

**MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

DATE: April 20, 2007
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
Commissioner's Room
Lyndhurst, New Jersey

RE: Meadowlands Conservation Trust's Board of Trustees meeting

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

WILLIAM SHEEHAN, Chair
Hackensack Riverkeeper

ABIGAIL FAIR
Association of NJ Environmental Commissions

ALSO PRESENT:

KRISTINA SCHVEJDA
Meadowlands Conservation Trust Executive Director

PENNY LUDMAN, ESQ.
Deputy Attorney General

CONFERENCED IN:

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

GREG REMAUD
NY/NJ Baykeeper

ABSENT:

DENNIS ELWELL
Mayor of Secaucus

MICHAEL GONELLI
NJMC Commissioner

ROBERT CEBERIO
NJMC Executive Director

1. **Chairman Sheehan presided** over the Meadowlands Conservation Trust Board of Trustees meeting. The meeting began at 10:24 a.m. with Chairman Sheehan leading the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Executive Director Schvejda read** the Sunshine Law and took roll call for the April 20, 2007 meeting of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust's Board of Trustees.
3. **Review and Adoption of Minutes:** Minutes of the February 23, 2007 meeting were adopted and approved with a
 - a. Motion made by Vice Chair Becker, seconded by Trustee Remaud
 - b. Passed unanimously by acclamation.
4. **Public comment:** none at that time
5. **Resolutions:**
 - a. **Resolution 07 -02 : Consideration of a Resolution Supporting Off-Road Vehicle Legislation**
 - A. Tabled - Mayor Elwell who was going to introduce the resolution was unable to attend the meeting.
 - i. Motion to table made by Trustee Remaud, seconded by Trustee Fair
 - ii. Passed unanimously by acclamation.
 - b. **Resolution 07 -04 : Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing Meadowlands Conservation Trust's Executive Director To Enter Into A Deed Transfer To Acquire The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Property known as Skeetkill Creek Marsh**
 - A. Skeetkill Creek Marsh is a 15.92 acre wetland parcel located on Pleasant View Terrace Ridgfield, NJ; also known as Block 4014 Lot 16 & 17
 - B. The property is currently owned by New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC)
 - C. NJMC did a successful restoration project including excavating previously filled area, creating low marsh and tidal channels, and the excavation of shallow pools to provide open water habitats. Upland waterfowl habitat nesting areas were created and provided with access to open water areas. The design included the creation of a nature park and viewpoint along Pleasantview Terrace.
 - i. Motion made by Trustee Fair seconded by Vice Chair Becker–
 - ii. Passed unanimously by acclamation.

- iii. MCT executive director will attend the next NJMC commissioner meeting to thank them on behalf of The Trust
- iv. Ms. Schvejda will reach out to adjacent business Genzyne Corporation who in the past has assisted with the upkeep and maintenance of Skeetkill marsh; hopefully they will continue to help defray the maintenance costs and assist in maintaining the property. Maintaining the property consists of removing invasive plant species both by hand and chemically, monitoring the property and keeping up the mini park with costs running roughly \$36,000 per year.
- v. Trustee Fair voiced her concerns of using chemical spray to control the plants that Allied Chemical Company applies on the property. Ms. Schvejda will obtain a more detailed account for the BOT for the next meeting.

6. Chairman's Report:

- a. Chairman Sheehan waived his report in the interest of keeping the meeting brief for the conference call ins

7. Executive Director's Report:

a. Business

- A. Fox Hill conservation easement. Executive Director Schvejda is once again working with Norwood municipality on having them donate a conservation easement on a 65 + acre section of town known as Fox Hill. Norwood would like for the Trust to pick up the entire fee for the soft costs. Ms. Schvejda explained to them that she was not authorized to do that without finding out what the bidding costs would be. Chairman Sheehan reiterated that the Trust might be picking up the total soft costs but that nothing would be finalized till it was brought to the Board's attention by the MCT BOT June meeting.
- B. Insurance brokerage issue. Ms. Schvejda is requesting approval from the Board to bid out for an insurance brokerage on a 5 year term like the NJMC does. Bids for those services have gone out and the broker will be awarded at the next MCT BOT meeting.
- C. 2006 audit and financial report will be completed and submitted for your review and adoption at MCT's BOT next meeting. In the meantime MCT's financial sub committee will meet to go the financial statement/ audit

prepared by Ferraioli, Wielkocz, Cerullo & Cuva, P.A. firm. Irfan Bora has offered his NJMC staff and himself in gathering and submitting the data for the audit, on MCT's behalf.

- D. Ms. Schvejda attended a well presented two day seminar that the national Land Trust Alliance put on for learning, training and designing how to monitor and correctly manage lands.
- E. Ethics issue – Ms. Schvejda along with NJMC Executive Director and NJMC commissioners had to attend an ethic's training. Long and short of it is if you have any ethical question please contact Rita Strmensky head of NJ Ethic's Commission, DAG Penny Ludman or I for advice.
- F. License plate update – Ms. Schvejda attended a meeting with other NJ license plate organizations. The meeting consisted of discussing how the entities could better encourage people to purchase the specialty plates and also foster a closer relationship with NJ Motor Vehicles. The outcome was for a few of us to meet with both the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and the head of NJ insurance companies. Chairman Sheehan noted that the Trust receives roughly \$1,500 per month from the proceeds of license plates.
- G. Updating of the flooding on the Kane Tract was given in regard to the breaching on the Phase III of the MRI tract, tide gates not working correctly and the extreme volume of water that occurred during the April 14-16th nor'easter. Ms. Schvejda displayed an aerial board with photos of damaged and flooded areas on the Kane Tract. Chairman Sheehan strongly suggested that Trustees get out to view the damage in the region for themselves.
- H. **Public Comment** – Dr. Ravitz commented that she personally would like to see MCT take an active role in assisting municipalities in connecting towns through greenway and trails. Many towns would welcome the Trust's help and assistance. Trustee Remaud felt that MCT's role and goal is to have a positive interaction with entities and try to stay away from getting "in the fray" with other entities, since there are many that already play that role.
- I. **Next meeting will be held** on June 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. place to be determined probably the MERI conference room.
- J. **Motion to adjourn meeting** was made at 11:10 p.m. by Trustee Fair, seconded by Chairman Sheehan and unanimously carried.

Kristina R. Schvejda, Executive Director
Meadowlands Conservation Trust