

New Jersey Conservation District Employees Association
9/09/2008
Meeting Minutes
Riverfront Promenade, Burlington @ 10:30 am

Michael Kent, President, called the NJCDEA meeting to order at 10:30 am. [Note: meeting was originally scheduled for 1:00 but was moved up due the Meerwald rain delay]

Attendance: Mike Kent, Bill Brash, Karen Rowe, Tim Thomas, Courtney Davidson, Steve Grosch, Stacy Brady, Donna Cramer, Ben Shotland, Angelo Caruso, Scott Howard, Holly Kaplan, Larry Lewis, Roy Otto, Paul Evans, Dave Reilly, Glenn Ward, Rob Bergeman, Wayne Birchler, Karol Blew, Scott Boyer, Christina Christine, Victor DeVasto, Rich Eigenbrood, Darlene Hess, Kathy Kozubal, Jerry Reker, Erin Bice, Frank Calo and Ernie Thurlow

Minutes: Minutes of the June 26, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: It was moved by Bill Brash, seconded by Courtney Davidson, and passed to approve the 6/26/08 minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report: [Note: submitted by email after the meeting as Lori did not attend the Meerwald Training]
 Lori Hartzell reported that to date there are 58 members for '08.

Beginning Balance as of 9/08/08: **\$2,721.23**

Income:	
Deposits (June '08 – Sept. '08)	\$1,540.00
Interest (June '08 – Aug. '08)	<u>\$ 2.65</u>
Total Income	\$ 1,542.65
Expenses:	
Bayshore Discovery (Meerwald Training)	\$ 650.00
Mercer SCD (Sadley retire frame)	\$ 23.53
Karen Rowe (reimburse drinks Meerwald)	\$ 20.74
R. Helfrich Bus Co. (deposit Annual tour)	\$ 100.00
Total Expenses	\$ 794.27

Ending Balance: **\$3,469.61**

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

President's Report:
 Michael Kent was pleased at the turnout for this meeting, as there were many more attendees than at previous meetings.

Michael reported on the retirements of Jim Sadley and Hunter Birckhead from the State office. Bill Brash attended Jim's retirement party and presented Jim with a resolution from the Employees Association.

Frank Minch is assuming many of Jim's responsibilities. Discussion ensued about the lack of a State engineer. Ernie Thurlow reported that there are Supervisors who are PE's and they are working on a solution. Basically a response of "refer to the Standards" is how engineering questions are being handled.

Dave Reilly reported on the progress of the Education Coordinators and Council projects, i.e. the Soil Tunnel and Project Soil Curriculum. There is a need for all levels of District personnel to be aware of the education initiatives being implemented.

Bill Brash proposed that a letter be sent to the NJACD and SSCC offering the Employees Association's support on State level initiatives.

Michael reported that he had discussed with Frank Minch the benefits of having a NJCDEA representative attend NJACD meetings.

MOTION: It was moved by Mike Kent, seconded by Tim Thomas, and approved that the NJCDEA agrees to be actively involved and have representation in NJ Conservation Partnership projects.

Correspondence:

None

Old Business:

Bill Brash reported that the H1 and H2 1-day training is scheduled for December 4th @ the Freehold SCD office. All presenters are in place, flyers have gone out and some staff members have already registered. It has been requested that if anyone has a site that is difficult to review and would like assistance in reviewing the hydrology of the project, then submit the problem to Bill Brash by November 18th.

Professional Development Units (PDU's) towards the CPECS certification will be earned at the H1 H2 Training. Bill passed around a CPECS fact sheet outlining the PDU requirements.

Bill Brash reported on the results of a recent training survey. There is interest in defensive driving and plant identification classes. Bill has been in contact with Tim Dunn of NRCS about the plant id class this fall and is looking to hold the driving class in early 2009.

Mike Kent thanked Ernie Thurlow for chairing the Employee Choice Awards committee. Winners have been selected and will be presented with their awards at the NJACD Annual Conference on October 20th.

Tim Thomas reported that the EA will host the tour on Sunday, October 19th as part of the Annual Conference. The charter bus will take the scenic route to the JT White Shellfish Depuration plant for a tour of their facility which is part of the Jersey Seafood program. The next stop is to the NJ Vietnam Veteran's Memorial and Education Center in Holmdel. The bus will take tour-goers directly to the Freehold SCD 70th Anniversary Dinner at the Colts Neck Firehouse and will return them to the hotel.

New Business:

Tim Thomas reported on the NE Conference held in Portsmouth, NH. It was a nice location for the conference, and their social events went well. The conference itself could have had more substance, as it seemed that there was not much cooperation between their EA and their State Association. New Jersey's Trout in the Classroom program was presented and well received.

Victor DeVasto expressed the immediate need for a SSCC Engineer; otherwise Districts could be assuming more responsibilities and future legal liabilities.

Motion: It was motioned by Vic DeVasto, seconded by Ben Shotland, and approved to have the NJCDEA submit a letter to Monique Purcell (Charlie Kuperus and Frank Minch cc'd) pushing for the appointment of an engineer for the SSCC.

Victor will draft this letter and forward to Michael Kent and Bill Brash.

Michael Kent asked for feedback on ways to increase participation in EA events and meetings. Dave Reilly suggested "piggy backing" meetings. Ernie Thurlow suggested holding Executive Board meetings as an alternative. A meeting can also be scheduled to follow the Plant Identification training or in combination with Firman E. Bear training.

Motion to Adjourn: It was moved by Michael Kent, seconded by Ben Shotland, and approved to adjourn at 11:20 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 11TH at 11 am at Mastori's.

Minutes submitted by Karen Rowe, Secretary