

**MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: May 7, 2007

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
Commissioner's Room
Lyndhurst, New Jersey

RE: Special Meeting of Meadowlands Conservation Trust's Board of Trustees
Breach on the Kane Tract at the Losen Slote Levee/embankment

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

ROBERT CEBERIO
NJMC Executive Director

GREG REMAUD
NY/NJ Baykeeper

ALSO PRESENT:

KRISTINA SCHVEJDA
Meadowlands Conservation Trust Executive Director

PENNY LUDMAN, ESQ.
Deputy Attorney General

CONFERENCED IN:

ABIGAIL FAIR
Association of NJ Environmental Commissions

ABSENT:

MICHAEL GONELLI
NJMC Commissioner

Chairman Sheehan presided over the Meadowlands Conservation Trust Board of Trustees meeting. The meeting began at 3:40 p.m. with Chairman Sheehan leading the pledge of allegiance.

1. **Executive Director Schvejda read** the Sunshine Law and took roll call for the May 7, 2007 meeting of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust's Board of Trustees.
2. **Public comment:**
 - a. Mr. Mark Korlender (sp), Esq. of DARE Management Company, 775 Washington Ave, Carlstadt, NJ spoke.
 - b. Dr. Beth Ravit 460 Piedmont Rd. Closter, NJ spoke.
 - c. Mayor Fred Dressel of Moonachie, NJ spoke.
 - d. Mr. Brian Kindegan, Jomike Court, Carlstadt, NJ spoke.
3. **Business:**
 - a. Chairman Sheehan then opened up the discussion asking if any Trustee would like to speak about the flooding issue on the Kane Tract.
 - A. Trustee Ceberio spoke about the history of the site and how it can be a winning situation for the environment as a restoration project and also securing proper engineering practices on the property. On behalf of MCT, Trustee Ceberio enlisted NJMC staff to look at RFP and RFQ on the specifics of the repair work, and had engineers out on site seeing how work can be expedited on the Losen Slote Levee breach.
 - B. Mayor Elwell, on behalf of the Meadowlands Mayor's Council and the Mayor of Secaucus, voiced his concerns that with the Trust being responsible for making sure the property we own and oversee. MCT should also play an active role in holding up our end of responsibly caring for the both the property and also making sure that local municipalities don't continue to flood, due to poor or damaged flood structures not working on the Kane Tract.
 - C. Trustee Remaud commented that the engineering concerns do need to be addressed and that the Trust is responsible as a land owner to maintain and keep the property safe both short term and long term and find proper solutions to the flooding problem. Decisions need to be based on science, best available technology and what is appropriate when dealing with the situation. Trustee Remaud also proposed having neighboring land owners join together with key agencies to find a workable restoration solution.
 - D. Trustee Fair and Vice Chair Becker concurred with Trustee Remaud.
 - E. Chairman Sheehan felt that the Trust should work with the business community and property owners to ensure that they have job security and keep the district businesses and roads from flooding. The core mission of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust is to protect, preserve and restore environmentally sensitive lands and wetlands within the district and the Hackensack River watershed. He advocated that they are environmentally designed to act as sponges in absorbing flood waters and its biological effects. Economically speaking as both Chairman of the MCT Board and as a Riverkeeper for the Hackensack River his concerns of the economic well being of the communities go hand in hand with the integrity of the environmentally sensitive lands. He further stated that the Kane Tract could

achieve both - if the restoration design and repair work were implemented correctly.

- F. Ms. Schvejda reiterated Chairman Sheehan's and the rest of the Board of Trustees thoughts.
 - G. Mayor Elwell, wanted to make a motion to go into closed session, to have a discussion about what can be done to protect local businesses and make repairs to the Kane Tract. Trustee Ceberio and DAG Ludman stated that that was not a correct reason to go into closed session at this time.
 - H. Trustee Remaud and Fair wanted to take a hands on approach with regard to the Trust working with NJMC and the larger community to find and work on a solution to repair the Losen Slote levee and then restore the property.
4. **Public Comment** – Chairman Sheehan then opened up the floor for a dialogue and discussion about this situation.
 5. **Resolution 07 -05** - was made by Trustee Ceberio to authorize MCT Executive Director to enter into a contract, not to exceed \$50,000.00, for emergency repair of the Losen Slote Levee and to establish a sub committee of stakeholders and adjacent property owners to work together when plans for restoration of the Kane Tract have been completed.
 - A. Motion made by Trustee Ceberio seconded by Mayor Elwell
 - B. Passed unanimously by acclamation.
 6. **Resolution 07 -06** – authorizing the Executive Director to attend FEMA meetings and if possible enter into an agreement with FEMA to receive reimbursement monies for the repair work on the Losen Slote Levee.
 - A. Motion made by Mayor Elwell seconded by Trustee Ceberio
 - B. Passed unanimously by acclamation.
 7. **Next meeting will be held** on June 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. place to be determined (Probably the MERI conference room).
 8. **Motion to adjourn meeting** was made at 4:45 p.m. by Mayor Elwell, seconded by Trustee Remaud and unanimously carried.

Kristina R. Schvejda, Executive Director
Meadowlands Conservation Trust