

*Protecting the Environment*



**MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST**

**Serving the Entire Hackensack River Watershed**

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**MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**\*\*\*AMENDED\*\*\***

**DATE:** August 28, 2008  
**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

GREG REMAUD, Trustee  
NY/NJ Baykeeper

MARC SCHRIEKS, NJMC Delegate  
NJMC Manager Intergovernmental Affairs

**ALSO PRESENT:**

KRISTINA SCHVEJDA  
Meadowlands Conservation Trust Executive Director

LAURA MACHUCA  
Special Assistant to MCT Ex. Director

**ABSENT**

ABIGAIL FAIR, Trustee  
Association of NJ Environmental Commissions

HON. MAYOR DENNIS ELWELL, Meadowlands District Mayor's Council Delegate  
Mayor of Secaucus, NJ

MICHAEL GONNELLI, NJDCA Delegate  
NJMC Commissioner

TIRZA WAHRMAN, ESQ

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

**2. MCT Executive Director Schvejda presented** Schvejda read the Sunshine Law and took roll call for the August 28, 2008 meeting of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust's Board of Trustees.

**3. Adopted the minutes from the May 19, 2008 MCT BOT** meeting; Delegate Schrieks made the motion, Trustee Remaud seconded it and the vote was to adopt the minutes was unanimously carried. May 19, 2008 minutes and signed resolutions were distributed.

**4. Resolutions:**

- A. Resolution of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust to donate \$25,000.00 to NJMC for the repair of the Moonachie tidegates and levee system.  
(Resolution 08-08)

Resolution 08-08 motion was made by Trustee Remaud, seconded by Vice Chair Becker and unanimously carried-

- B. Resolution of jointly holding a Conservation Easement with Bergen S.W.A.N. on the Bergen Hill Country Club located at 660 Rivervale Road in River Vale, NJ

Resolution 08-09 was tabled -a quorum was not present since Vice Chair Becker recused himself from the project and due to the fact he is also co-chair of Bergen S.W.A.N.

- C. Resolution of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust to enter in a closed session to discuss personnel issues.  
(Resolution 08-10)

Resolution 08-10 motion was made by Delegate Schrieks, seconded by Trustee Remaud and unanimously carried –

**5. Chairman's Report:**

None

**6. Executive Director's Report:**

**Business:**

A. Further discussion ensued about the Bergen Hills Country Club property. It has roughly 104.5 acres of undeveloped land and they are interested in putting a conservation easement on this land which is situated at 600 River Vale Road, River Vale, NJ. Bergen S.W.A.N. wishes to be jointly hold the conservation easement with Meadowlands Conservation Trust. River Vale municipality has also given their solid approval to move forward on a conservation easement on the property with some details needing to be worked out in more detail. Executive Director Schvejda is working with the town attorney Holly Schepisi and Bergen S.W.A.N.

B. The deed to Skeetkill Creek Marsh will soon be transferred to MCT from NJMC. We are putting more signage and benches on Skeetkill Creek Marsh and also reaching out to the community/surrounding businesses for their support in maintaining the park clean and beautiful.

C. Money/ proceeds from NJ specialty license plates purchases and renewals continue to generate a modest amount each month.

C. The Demarest Clarke property, which MCT put a conservation easement on in 2005, now has a For Sale sign in front of it to advertise the sale of the Clarke family home. Potential buyers must be notified of the

conservation easement. Also, some trees on the property were cut down before MCT was notified that they would be cut down.

D. Teaneck Pomander Walk property is still in attorney review.

**Legal:**

- A. MCT has been named in a Tort Claim Notice in conjunction NJMC and other entities for property damages due to failed tidegate and levee system.
- B. DAG Wahrman sent a letter to the Township of Teaneck's attorney about the need to conduct her own due diligence work on the Teaneck Pomander Walk property located at 662 Pomander Walk, Teaneck, NJ. DAG Wahrman advised the Trust to have the environmental assessment of the property updated.

**Public Relations:**

- A. MCT is hosting the next New Jersey Land Trust Council meeting at the NJMC environmental center on Wednesday, September 10, 2008.
- B. Dr. Weinstein of Rutgers University will be going on the Kane Tract with pupils from two middle schools for the annual Sukkot holiday to harvest the phragmites.

**7. Public Comment -**

- A. Adam Levy, NJMC Assistant Director of Legal Affairs, thanked MCT for contributing \$25,000.00 towards the Moonachie tidegate and levee system repair project.

**8. Next meeting will be held** on Tuesday, September 30, 2008 at 2:00 pm in the NJMC Commission Room at DeKorte Park Plaza. *The Board of Trustees Meeting was rescheduled to October 2, 2008 due to the conflict with High Holidays.*

**9. Entered into closed session** at 2:55 to discuss personnel issue. Motion made by Delegate Schriecks, seconded by Trustee Remaud and unanimously carried.

**10. Back into open public session** at 3:17. Motion made by Delegate Schriecks, seconded by Trustee Beck and unanimously carried.

**11. Motion to adjourn meeting at** 3:20 pm and unanimously carried.

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Kristina R. Schvejda, Executive Director