

MINUTES
SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Supervisors
January 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joel Wharton at 6:03 p.m. at 23818 Shortly Road, Georgetown, DE.

Also present were:

Joe Booth	David Baird	Ziggy Savage
Dale Ockels	Debbie Absher	Marcia Fox
Will Carlisle	Stephen Gissy	
Cory Whaley	Holly Givens	
Roland Hill	Wes Allen	
John Rieley	Dan Lee	
Mark Nardi	Jen Nelson	

Motion was made by Dale Ockels and seconded by Roland Hill to approve the January 17, 2023 agenda. Motion passed. (8 yes, 0 no)

Motion was made Will Carlisle and seconded by Dale Ockels to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022 board meeting. Motion passed. (8 yes, 0 no)

Recognition of Visitors: John Ferguson was presented with a Distinguished Service Award for his role as Chairman of the Mifflin Tax Ditch.

Items Requiring Board Action:

1a. Cost-Share Payment: Large Animal Mortality

Received request for the following cost share payment:

December	
Total Cost- \$6,870	Cows: 7
SCD Cost- \$6,870	Horses: 9
SCD Admin- \$1,260	

Moved by Joe Booth and seconded by Dale Ockels to approve the Sussex Conservation District requests for cost share payment to John Kohout for animal mortality pick-up. Motion passed. (8 yes, 0 no)

2. DNREC Buffer Proposal

Marcia Fox with DNREC presented an overview of the new DNREC Buffer Initiative in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The program's goal is to increase the amount of riparian buffers along waterways (including ditches) as part of a larger water quality initiative. See program flyer at the end of the minutes for a summary of program qualifications and incentives. No action was required.

3. **Tax Ditch Pilot Program**

Wes Allen, Tax Ditch, Program Manager, gave an overview of the results of the first year of the Tax Ditch Pilot Program as well as recommendations for an additional five systems to be added to the program.

Received request to approve the following additional systems to be added to the tax ditch pilot program for 2023 along with two alternatives:

- Koepfel Robinson Tax Ditch
- Little Bay Tax Ditch
- Phipps Tax Ditch
- Meadow Branch Tax Ditch
- Bear Hole Tax Ditch
- Bucks Branch (alternate tax ditch)
- Jones Branch (alternate tax ditch)

Moved by Joe Booth and seconded by Will Carlisle to approve adding the named additional tax ditch systems and alternates to the program in 2023. Motion passed. (8 yes, 0 no)

4. **Manchester Manor Bid Award**

Received request to award bid to Common Sense Solutions for the Manchester Manor Drainage Improvement Project. Manchester Manor is a residential subdivision located east of Laurel off Chipman’s Pond Rd. and the project involves reconstruction of much of the roadside swales, storm drain installation and improvements to the existing stormwater pond.

Contractor	Bid Amount
Kinsley Construction	\$882,900
R&C Contractors	\$664,298.50
Common Sense Solutions	\$652,132.70
Chesapeake Turf	\$829,800

Moved by Dale Ockels and seconded by Mark Nardi to award contract bid to Common Sense Solutions in the amount of \$652,132.70 for the Manchester Manor Drainage Improvement Project. Motion passed. (8 yes, 0 no)

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35p.m.

The next board meeting will be held Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6 p.m. at 23818 Shortly Road, Georgetown, DE.

Forest Buffer Incentive Program

In the Chesapeake Bay watershed



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL



Forest Buffer Incentive Program

Working with landowners and local entities across the Chesapeake Bay watershed to restore or create riparian forest buffers that improve the quality of our local waters.

To Qualify:

- Land must be within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. See if you qualify below.
- Land must be connected or next to a stream/ditch.
- Agricultural buffer plantings will need to be a minimum of a 1/2 acre and urban buffer plantings will need to be a minimum of 1/4 acres.
- Farmers that lease agricultural lands are eligible but must certify an active lease.
- Applicants must be in good standing with the Nutrient Management Program or the Delaware Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Program, if applicable.
- Must agree to keep the areas forested for a minimum of 5 years, with renewal for up to 10 years.

Project Specifics:

- One hundred percent of project costs are covered.
- Rental payment paid to landowner for 5 years. Receive rental in one-time payment.
 - Narrow forest width buffer < 35' = \$500
 - Forest buffer >35' = \$1000
- Maintenance will be provided.



Do you live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed? To see if you qualify visit the Delaware Watersheds Find Your Watershed page.

<https://delawarewatersheds.org>