

Expenses:

NCDEA (2007 Annual dues)	\$ 200.00
NJACD (Envirothon donation)	\$ 250.00
Cape-Atlantic SCD (Plants Mat. Cent. reimb.)	\$ 231.47
Enterprise (Annual tour van rental)	\$ 312.96
Cape May Winery (Annual tour expense)	\$ 360.00
Freehold SCD (Newsletter stock)	\$ 43.94
Award Partners (Employee Choice plaques)	\$ 287.50

Total Expenses \$ 1,685.87

Ending Balance: **\$2,483.06**

Motion: It was moved by Bill Brash, seconded by Mike Hill, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

President's Report:

Angelo reported that the tour at the NRCS Plants Material Center in late June and the tour at the Cape May Meadows restoration project and winery tour, held in conjunction with the NJACD Annual Conference in the fall, were very well-attended and successful. Thanks to Bill Skaradek, of

the Plants Material Center, and to staff of the Cape-Atlantic SCD for all their assistance with the tours.

Angelo discussed the reimbursement to Freehold SCD to offset the \$100 registration fee for Tim Thomas to attend the Northeast Employees Association Conference held in Mystic Connecticut in August.

Motion: It was moved by Bill Brash to reimburse Freehold SCD for the \$100 registration fee for Tim Thomas to represent NJCDEA at the NE Annual Conference, seconded by Mike Kent and passed.

Tim reported that the NE Conference went very well and that the State-of-the-State reports were given in a different and better format and the programs were very "Connecticut" based.

Correspondence:

None

Old Business:

Bill Brash reported that the Skills Assessment data has been forwarded to John Showler, of the State Training Committee and he is still compiling the data.

The *District Profile* newsletter was produced and circulated to all members in November.

New Business:

Angelo presented Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD, and Dave Reilly, Cape-Atlantic SCD, with the 2007 Employee Choice Awards. They were nominated by their peers and selected, by committee, to receive the awards for their outstanding contributions to NJCDEA and the conservation program.

Discussion ensued about memorial donations made by NJCDEA.

Motion: It was moved by Bill Brash make one donation of \$100 (total) annually to the NJ Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of any district supervisor or employee who passed away in the previous calendar year, seconded by Courtney Davidson and passed.

Karen will contact all Districts to confirm the names of those who should be recognized in the 2007 donation. We know of Bill Schauer, Henry Metzger and Harold Farrand.

Mike Hill reported that Clinton, NJ is the site of the 2008 RC&D Mid-Atlantic meeting in September and that plans include a silent auction for which they will be seeking sponsors and donors.

Discussion ensued on making a \$250 donation to the 2008 NJ Envirothon.

Motion: It was moved by Ernie Thurlow to donate \$250 to the 2008 NJ Envirothon, seconded by Myrna Dudash and passed.

Discussion ensued on ways to improve participation and membership in the NJCDEA. Mike Kent proposed two-year terms (currently terms are 1 year) for Executive Board members, to hold elections earlier and to have a NJCDEA meeting and voting at the NJACD Annual Conference.

Such changes would allow elections to be held by November so that new Executive Board could take office in January, as opposed to the current March timeline.

Motion: It was moved by Mike Kent to change the NJCDEA bylaws to move up our election deadline and dues deadline, and to increase Executive Board member terms to two years, seconded by Tim Thomas, and passed.

Ernie Thurlow and Bill Brash will work on revising our bylaws for the above motion.

A committee was formed to work on increasing membership and a more active and more involved NJCDEA. Committee Members: Mike Kent, Tim Thomas, Angelo Caruso and Courtney Davidson will meet in January 2008. Karen will set up the meeting time & date.

Discussion ensued on Training from the Bayshore Discovery Project onboard the A.J. Meerwald schooner in 2008.

Motion: It was moved by Mike Kent to pursue the Meerwald Training in 2008, seconded by Jean Baluski, and passed.

Karen will look into the dates of availability.

Tim Thomas reported that he attended the Northeast Employees Association meeting in Dutchess County, NY. The National Employees Association is selling a cookbook with recipes submitted by District personnel. The cookbook will be sold at the National Conference in Reno in February '08.

The NE Association plans to sponsor hydro cad training in the spring of '08, possibly in NJ. The NE Annual Conference is scheduled for August 7-9, 2008 in Portsmouth, NH and the agenda should be broader than the previous conference.

Motion to Adjourn: It was moved by Angelo Caruso, seconded by Courtney Davidson, and approved to adjourn at 12:55 PM.

NEXT MEETING: March 2008 date TBA

Minutes submitted by Karen Rowe, Secretary