

MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST

DATE: June 16th, 2006
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
3rd Floor, MERI Conference Room
Lyndhurst, New Jersey

RE: BIMONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

CAPTAIN WILLIAM SHEEHAN, Chair
Hackensack Riverkeeper

MR. KENNY ESSER (representative for Mr. Bob Ceberio)
NJMC, Special Assistant to the Executive Director

MR. MICHAEL GONNELLI
NJMC, Commissioner

MR. GREG REMAUD
NY/NJ Baykeeper

ALSO PRESENT:

MR. ED BULMER
NJMC, Finance and Management Assistant Director

MS. KRISTEN HEINZERLING, ESQ.
Interim Deputy Attorney General for MCT

MR. JONATHAN MARTIN
Administrative Assistant, Meadowlands Conservation Trust

MS. KRISTINA SCHVEJDA
Executive Director, Meadowlands Conservation Trust

ABSENT:

MR. MARK BECKER, Vice Chair
Co-Director of Bergen Save the Watershed Action Network

MAYOR DENNIS ELWELL
Mayor of Secaucus

MS. ABIGAIL FAIR
Association of NJ Environmental Commissions

1. Chairman Bill Sheehan presided over the Meadowlands Conservation Trust Board of Trustees meeting.
2. Ms. Schvejda read the roll call for the June 16, 2006 meeting of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust, followed by a reading of the Sunshine Law.
3. Amended Minutes of the May 5, 2006 meeting were asked to be adjusted by DAG Kristen Heinzerling. On page 4, line 10 under New Business it reads that, “the MCT’s designation as being in, but not of, the state of New Jersey”. Ms. Heinzerling asks that it be adjusted to read that, “the MCT’s designation as being in, but not of, NJMC, which is in, but not of DCA, which is in the state of New Jersey”. See appendix A for revision. Amendment will be reviewed and adopted at the next meeting.
4. Review and Adoption of Minutes: Minutes of May 5, 2006 meeting were adopted and approved with a motion made by Trustee Gonnelli seconded by Trustee Remaud and unanimously carried by acclamation.
5. Chairman’s Report
 - a. Chairman Sheehan has been notified that he must form financial, personnel, and audit committees by appointing board members to whichever working group he sees fit. It has been agreed upon by the board members that the financial and audit committees should be rolled into one due to the fact that we have small group to work with. Trustee Gonnelli volunteered to serve on the personnel committee. Chairman Sheehan accepted Trustee Gonnelli’s offer as well as appointing himself and Trustee Fair. For the financial committee Chairman Sheehan proposed that Trustees Becker and Remaud serve in addition to Trustee Ceberio or whoever his delegate may be. Trustee Remaud and Mr. Esser accepted Chairman Sheehan’s offer.
6. Director’s Report discuss
 - a. Old Business
 - A. License Plate Update – Mr. Martin informed the board that 1st quarter 2006 has seen approximately a 10% improvement over 1st quarter 2005. Being that the MCT has had much to do since its last board meeting, Mr. Martin has not been able to give as much attention as he would have liked to in bring on board more dealerships to assist in license plate promotion efforts. Chairman Sheehan asked Mr. Martin whatever came of the relationship with Frank’s Pontiac-GMC. Mr. Martin said that they are not asking each individual car buyer if they would like to purchase a license plate, but they do have flyers on display and are willing to put a poster in their showroom. Mr. Martin has a design created and hopes to work with NJMC’s Senior Creative Services Director on getting that printed within the next few weeks. Executive Director Schvejda asked Trustee Gonnelli if it would be possible that the municipalities display the poster in their Town Hall lobbies. Trustee Gonnelli said that it should not be a problem

and that we might also want to consider contacting the town libraries as well.

