

I. The meeting of the Bergen County Soil Conservation District was called to order at 6:20 P.M. on January 13, 2025, at the District Office, 700 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, NJ by Mr. Mecky, Chairman. In compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was filed with the NJ State Secretary of Agriculture, Bergen County Clerk's Office, The Bergen Record, and The Ridgewood News and posted at the Bergen County Administrative Building, 1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ.

Supervisors Present

Carl Mecky
Raymond Cywinski
Kim Mitchell
Bruce Rohsler
Angelo Onello

Staff and Representatives of
Cooperating Agencies Present

Angelo Caruso, District Manager
Roy Otto, Asst. District Manager
Lawrence Lewis Erosion Control Inspector
Tim Fjermestad, Erosion Control Inspector
Robyn Roberts, Administrative Secretary
Kerrie Davidson, Administrative Assistant

Others Present

Gary Tomasella, District Counsel
Lawrence Tinghino, District Counsel

II. MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to approve the minutes of the November 2024 meeting as distributed.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to approve the treasurer's reports for the months of October & November 2024 for audit.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT- none.

V. SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to approve all plans certified or recertified during the months of September, October, November and December 2024 by Mr. Cywinski on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Mitchell abstained from voting on plan # 24-5359 because she is a Bergen County Employee.

Mr. Onello abstained from voting on plan #'s 18-1147, 24-5520 & 24-5525 as he is a professional engineer.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

1) A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to pay the NJACD 2025 dues in the amount of \$850.00.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Mr. Caruso reported that the State has appointed Mr. Angelo Onello to serve as a District Supervisor.
- 2) Mr. Caruso reported that the District's FY23 Audit is complete, and a copy was emailed to the State. Official hard copies will be distributed to the Board of Supervisors when they are received by the auditor. A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, seconded by Mr. Rohsler to authorize payment of \$12,000.00 to Donohue, Gironda, Doria, and Tomkins CPAs for the preparation of the FY23 Audit.
- 3) Mr. Caruso informed the Board that our FY24 audit will commence shortly. A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, seconded by Mr. Rohsler to authorize payment of \$9,000.00 to Donohue, Gironda, Doria, and Tomkins CPAs for the preparation of the FY24 Audit.
- 4) Mr. Caruso reported that the district's copier is offline. The vendor has been contacted and will provide a purchase order this week for a new copier as approved by the Board at a prior District Meeting.
- 5) Mr. Caruso reported that the NACD National Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mr. Cywinski will be attending.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) A motion was made by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Cywinski to approve the 2025 Annual Plan of Work.
- 2) A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to approve payment of the Chapter 251 Surcharge, FY2025, Q1, in the amount of \$3,850.00.
- 3) A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to approve payment of the RFA Fee Reimbursement, FY2025, Q2, in the amount of \$2490.00.
- 4) Mr. Caruso reported that District schools will be notified shortly of the upcoming 2025 Poster Contest once the brochure is available for posting.
- 5) A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to cancel the February District Meeting.
- 6) A motion was made by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Cywinski, to approve payment of the District's annual legal retainer to Mr. Gary Tomasella in the amount of \$2,000.00.
- 7) A motion was made by Mr. Rohsler, seconded by Mr. Cywinski to approve the PERS Annual Employer Pension Annual Payment in the amount of \$66,841.

IX. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1) Mr. Caruso reported on the status of the District's certificates of deposit.
- 2) A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to have Mr. Caruso sign the Landlord's Bank Agreement as reviewed and approved by the District Counsel, Mr. Tomasella.

X. NJ Department of Agriculture Report

Mr. Cywinski reported the following:

- 1) HEPSCD would like to host the NJ Annual Conference. The SSCC is also considering Dukes Farm in Somerset.
- 2) "White Papers" are being prepared for submission to the new administration in Washington. There is concern about cutbacks in funding.
- 3) A new Chief of NRCS has been announced.

XI. NRCS – provided a report to be handed out in her absence as follows:

NRCS Report for the 1/13/2025 Bergen SCD meeting.

- Working through FY25 EQIP apps
 - ActNow- Tree Mitigation, Cover Crop, High Tunnel
 - Should know all pre-approvals by end of February 21, 2025
 - NJ received \$7.7 million for the state straight EQIP
 - \$15.7 Million for IRA
 - CSP open for enrollment- deadline for apps is March 14, 2025
 - Watch for outreach events
- Local Work Group Meetings
 - Morris 2/18/25 4pm
- NJ Community Garden/Farm grant opportunity (I forward the email w this report)
- Our relocation slated for end of March to 350 Clark Drive, Mt Olive, NJ
- Currently interviewing to fill the Cape Atlantic Conservationist position

At this time, Mr. Mecky requested an Executive Session.

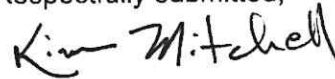
XII. OTHER BUSINESS- None.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were taken by unanimous vote of all members present.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberly Mitchell,
Secretary-Treasurer