

**New Jersey Conservation District Employees Association
12/18/2008
Meeting Minutes
Mercer SCD @ 11:00 am**

Michael Kent, President, called the NJCDEA meeting to order at 11:04 am.

Attendance: Mike Kent, Bill Brash, Karen Rowe, Tim Thomas, Courtney Davidson, Steve Grosch, Stacy Brady, Ben Shotland, Angelo Caruso, Victor DeVasto, Myrna Dudash, Lori Hartzell and Mike Hill

Minutes: Minutes of the Sept. 9, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Changes were made to reflect two corrections: 1) Tim Thomas moved the motion to accept the treasurer's report; 2) Bill Brash moved the motion for NJCDEA to be actively involved in NJ Conservation Partnership projects.

Motion: It was moved by Victor DeVasto, seconded by Mike Hill, and passed to approve the 9/08/08 minutes with noted corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Lori Hartzell reported that there are 58 members for '08 and to date 15 members are signed up for '09.

Beginning Balance as of 12/18/08: **\$3,469.61**

Income:

Deposits (Sept. '08 – Dec. '08)	\$2,260.00
Interest (Sept. '08 – Nov. '08)	<u>\$ 3.20</u>

Total Income \$ 2,263.20

Expenses:

Award Partners (Plaques)	\$ 431.25
Walmart (card)	\$ 1.97
K. Rowe (reimburse Ann. Tour drink/cookies)	\$ 9.86
NJ Vietnam Veterans (tour donation)	\$ 100.00
Freehold SCD (Van Annual tour)	\$ 153.75
Wegman's (Hydrology training lunch)	\$ 719.10
Freehold SCD (Hydrology training bagels)	\$ 69.98
K. Rowe (Hydrology train beverage/muffins)	\$ 70.94
Gift Card (M. Dudash 30+ yrs retirement gift)	\$ 50.00

Total Expenses \$ 1,606.85

Ending Balance: **\$4,125.96**

Lori noted the total income above does not include payment for a few attendees of the H1 H2 training, but their vouchers are being processed.

Lori requested that the annual audit be scheduled. Victor DeVasto and Darlene Hess will conduct the audit.

Discussion ensued about the need to change the money market account to a regular checking account in order to process our bills more efficiently.

Motion: It was moved by Ben Shotland, seconded by Victor DeVasto, and passed to change our money market account to a regular checking account.

Discussion ensued about the need for a change of the second signature on the account since Myrna Dudash is retiring.

Motion: It was moved by Victor DeVasto, seconded by Mike Hill, and passed to add EA President, Michael Kent, as the second signature on the account.

Motion: It was moved by Ben Shotland, seconded by Myrna Dudash, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

President's Report:

Michael Kent reported on the NJACD Annual Conference Tour that the EA hosted. Overall it was a fine tour, with the exception of the "no-shows" at the Clam Plant. The Mt. Mitchell Scenic Overlook in Atlantic Highlands was improvised and was a good substitution. Thanks to Tim Thomas, Ben Shotland and the Freehold District for coordinating the tour.

Employee Choice Awards were presented at the Annual Conference to Angelo Caruso, Karen Rowe and Ernie Thurlow (replacement of '99 award.) Discussion ensued about replacing Jay Kandle's award, as he was also a recipient in '99 when inferior plaques were presented.

Motion: It was moved by Tim Thomas, seconded by Courtney Davidson, and passed to replace Jay Kandle's plaque with one ordered from Award Partners.

Karen will order a Jay Kandle plaque from Award Partners.

Correspondence:

Thank you from NJ Vietnam Veteran's for the \$100 donation and an invoice from NCDEA for \$200 dues for '09.

Motion: It was moved by Victor DeVasto, seconded by Ben Shotland, and passed to approve payment of \$200 dues to NCDEA for 2009.

Old Business:

Michael Kent has been in contact with Frank Minch about the EA's involvement in NJACD and SSCC (to be a "face" at the table) and Frank agrees it is worthwhile. Joe Lomax and Priscilla Hayes are also on board. Mike will follow up on this.

Victor reported on the resignation of Charles Kuperus, Secretary of Agriculture, and CK has removed himself from budget issues. State Board of Ag is working on who gets funding. SSCC is in "survival mode" and if they can become financially self-sufficient (Chapter 251 portion) they may stay under the Dept. of Ag. The Dept. of Ag's Operation's Committee is being made aware of the role of the Districts.

Angelo asked about feasibility of going directly to EPA to get Districts on their radar to do field inspections (for a fee) re: clean water act [bypassing the need to go through DEP].

Victor reported that Frank Minch and Joe Lomax are working to inform NJDEP's Barry Chalofsky about the Districts' expertise and ability to do clean water act work.

SSCC State Engineer Status: John Showler is trying to pursue his engineers license testing in DE, which if successful, he can then sit for the NJ test.

New Business:

Tim Thomas reported on the success of the H1 & H2 Training held in early December. 79 people paid to attend and there were 4 no-shows. By having meeting space and presenters at no cost we made money, but that is not the EA's objective. Cost for breakfast and lunch was approximately \$10 per person. The Training Committee will meet soon and review the evaluations in detail.

Victor: The H1 & H2 Training was the best EA has offered in some time.

Discussion ensued about the presenters used at our trainings. The use of a presenter does not mean the EA is endorsing that speaker's firm/company, we are just utilizing their subject knowledge.

Tim: We should look to "tap" District employees as training presenters.

Mike Kent thanked all those involved in making the H1 & H2 Training a success, especially the presenters. Mike previously sent out thank you letters.

Tim reported a need to "shepherd" people along to pursue CPESC because they need to apply in order to be evaluated to see if they are eligible to sit for the exam. The exam is only scheduled when there are enough eligible candidates. Tim recommends the EA should encourage employees to pursue their CPESC certification. Tim and Karen will work on a flyer.

Tim: The Training Committee would like the EA to formulate training modules for inspectors and other specific programs. Tim will contact CPESC to see if they already have modules to aid in pre-exam training.

Bill reported that we plan to offer defensive driving in late February. A new training survey will come out of the State Training Committee in January '09. OSHA training is still needed by some Districts and can be opened to town and county staff.

Mike Kent presented Myrna Dudash with a resolution and gifts to commemorate her retirement after 32 years at Mercer SCD and her membership in NJCDEA since its inception. Best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Karen will contact Colleen Stemme about employee directory information.

Motion to Adjourn: It was moved by Michael Hill, seconded by Ben Shotland, and approved to adjourn at 12:17 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 19th at 11 am at Mastori's.

Minutes submitted by Karen Rowe, Secretary