

**MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

DATE: December 15, 2006
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
Commissioner's 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

DENNIS ELWELL
Mayor of Secaucus

MICHAEL GONELLI
NJMC, Commissioner

ROBERT CEBERIO
NJMC Executive Director

GREG REMAUD
NY/NJ Baykeeper

ALSO PRESENT:

KRISTINA SCHVEJDA
Executive Director, Meadowlands Conservation Trust

PENNY LUDMAN, ESQ. – Conference called in via phone
Deputy Attorney General

ABSENT:

ABIGAIL FAIR
Association of NJ Environmental Commissions

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 took roll call for the December 15, 2006 meeting of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust's Board of Trustees.
3. **Review and Adoption of Minutes:** Minutes of the October 20, 2006 meeting were adopted and approved with a motion made by Trustee Remaud, seconded by Vice Chairman Becker and unanimously carried by acclamation.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Chairman Sheehan expressed a "Happy Holidays" greeting to all. He then turned over his time to Executive Director Schvejda to proceed with the meeting.
5. **Public comment:** none at that time
6. **Resolutions:**

- A. Resolution 06 -10 authorizing the Meadowlands Conservation Trust's Executive Director to adopt New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's formalized purchasing and procurement procedures. Motion made by Mayor Elwell seconded by Trustee Remaud, unanimously carried by acclamation.

"Meadowlands Conservation Trust's Executive Director or her designee will ensure that the proper procurement procedures are followed pursuant to New Jersey state law, executive orders, and the attached NJMC Purchasing and Procurement Procedures and any amendments thereto."

- B. Resolution 06 -11 authorizing the Executive Director of New Jersey Meadowlands Commission to enter into a contract for wood salvage & demolition at the Richard P. Kane Tract on behalf of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust. – Motion made by Chairman Sheehan and seconded by Trustee Remaud, unanimously carried by acclamation.

"Meadowlands Conservation Trust's authorizes NJMC's Executive director to enter into a contract with Global Development, LLC for wood salvage and demolition at the River Barge at a cost of \$ \$191,952.40, of which \$19,195.24 will be taken from the Meadowlands Conservation Trust budget for the removal and wood salvage of the river barge."

7. **Director's Report:**

a. Old Business:

- A. License plate update – material was enclosed in packet. Revenue of \$1,640.00 was generated in the sales of the Meadowlands license plate in October.
- B. Monetary issue of Kane Tract- Ms. Ludman reached out to Mill's attorney Michael Luchiew, Esq. with regard to MCT receiving an annual stipend for the Kane Tract.

b. New Business

- A. Enclosed in the MCT BOT packets, bids for the demolition, wood salvage and removal of NJMC's barge buildings and the Kane Tract. The Board decided to award and authorizes the contract to Global Development Contractors LLC in the amount of \$19,195.40 to be drawn down from Meadowlands Conservation Trust's money that Mills submits to the Trust.
- B. Floral study on the Richard P. Kane Tract has been tabled indefinitely. A lengthy discussion ensued about the roles of the Trust and NJMC. The Meadowlands Conservation Trust's Board of Trustees formally requested that NJMC take the lead on any and all projects and restoration that will occur on the Kane Tract. The Commission will take charge of the projects on behalf of the Trust.
- C. A land acquisition project between The Trust and River Vale was discussed with Vice Chair Becker leading it. There is a possibility that the Trust, Bergen S.W.A.N. and Bergen County might work jointly on either holding a conservation easement on the property or have a deed restriction of some sort place. Vice Chair Becker will keep the Board of Trustees informed.
- D. Vice Chair Becker then went into a report and update on North East New Jersey Watershed Alliance (NENJWA) formerly known as Watershed Management Area 5 (WMA5). NJDEP several years back sectioned NJ into regional watershed areas, with MCT being in region 5. The State gave WMA5 funding in the amount of roughly \$600,000 to get the region up and running. Bergen County oversaw and ran the contract and funding for WMA5. However, the funding and time has run out and NJDEP has decided not to continue to fund WMA5 projects. It was decided in 2006 that WMA5 should continue their efforts and reconstitute a new organization in a 501 C 3 format. Regular monthly meetings with Vice Chair Becker the Vice Chair of NENJWA. Both NJMC and MCT attend the meetings and NENJWA would like them to sit on its board of Trustees. DAG Ludman had some concerns about area of conflict with MCT sitting on the Board. She will review any and all documents, by-laws and scope of the new alliance and will give the Board a report at our next meeting.
- E. Trustee Ceberio suggested that the Trust create an advisory board to assist in input on the Richard P. Kane Tract. Trustee Remaud has concerns that with such a small Board that we don't become too bureaucratic, lose focus and taking time away from our main mission. Chairman Sheehan strongly suggested that the Board of Trustees hold that roll and give MCT staff direction and that NJMC executive director Ceberio and his staff are more than capable and can assist the Trust. A consensus was determined that no outside advisory group is needed at this time.

- F. Trustee Ceberio on behalf of Meadowlands Conservation Trust sent letter at to the various transportation agencies to ascertain their needs for transportation projects that would require wetland impacts in the Meadowlands district. Discussion followed on what could/would be allowed on the Kane Tract for wetlands mitigation.
 - G. The special assistant position to the Trust's Executive Director was put on hold till MCT BOT personnel committee has had a chance to review the request.
 - H. The breach situation on William's property/ MRI's third phase was discussed. A meeting took place between the Trust, Williams, Bergen County mosquito commission and MRI and Ms. Schvejda informed the Board of Trustees about the status and situation.
 - I. Chairman Sheehan lead the discussion about the consultation of the audit that will have to be completed for MCT. The meeting attendees were Irfan Bora representing NJMC, Chairman Sheehan, Vice Chair Becker, Steven Wielkotz representing Ferraioli, Wielkotz, Cerullo & Cuva, P.A. accounting firm and Ms. Schvejda. The Trust for filled its legal obligation to meet with the auditing firm prior to their work for the Trust and will proceed with the audit that is required.
 - J. Vice Chair Becker proposed that he would like Bergen S.W.A.N. to become more involved with MCT and their projects. Chairman Sheehan strongly suggested that we check with State Ethic's Commissioner Rita Strmensky about the direction that can transpire or if we would be allowed. Ms. Schvejda stated that she would call Ms. Strmensky and get an answer by our next meeting.
 - K. Trustee Remaud suggested that he and the Board would like to be kept abreast of MCT issues and see a work plan developed then brought forth to the Board of Trustees.
8. **Public Comment** – Dr. Ravitz commented that Rutgers University had previously completed a study on the Kane Tract. She also felt that a new study be done to obtain a solid base line of what the hydrology, vegetative, and soil contaminant is. There have been other studies done prior by firms that held a vested interest in having the Tract developed and not preserved.
 9. **Closed session** Motion made by Trustee Ceberio and seconded by Vice Chair Becker for the discussion the negotiation of land acquisition; discussion ensued. A motion was then made to go back into open session by Trustee Ceberio and seconded by Commissioner Gonnelli.
 10. **Next meeting will be held** on February 16, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in NJMC's Commissioner's meeting room.
 11. **Motion to adjourn meeting** was made at 12:08 p.m. by Trustee Remaud, seconded by Commissioner Gonnelli and unanimously carried.

Kristina R. Schvejda, Executive Director
Meadowlands Conservation Trust