

**MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

DATE: October 20th, 2006
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
MERI Conference Room
Lyndhurst, New Jersey

RE: Board of Trustees meeting of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

WILLIAM SHEEHAN, Chair
Hackensack Riverkeeper

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

KENNY ESSER
Special Assistant to the Executive Director, NJMC

ABIGAIL FAIR
Association of NJ Environmental Commissions

GREG REMAUD
NY/NJ Baykeeper

ALSO PRESENT:

KRISTINA SCHVEJDA
Executive Director, Meadowlands Conservation Trust

PENNY LUDMAN, ESQ.
Deputy Attorney General

JONATHAN P. MARTIN
Assistant to the Executive Director, Meadowlands Conservation Trust

ABSENT:

DENNIS ELWELL
Mayor of Secaucus

MICHAEL GONELLI
NJMC, Commissioner

1. **Chairman Sheehan presided** over the Meadowlands Conservation Trust Board of Trustees meeting. The meeting began at 10:10am with Chairman Sheehan leading the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Executive Director Schvejda read** the Sunshine Law and roll call for the October 20, 2006 meeting of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust.
3. **Review and Adoption of Minutes:** Minutes of the September 8, 2006 meeting were adopted and approved with a motion made by Vice Chairman Becker, seconded by Trustee Remaud and unanimously carried by acclamation.
4. **Public comment:** Mr. Mark Renna commented that he does not have all of the information reviewed from the packet and would appreciate an opportunity to comment towards the end of the board meeting. Ms. Ludman said that the Trust should have a list of people to send packets to and asked that Mr. Renna be added. Dr. Beth Ravit would also like to be added to that list.
5. **Resolutions:**
 - a. The following resolution was tabled by Chairman Sheehan, seconded by Trustee Remaud and unanimously carried. Trustee Fair recused herself from voting because of her seat on the Wetlands Mitigation Council –
 - A. Resolution 06-07 authorizing the Meadowlands Conservation Trust to contact various entities in an attempt to decipher whether or not a wetlands mitigation bank is in their best interest. –
 - a) Chairman Sheehan believes we must contact the transportation entities involved to quantify how many credits they need. Trustee Fair worries that over the next 20 years the list of projects we are requesting will change time and time again. Chairman Sheehan set the board at ease by stating that the initial determined projects will be the only ones that can utilize the mitigation credits that are created. Chairman Sheehan stated that he didn't want Ms. Schvejda to be in a meeting with various transportation entities having them put forth a new "Wish List". There is a list and it must be used and not added onto as a basis for discussion. Trustee Remaud mentioned the list was created a few years ago and described potential transportation entity infrastructure projects that potential projects should taken from. It was decided by the board that they did not want the Trust to begin negotiation until the aforementioned list was obtained. Kenny Esser was to obtain the list from Trustee Ceberio. Chairman Sheehan stated that MIMAC will eventually have to be brought into the picture to determine what transportation projects might be allowed. He also said that it is MCT's purpose and mission to hold the environment as its highest priority and we are entrusted with that responsibility.

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

- A. Resolution 06-08 to adopt a uniform code of ethics.

- a) Executive Director Schvejda played the recording of a conversation between New Jersey Commissioner of Ethics, Rita Straminski, and herself in regards to the extent in which a Trustee might be involved with in order that they would have recuse themselves from voting on a particular MCT issues. It was determined that they must only recuse themselves if the group they represent outside of the Trust is directly associated (i.e. the decision to contract with Hackensack Riverkeeper is voted on by Chairman Sheehan). Ms. Ludman asked the Trustees to please contact her or Ms. Straminski with any ethical questions they may have.

- c. The following resolution was tabled by Chairman Sheehan, seconded by Vice Chairman Becker and unanimously carried –

- A. Resolution 06-09 authorizing the Executive Director of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, Bergen S.W.A.N., NY/NJ Baykeeper and Hackensack Riverkeeper, Inc. to have the Meadowlands Conservation Trust assist in their acquisitions of environmentally important, valuable or sensitive lands within the Hackensack River watershed.

