

MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST

DATE: September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
PLACE: New Jersey Meadowlands Commission  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, MERI Conference Room  
Lyndhurst, New Jersey  
RE: BIMONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

CAPTAIN WILLIAM SHEEHAN, Chair  
Hackensack Riverkeeper

MR. ROBERT CEBERIO  
Executive Director, NJMC

MR. MICHAEL GONNELLI  
Commissioner, NJMC

MR. GREG REMAUD  
NY/NJ Baykeeper

ALSO PRESENT:

MS. NANCY BENEKI  
Public Information Officer, NJMC

MR. KENNY ESSER  
Special Assistant to the Executive Director, NJMC

MS. KRISTEN HEINZERLING (teleconference)  
Interim Deputy Attorney General

MR. JONATHAN MARTIN  
Administrative Assistant, Meadowlands Conservation Trust

MR. TOM MARTURANO  
Director of Solid Waste/Natural Resources, NJMC

MS. KRISTINA SCHVEJDA  
Executive Director, Meadowlands Conservation Trust

MS. KATY WEIDEL  
Supervisor of Park Planning, NJMC

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 Sheehan presided over the Meadowlands Conservation Trust Board of Trustees meeting.
2. Chairman Sheehan led the flag salute. Following a reading of the Sunshine Law, Executive Director Schvejda announced roll call for the September 8, 2006 meeting of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust.
3. Review and Adoption of Minutes: Minutes of the June 16, 2006 meeting were adopted and approved with a motion made by Trustee Gonnelli, seconded by Trustee Remaud and unanimously carried by acclamation.
4. A presentation was made by Katy Weidel informing the Trustees of the plans for NJMC's River Barge Park. The park will showcase a leaner & greener initiative that the Commission is promoting. It will provide public access to the Hackensack River providing the residents of New Jersey with more recreational opportunities as well as encouraging ecotourism. There will be a focus on the endorsement of the history behind the Barge Club through a combination of signage and historical artifacts throughout the property. Current plans for the park require use of a small portion of the Kane Tract to provide ample parking and a trail head for the Kane Tract. Executive Director Schvejda emphasized that the property in discussion is not wetlands. Mr. Maturano feels that if the Trustees decided to involve the Trust with this project they would have to make changes to the deed before anything could be done due to its restrictiveness. Ms. Heinzerling will create an informal interpretation of the deed determining whether or not the deed allows us to aid the Commission and, if not, what needs to be changed in order to do so. Mr. Marturano made it known that in the meantime demolition must commence and that the Commission is in need of a place to store the wood temporarily. He would like to use the upland portion of the Kane Tract adjacent to the Barge Club property. As rent payment he offered to remove the strewn boats on the Trust's property. Ms. Schvejda asked that the Trust be given first rights to salvage. Mr. Marturano granted the Executive Director's request and also offered to add the demolition of the barge on the Kane Tract as a line item to the Commissions bid proposal.
5. Public Comment: No public comment was made.
6. Resolutions: The following resolution was moved by Trustee Ceberio, seconded by Trustee Remaud and unanimously carried –
  - A. Resolution authorizing the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission to use the upland area on the southern portion of the Richard P. Kane Natural Area for the purposes of temporarily storing the salvageable wood from the Barge Club demolition (Resolution 06-06)

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

B. Resolution adopting the 2006-2007 schedule of board meetings for the Meadowlands Conservation Trust (Resolution 06-05)

7. Closed session: No closed session was needed.

8. Chairman's Report: Chairman Sheehan deferred his report to Executive Director Schvejda.

9. Directors Report:

a. Old Business

A. License plate update

a) Mr. Martin was happy to inform the Board that June '06 was the best month the Trust has had in terms of license plate sales since August '05. 29 plates were sold bringing in revenues of \$2,751.00 for the month. Since their last board meeting he has received a commitment from DCH Paramus Honda on Route 4 East in Paramus to promote the plate. He has also been in contact with the managers at Bellavia-Buick Chevrolet in East Rutherford and Paramus Chevy-Hummer in Paramus.

B. Norwood Conservation Easement

a) Executive Director Schvejda reported that the closing occurred earlier that week and that the Trust is now the official steward to Central Woods. Trustee Remaud wanted to know if a schedule for monitoring has been created. According to Ms. Schvejda a baseline report was done by herself and Mr. Martin on August 18<sup>th</sup> and that the next one is to be done in November '07. Chairman Sheehan expressed his delight in hearing that Central Woods would be preserved in perpetuity. Mayor Kaplan originally expressed his desire to save this property to the Chairman in 2005 and as a result of everyone's hard work we were able to do so before the Mayor ended his term. The Trust hopes to work with the municipality of Norwood on preserving the 87-acre Fox Hill next.

C. Summit meeting

a) Trustee Remaud interjected that he simply asks each individual group that participates to come forth and say here are the projects we are working on currently and here are our objectives for the upcoming years. He also asks that the representatives specify how their organization can help the Trust and how the Trust may be able to assist them. Executive Director Schvejda asked that the Board members focus their attention on the Richard P. Kane Natural Area at the meeting and that she will be sending out a questionnaire by the end of the week to everyone involved in order to get a better feel for what they envision the property to look like in the future.

D. 9 Municipalities Greenway Trail

a) Executive Director Schvejda had meetings with New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Director of Smart Growth Ms. Eileen Swan and New Jersey Department of Transportation Pedestrian Coordinator Ms. Sheree Davis to discuss the possibility of either organizations involvement. While both were very eager to assist the Trust, Ms.

Schvejda has decided to put the project on hold due to the Board's request that the Trust focus its attention primarily on the future of the Richard P. Kane Natural Area.

E. Hudsonia

- a) Ms. Schvejda announced that the Hudsonia booklet has been printed and that copies are available for the Board members.

b. New Business

A. Villa Marie Claire

- a) Executive Director Schvejda gave guidance to members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace on how to go about preserving their covenant in Saddle River. Since the property is not located within the Hackensack watershed region MCT cannot hold a conservation easement.

B. Staffing

- a) Executive Director Schvejda had just received word that Linda Baer is resigning, effective immediately, due to her husband's decline in health.

C. Mitigation Credits

- a) Chairman Sheehan reminded the Board that the Trust is responsible for providing mitigation credits for a list of transportation impacts according to the Empire Tract deed. Trustee Ceberio was given a list of projects that stated credit eligibility and Chairman Sheehan asked Trustee Ceberio to share that list with the Board. Trustee Remaud asked the Board if it would be possible to provide a recommendations summary at the meeting scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Sheehan announced that he would like to establish a Kane Tract subcommittee and appoint Trustee Ceberio, Trustee Remaud and himself to discuss how the Trust should go about establishing a mitigation bank.

10. Next Meeting: to be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 10:00am in the MERI Conference Room.

11. Motion to adjourn meeting was made.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

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Kristina R. Schvejda, Executive Director  
Meadowlands Conservation Trust