



MINUTES
SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Supervisors Meeting
March 19, 2024

CALLED TO ORDER BY: Joel Wharton, Board Chair
TIME: 11:03 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS	
Roland Hill	Vice Chair
Dale Ockels	Treasurer
Mark Nardi	Supervisor
Joe Booth	Supervisor
Will Carlisle	Supervisor
STAFF	
David Baird	District Coordinator
Dan Lee	District Accountant
Jessica Watson	Sediment and Stormwater Program Manager
Stephen Gissy	Equipment Program Manager
Holly Givens	Administrative Coordinator
Debbie Absher	Director of Ag Programs
Tyler Brown	DNREC
Jen Nelson	DACD
Ziggy Savage	NRCS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Roland Hill and seconded by Dale Ockels to approve the agenda for March 19, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Will Carlisle and seconded by Roland Hill to approve the February 27, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

VISITORS

Todd Lawson, County Administrator, County Engineers, and all members of Sussex County Council joined the meeting at noon. David Baird gave an update on SCD’s accomplishments and drainage concerns within our community and how they are being addressed. The funding request for FY25 was also discussed.

REPORTS

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| District Account’s Report | DACD Executive Directors Report |
| Equipment Program Manager’s Report | Agriculture Program Report |
| District Conservationist’s Report | District Coordinators Report |
| Sediment and Stormwater Report | |
| DNREC Conservation Program’s Report | |

ACTION ITEMS

1a. Cost Share Payments- Large Animal Mortality

Received the following request for cost share payment to John Kohout for Large Animal Mortality pickup:

February

Total Cost	\$5,900	Cows:	8
SCD Cost	\$5,900	Horses:	6
SCD Admin	\$1,380		

Moved by Joe Booth and seconded by Roland Hill to approve the cost share payments to John Kohout for large animal mortality pick-up. Motion passed unanimously.

1b. Conservation Cost Share Design- O'Boyle

This item was tabled from the February 2024 meeting as the board requested more information on the landowner's contribution to the project's design phase.

David Baird's recommendation to the Board is to continue its policy of providing the landowner with the survey and design phase at no charge. This recommendation is based on the March 23, 2021, action by the Board to establish a pilot program utilizing \$50,000 of Conservation Cost Share funds for preliminary costs involved in developing a conservation project—this effort aimed to improve access to conservation programs while increasing the likelihood of implementation. Additionally, completing the design could improve access to other funding sources for implementation and provide the necessary matching funds when applicable. Additionally, SCD has utilized \$25,518.25 in funding on four projects, with another two in development (including O'Boyle). It was recommended that SCD should continue to see our initial commitment throughout the process. Finally, as part of our mission, SCD has historically provided technical assistance to landowners at no cost, and we feel that this effort is no different.

Received request for the use of allocated design funds within the Conservation Cost Share account to complete the survey and design for approximately 1/3rd acre wildlife/water quality enhancement pond for property owner Jordan O'Boyle in the amount of \$6,625.

Moved by Joe Booth and seconded by Roland Hill to approve using \$6,625 of allocated design funds with the Conservation Cost Share account to complete survey and design. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made at 1:41 p.m. and was passed unanimously.

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.