- a) Trustee Remaud presented the resolution to the board. He summarized it as a resolution formally recognizing unification of the conservation entities that are represented by the board. Ms. Ludman feels as though the resolution reiterates what is already established in our statute. The Trust currently holds the power to assist these organizations and there is no need for a resolution to be passed. Mr. Esser also let the board know that Chairman Sheehan, Vice Chairman Becker, Baykeeper and he would have to recuse themselves from voting.

- 6. **Chairman's Report:** Chairman Sheehan decided to forego his report to allow for public comment –

- a. Mr. Mark Renna, from Evergreen, asked if he could get a copy of the transportation list and wanted to know if the transportation entities were required to use the Kane mitigation credits. Chairman Sheehan used the Pascack Valley Line as an example to answer Mr. Renna's question. The lines construction was on the list and is currently under way. They are using MRI credits towards impacted wetlands. Mr. Renna then made it known that he felt Resolution 06-09 might be a good idea since often times agencies like the ones our board members represent can inadvertently interfere with one another.
 - b. Dr. Beth Ravit, a research faculty scientist from Rutgers University, had a conversation with Executive Director Schvejda about establishing an advisory subcommittee to oversee decisions regarding mitigation and restoration on the Richard P. Kane Natural Area. Rutgers currently oversees the decision making process for Kearny Marsh and Dr. Ravit

feels that she and her colleague's expert guidance would prove beneficial to the Trust. However, Rutgers would like to bid on the opportunity to provide a baseline study when the time arises. She was informed by Executive Director Schvejda that NJ Ethic's Commissioner, Ms. Straminski would find that a state of conflict if Rutgers sat on both a advisory board and then also seek to complete research work for MCT. The board feels that Dr. Ravit's proposal, regard to having a scientific advisory committee, is something that the Trust should look closely into. Chairman Sheehan would like either the Trust or Dr. Ravit to create a proposal that would clearly define how the proposed subcommittee would assist us.

7. **Director's Report:**

a. Old Business:

- A. License plate update – Mr. Martin informed the board that 19 new plates were issued in the month of July. The Department of Motor Vehicles has recently changed their website and plates can now be ordered through the web. As a result, all of our literature must be reprinted.
- B. Summit meeting for funding strategies, transportation needs and wetland mitigation credits – On September 21st, 2006, the members of the board met to discuss how each of their outside organizations could better assist the Meadowlands Conservation Trust and vice versa. There was also a detailed discussion on how the Trust should go about establishing a mitigation bank. No decisions were made.
- C. Legal advice on interpretation of deed – Executive Director Schvejda welcomed Ms. Ludman back. She was also happy to inform everyone that the deed amendment for the Richard P. Kane Natural Area has finally been signed by all of the involved parties and will be recorded within the next week or so. Chairman Sheehan gave Ms. Ludman a briefing on Mills' partnership with Colonial Capital and would like Ms. Ludman to make sure that the Trust still receives the \$100,000 owed to them annually as a result of their agreement with Mills. Ms. Ludman said that she can assist the Trust, but emphasized that the majority of the work must be done by either the Chairman or Executive Director.

b. New Business

- A. Vacancy – Mr. Martin has been offered an opportunity in NJMC's accounting department and will most likely be moving on within the next few weeks.
- B. Set up meeting with Transportation Entities – Once Executive Director Schvejda receives the list of potential wetland impacts from the various transportation entities in the state she will be working with Chairman Sheehan on setting up meetings.

C. Kane Tract projects and studies

- a) Boat removal – There are not nearly as many boats on the Richard P. Kane Tract as previously anticipated. Clean up should be much less costly than initially thought.
- b) Other – Executive Director Schvejda wrote a formal letter to Transco-Williams about the breeches on the land adjacent to the Kane Tract. She has scheduled a meeting between the Trust, Transco-Williams, and Marsh Resource, Inc. next month.
- c) Vice Chairman Becker informed the board that he has been talking to the Mayor of River Vale about the possibility of preserving a golf course in town. He would like the Trust to assist them in the lands preservation. Trustee Fair would like to look at a site plan before we move forward.

8. **No closed session.**

9. **Next meeting will be held** on December 15th, 2006 at 10:00am in NJMC's Commissioner's meeting room.

10. **Motion to adjourn meeting** was made at 11:48am by Trustee Remaud, seconded by Trustee Fair and unanimously carried.

Kristina R. Schvejda, Executive Director
Meadowlands Conservation Trust