

New Jersey Conservation District Employees Association
April 28, 2011
Meeting Minutes
Cracker Barrel, Hamilton Twp. @ 11:30 am

Michael Kent, President, called the NJCDEA meeting to order at 11:52 am.

Attendance:

Mike Kent (President), Bill Brash (Vice President), Courtney Davidson (Treasurer) , Karen Rowe (Secretary), Mike Hill, Ben Shotland, Linda Sandusky, Ernie Thurlow, Nick Cassetta, Bob Dobbs, and Frank Calo

Minutes: Minutes of the January 20, 2011 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Bill Brash made the motion, seconded by Mike Hill, and passed to approve the 1/20/11 minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

Courtney Davidson reported that 47 members are signed up for 2011 (plus two more joined at this meeting).

Beginning Balance as of 4/28/2011: **\$5,270.49**

Income:

Deposits (Jan. 2011 – to date)
Membership Dues \$ 230.00

Total Income **\$1,130.00**

Expenses:

NJ Envirothon 2011 Donation \$500.00
E. Thurlow Retirement Gift Card \$100.00
Khimaira-GreenEarth Website Host \$ 99.00
NJ Division of Revenue Annual Filing \$ 25.00

Total Expenses **\$724.00**

Ending Balance: **\$4,776.49**

Motion: Bob Dobbs made the motion, seconded by Ben Shotland, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

President's Report:

Mike Kent reported that the "White Paper" highlighting the SSCC's mission and purpose and the role of Districts was now on NJDA Secretary Fisher's desk.

Cape-Atlantic has already posted all pertinent information on their website, such as budgets, board minutes, etc. Other Districts are waiting for guidance from the SSCC before posting. The NJCDEA supports the districts efforts to get guidance and will offer suggestions on ways to accomplish this.

Healthcare contributions may be going up again, as year as July.

Mike is not going to go forward with a Member Survey (discussed at the January meeting) since the State Training Committee does this annually and he can glean information from their survey results. Mike would like to attend a Training Committee meeting and will reach out to Tim Thomas, Committee Chair.

Correspondence:

A member submitted a few suggestions for the NJCDEA including doing fundraising to help employees earn their CPESC and offering training on running a non-profit in the 21st century.

Old Business:

Mike Hill attended a NJ Environmental Financing Seminar and reported that funding for Barnegat Bay initiatives were eligible for low interest loans, principle forgiveness loans, or zero-payback grants. Certain criteria have to be met to qualify and basins need to be ranked.

Mike Kent said our website was updated in March. Please forward all new updates to Mike who will review and then get to Victor DeVasto for posting online.

Our website should have a link to CPESC.

New Business:

Discussion ensued about CPESC, and to date, there are 4 or 5 people district-wide who are interested in getting certified. 23 district personnel are already CPESC.

Tim Thomas (by proxy) reported that the Cross-Training for Districts, NRCS and NJDEP is scheduled for May 10th at the Rutgers Eco Complex.

- The training is designed for the various agencies to discuss overlaps and conflicts between the rules of each agency. All organizations are working to protect the environment. If we all use common sense, the ultimate goal of protecting the state's natural resources will be met.
- A brief intro of the various agencies, in the morning, will be followed by several case studies to highlight ways we can work together.
- The success of the training will be dependent upon the energy and collective knowledge of the participants.

Discussion ensued about NJCDEA providing breakfast items for the training.

Motion: Bill Brash made the motion, seconded by Linda Sandusky, and passed that NJCDEA will supply breakfast items for the Inter-Agency Cross Training on May 10th.

Bill Brash reported the reworking on the SESC Standards includes bridges and culverts, scarification, organic matter, texture test, etc., and will be out by the end of the summer.

Discussion ensued about the NJACD Annual Conference set for Warren County, October 5th – 6th. Mike Kent will confirm with Angelo Caruso that NJCDEA is on the agenda for the Employee Choice Awards.

Bob Dobbs would like to renew the partnership agreement at the conference.

The Employee Choice Awards selection process will be started by Tim Thomas and Karen Rowe in June. Mike Kent would like us to find a better plaque than those presented last year. A new vendor is needed as the other company closed.

Tim Thomas and Mike Kent will co-chair the Elections Committee.

Mike Kent recognized Ernie Thurlow and his 27 year commitment to NJCDEA, serving as President and Vice-President, providing training and chairing many committees. He was presented with a resolution and gift card. Ernie is enjoying retirement.

NEXT MEETING Date: At the NJACD Annual Conference in October.

Motion to Adjourn: Bob Dobbs made the motion, seconded by Courtney Davidson, and approved to adjourn at 1:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by Karen Rowe, Secretary