- B. Norwood Conservation Easement – Executive Director Schvejda has informed the board that the sealed survey has been completed and two encroachments have been found on the property. Ms. Schvejda has spoken with the Town Administrator and Mayor and they are having their attorney reach out to the violators. Once resolved we will push to have the closing done as soon as possible due to the fact that Mayor Kaplan has been appointed to Bankruptcy Judge and plans on stepping down as Mayor within the next few months.
- C. Summit Meeting for Funding Strategies – Trustee Remaud would like to get the ball rolling on bringing together everyone with an interest in funding acquisition to discuss what sources for funding each one is going after and what their top priorities are. This would prevent everyone from interfering with one another and, in turn, result in higher efficiency amongst the interested parties. We also must discuss how to create more funding opportunities for the Trust since they are not your stereotypical state entity. Executive Director told the board that we are working with Trustee Ceberio on setting a date in July that would allow for all interested parties to attend. Chairman Sheehan asks that we make this meeting as relatively painless as possible by keeping it low key and placing emphasis on it being a work session. Trustee Remaud proposed we push the meeting back to September due to the fact that July and August are big vacation months and we may not be giving invitees enough notice.
- D. Nine Municipalities Greenway Meeting – Executive Director Schvejda recently held a meeting in Norwood with representatives from 9 of the surrounding municipalities to discuss the creation of a greenway trail through the towns and possibly connect it to the Palisades Greenway Trail System. Vice Chair Becker also presented and leant support to MCT at the meeting. The program was well received and the MCT is currently looking to obtain funding for the project. Ms. Schvejda has recently spoken to Sheree Davis of NJDOT and Ms. Davis said that they would be more than happy to support the MCT's efforts in creating the trail.
- E. Hudsonia Update – Executive Director Schvejda informed the board that Dr. Kiviat's booklet is ready for print. All that remains is to determine how we will fund the printing. Chairman Sheehan is under the impression that the board voted on publishing the book as a document of the Trust meaning that they took on the finances of the project. If the Trust finds that Chairman Sheehan is correct the booklet should be printed immediately. The cost for publishing the booklet is \$6,797.00 for 5,000 copies printed.
- F. MeadowFest – Although the weather was far from cooperative, nothing but positive words were expressed by everyone present. Trustee Gonnelli felt as though the turnout was not as high as 2004's event and

emphasized the importance of beginning to organize next year's event as soon as possible and increasing promotional efforts.

G. WMA5 Status – Executive Director Schvejda informed the board that WMA5 is concerned that the field work they are doing does not necessarily follow the information the Trust had given them.

7. Public Comment: Dr. Beth Ravit suggested that Mr. Martin run a contest amongst participating car dealers and offer a free boat ride on the Hackensack River to whoever sells the most license plates. She also shared with the board some of the opinions of those who attended the Greenway Meeting held by the MCT. It is her belief that there are a few people in Closter who are very possessive about their open space and it will take convincing to allow this system to pass through the municipality. Closter envisions their property to be highly accessible to the public, while Demarest and Norwood would like to keep accessibility to a minimum in order to preserve the habitat and prevent ATV's from gaining access to the property. Dr. Ravit had a meeting earlier that day with Boswell Engineering and the Closter Environmental Commission to discuss how to alleviate Norwood's concerns.

8. A motion was made by Trustee Gonnelli to go into closed session, seconded by Trustee Remaud and unanimously carried by acclamation.

a. Closed Session:
A. Financial Negotiations

9. A motion was made by Trustee Remaud to go back into open session, seconded by Trustee Gonnelli and unanimously carried by acclamation.

a. Open Session

10. Resolutions:

a. The following resolution was moved by Trustee Gonnelli, seconded by Mr. Esser and unanimously carried –

A. Resolution accepting the Single Audit prepared by Ferraiolo, Wielkotz, Cerullo and Cuva for the year ending December 31, 2005 (Resolution 06-03)

b. The following resolution was moved by Trustee Remaud, seconded by Trustee Gonnelli, and unanimously carried –

A. Resolution approving and adopting the 2006 Meadowlands Conservation Trust Budget (resolution 06-04)

11. A motion was made by Trustee Gonnelli to go into closed session, seconded by Trustee Remaud and unanimously carried by acclamation.

a. Closed Session:
A. Attorney/Client discussion

B. Negotiations

12. A motion was made by to go into open session by Trustee Remaud, seconded by Trustee Gonnelli and unanimously carried by acclamation.

a. Open Session

13. Executive Director Schvejda notified the Trustee's of a breach on a small piece of property adjacent to the Kane Tract. She just wanted to make the board aware of the situation and that the Trust is looking into what the possible affects of the breach might be to our land.

14. Next meeting: to be held on August 18th, 2006 at 10:00am in the MERI Conference Room at One DeKorte Park Plaza.

15. Motion to adjourn meeting was made.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Kristina R. Schvejda, Executive Director
Meadowlands Conservation Trust