

**MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST
AGENDA**

DATE: December 19, 2007

TIME: 2:00 pm

PLACE: New Jersey Meadowlands Commission – MERI Conference Room

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Sunshine Law Statement**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Review and adopt minutes** of October 17, 2007 meeting
5. **Special Presentation**
 - i) Kane Tract: Concepts for Wetlands Management Plan for the Richard P. Kane Tract
Given by Kane Tract Consultants: Dr. Beth Ravit, Don Smith & Joan Hansen
 - ii) Flooding, Tidegates and Stormwater Issues
Given by NJMC LUM Engineers
6. **Chairman's Report**
7. **Executive Director's Report**

- i) Old Business
- ii) New Business
- 8. **Public Comment**
- 9. **Closed Session** -- if need be
- 10. **Next meeting** Wednesday, February 20, 2008
- 11. **Adjournment**

Happy Holidays

**MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: October 17, 2007

TIME: 2:00 pm

PLACE: New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, MERI Conference Room

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

WILLIAM SHEEHAN, Chair
Hackensack Riverkeeper, INC.

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

ROBERT CEBERIO, Trustee
NJMC Exec. Director

ABIGAIL FAIR, Trustee
Association of NJ Environmental Commissions

GREG REMAUD, Trustee
NY/NJ Baykeeper

PENNY LUDMAN, ESQ
Deputy Attorney General

TIRZA WAHRMAN, ESQ
Deputy Attorney General

ALSO PRESENT:

KRISTINA SCHVEJDA
Meadowlands Conservation Trust Executive Director

DEBRA LAWLOR
NJMC Delegate

ANGELA CRISTINI, PH.D.
Ramapo College Environmental Center

VICTORIA H. MADDEN, Ed. D.
Ramapo College Environmental Center

BETH RAVIT, PH.D.
Rutgers Environmental Research Clinic, Executive Director

DONALD SMITH
Naturalist Consultant

JOAN HANSEN
Botany Consultant

ABSENT:

MICHAEL GONNELLI
NJMC Commissioner

DENNIS ELWELL
Mayor of Secaucus

1. Chairman Sheehan presided over the Meadowlands Conservation Trust Board of Trustees meeting. The meeting began at 2:10 pm with Chairman Sheehan leading the pledge of allegiance.

Executive Director Schvejda read the Sunshine Law and took roll call for the October 17, 2007 meeting of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust's Board of Trustees.

Review and Adoption of Minutes: Minutes from September 7, 2007 were adopted and approved with a motion made by Trustee Remaud, seconded by Vice Chair Becker and unanimously carried.

Special Presentation

Special presentation given by Dr. Vicki Madden and Dr. Angela Cristini of Ramapo College and the Environmental Center on the possible uses and projects for the Kane Tract if the deed is amended and the pavilion at Kane is built. They highlighted the possible uses for light recreation such as canoeing and hiking for students and the community as a whole. The main thrust of their presentation was Ramapo College's interest in running and programming the environmental education for passive recreation at pavilion for the Trust.

Special Presentation

Special presentation given by Don Smith and Joan Hansen on formulating plans for restoration and enhancement of the Kane Tract with an emphasis on biodiversity of wetlands, tidal and salt water marsh. Discussions about project ensued with the Board of Trustees suggesting that MCT enlist consultants study the issue more and then bring their finding back to the Board at the next MCT BOT meeting.

Old Business

1. License Plate Update
2. Norwood
 - a. Dedication of Central Woods of Norwood took place September 11, 2007. Both Ms. Schvejda and Congressman Scott Garrett made presentations at the dedication.
 - b. Norwood would now like to conduct another joint venture with the Trust entitled Phase III of the town conservation easement entitle Fox Hill East which would incorporate an additional 80 acres +/- to the Trust to hold.
 - c. Fox Hill Update
 - a. Ms. Schvejda and DAG Ludman are in process of finalizing the closing on Fox Hill West.
3. FEMA
First reimbursement for \$37,000.00, 75% of the FEMA money coming to us, has been distributed to MCT.

NEW BUSINESS

1. New legal representative for MCT:
 - a. DAG Penny Ludman informed meeting attendees that she will no longer be the legal representative. Her duties will be transferred to DAG Tirza Wahrman. Ms. Ludman will continue working with Ms. Wahrman for some time to ensure a seamless transition.
2. Kane Tract

Bashes Creek and MRI Phase III have flooded out in numerous times. Marsh Resources Inc. has fixed it but still it has not been completely remediated and so all the way back to where the Hasidic congregation has been cutting our phrags in the past is now hip deep in water. Ms. Schvejda has contacted the congregation to inform them that they can't cut in that area of the Kane Tract this year. Ms. Schvejda has offered to try and find another location for the congregation.
3. PSE&G's Environmental Day

PSE&G donated \$5,000.00 to Meadowlands Conservation Trust. The presentation of the check was given during their environmental professional day.
4. Special Assistant to the Executive Director – Open Position

Diane Trapp has left the Trust to work full-time in the bailing department so that leaves a part-time Special Assistant to the Executive Director [Tina Schvejda] position opening. Ms. Schvejda has posted the position on various websites and will begin the interview process. This is position has the potential of becoming full-time. Chairman Sheehan stated that MCT will need more help in monitoring easements and overseeing administrative tasks so the likelihood of this position becoming full-time is high.

5. Budget Meeting

A 2008 budget meeting will be held later in October. MCT's Budget / Financial Sub Committee consists of Mr. Bora representing NJMC, Chairman Sheehan and Vice Chair Becker. NJMC CFO Bora will set the date of the meeting and lead the discussion.

6. Skeetkill Creek Marsh

Skeetkill closing should be coming up soon. We will be closing on property which NJMC is transferring the title over to the Trust. The attorney's for both entities are wrapping up loose ends. Maintenance costs of the property will have to be addressed and bids will have to go out for it when the Trust finally takes title of the property.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made for going into a closed session by Trustee Remaud and seconded by Trustee Fair and unanimously carried.

The closed session was about land negotiations.

Trustee Fair made a motion to move out of closed session seconded by Trustee Remaud, roll call was taken and unanimously passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Meeting with NJ Transit tunnel project team

- a. Discussed River Keeper and Bay Keeper comments submitted regarding the draft EIS put out in the spring. There is concern about the impact that the project will have on 25 acres wetlands. Berm must be expanded to hold 2 additional tracts and an emergency road. NJ Transit tunnel project met with Emergency Response Team members from Secaucus, Jersey City and North Bergen (teams that would respond in case of a train accident) and they concluded that an emergency tract is greatly needed in order for Emergency Response vehicles to get through to site. A service road will be put in place only for emergency vehicles.
- b. Board of Trustees attendees agreed that they should keep open communication with involved transportation entities and have representatives come in to give presentations to the Trust on their wetland mitigation credit needs.

Public Comment –

Beth Ravit, PhD. commented on the plans for restoration and enhancement of the Kane Tract.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 2:00 pm. in the NJMC MERI conference room.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made at 3:30 p.m. by Trustee Fair and seconded by Trustee Remaud and unanimously carried.

Kristina R. Schvejda, Executive Director
Meadowlands Conservation Trust