

MINUTES
SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Supervisors
May 23, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joel Wharton at 7:04 p.m. at 23818 Shortly Road, Georgetown, DE.

Also present were:

Joe Booth	Mark Nardi	David Baird
Dale Ockels	Debbie Absher	Ziggy Savage
Will Carlisle	Stephen Gissy	Jen Nelson
Roland Hill	Holly Givens	Tyler Brown
John Rieley	Dan Lee	Jessica Watson

Moved by Dale Ockels and seconded by Joe Booth to approve the May 23, 2023, agenda.
Motion passed. (7 yes, 0 no)

Moved by Joe Booth and seconded by Roland Hill to approve the April 25, 2023, board meeting minutes.
Motion passed. (7 yes, 0 no)

Items Requiring Board Action:

1a. Cost-Share Payment: Large Animal Mortality

Received request for the following cost share payment:

April		
Total Cost:	\$3,740	Cows: 4
SCD Cost:	\$3,740	Horses: 5
SCD Admin:	\$1,200	

Moved by Mark Nardi and seconded by Joe Booth to approve the Sussex Conservation District requests for cost-share payment to John Kohout for animal mortality pick-up in the amount of \$3,740. Motion passed. (7 yes, 0 no)

2. SCD Board of Supervisors Compensation

Received request to approve an increase in the SCD Board of Supervisors compensation. As a follow-up from the April Board meeting, a compensation committee composed of R.C. Willin, Willin Farms (Seaford), Jay Baxter, Baxter Farms (Georgetown), and Ring Lardner, Davis, Bowen & Friedel Engineers (Milford) met on May 12 and after discussion supported an increase in the SCD Board of Supervisors Compensation. It was estimated that the last adjustment for the SCD Board of Supervisors was in 2008 (or possibly earlier). SCD policies on this issue call for the following..."To ensure the appropriateness of supervisor compensation, a committee composed of persons not compensated by the District and with no financial interest should determine the compensation practice/policy."

Additionally, they recommended that SCD consider a policy that would adjust compensation with an annual cost of living adjustment reviewed by the compensation committee every 2-3 years to confirm the appropriate figures. See the table on the next page.

BOARD POSITION	CURRENT COMPENSATION PER MEETING	PROPOSED COMPENSATION PER MEETING
CHAIR	\$150	\$375
VICE-CHAIR	\$100	\$250
TREASURER	\$100	\$290
SUPERVISORS	\$100	\$250
COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER*	-	-
EXTENSION OFFICE	-	\$250
CHECK SIGNING	\$25	\$35
SPECIAL MEETINGS FULL DAY	\$100	\$200
SPECIAL MEETINGS HALF DAY	\$50	\$100

*County Council Member does not accept compensation as the County considers this a part of their role.

Moved by John Rieley and seconded by Dale Ockels to approve the SCD Board of Supervisors compensation increase as presented with an effective date of January 1, 2023, and the compensation committee to review figures every three years. Motion passed. (7 yes, 0 no)

3. NRCS/DACD Contribution Agreement

Discussions were held about the NRCS/DACD contribution agreement. The main topic of this discussion was NRCS's request for SCD to hire a conservation technician.

No action was required.

4a. Equipment Program: Surplus Equipment

Received request to declare the following assets as surplus in the Equipment Program and sell. The proposed items are being offered for open sale to employees, board members, and the public with a minimum price and best price due by June 8th @ 3:00 PM. All items are available to view. Should an item not sell, we will explore advertising or taking it to a local auction.

*2010 Volvo BL70 Back with Attachments- Minimum: \$20,000

*2006 Hudson 20 Ton Tag a Long Trailer- Minimum \$10,000

*1974 Ford Model 7000 tractor with Weed Wiper Attachment - Minimum \$5,000

*2001 Kruger 20 Ton Tag a Long Trailer- Minimum \$10,000

Moved by Joe Booth and seconded by John Rieley to declare the 2010 Volvo BL70, the 2006 Hudson trailer, the 1974 Ford 7000 tractor, and the 2001 Kruger trailer as surplus and sell for the minimum price recommended. Motion passed. (7 yes, 0 no)

4b. Equipment Program: Capital Purchase of Trailer

Received request to purchase a new Tag A Long Trailer for the Equipment Program. Our (2) 20-ton Existing trailers are maxed out on weight capacity with machines and showing signs of wear with their suspension, bearings, etc. We have reached out and received (3) quotes for a 30-Ton tri axle tag along trailer from different manufacturers. The manufacturer with their pricing is shown below.

Kruger Trailers: \$52,900.00

Hale Trailers: \$47,050.00

Kaufman Trailers: \$32,130.38

Moved by Dale Ockels and seconded by Joe Booth to purchase a new 30-ton tri-axle trailer from Kauffman Trailers for \$32,130.38. Motion passed. (7 yes, 0 no)

5. Referral Program for Cover Crops

Received request to establish a referral program for SCD's conservation cost share cover crop program. A \$500 referral incentive would be paid out to new farmers who sign up for the cover crop program and the farmer who refers each new participant.

Moved by Mark Nardi and seconded by Roland Hill to approve establishing a conservation cost share cover crop referral program. Motion passed. (7 yes, 0 no)

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

The next board meeting will be held Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 7 p.m. at 23818 Shortly Road, Georgetown, DE.