

*Protecting the Environment*



MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

DATE: December 12, 2018  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
PLACE: NJSEA Environment Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lecture Room  
Two DeKorte Park, Plaza, Lyndhurst, NJ

---

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

WILLIAM SHEEHAN, Chairman  
Hackensack Riverkeeper

MAYOR ALBERTO SANTOS  
HMMC Delegate  
Mayor of Kearny

STEVEN CATTUNA  
NJSEA Delegate

KIMBERLY HOLMES  
NJDCA Delegate

**ABSENT:**

GREG REMAUD, VICE CHAIRMAN  
NY/NJ Baykeeper

**ALSO PRESENT:**

CHRISTINE SANZ, Chief Executive Officer  
JASON STYPINSKI, Deputy Attorney General  
COLLEEN MERCADO, Senior Operations Administrator, NJSEA

Chairman Sheehan called the meeting to order, followed by the flag salute.

CEO Sanz read the Sunshine Law statement into record.

Ms. Mercado took roll call.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Chairman Sheehan presented the Open and Closed session meeting minutes from the October 10, 2018 meeting. Upon motion by Trustee Mayor Santos to approve the minutes and second by Trustee Cattuna, the October 10, 2018 Open and Closed session minutes were carried with all in favor.

## CHAIRMAN REPORT

Chairman Sheehan wished everyone the best of the holiday season and hoped for the best for the Meadowlands in the New Year.

## CEO REPORT

- CY2018 license plate revenues through September were \$14,862.
- CEO Sanz provided an update on efforts to have the \$3.1 million returned to the MCT that had been swept into the General Fund by the previous administration. CEO Sanz advised that letters were sent to both Senator Sarlo and Senator Weinberg, consistent with letters previously sent to the Treasurer indicating that we believe these monies were improperly moved.
- Letter was sent to Mayor Cywinski of Demarest regarding trash and debris on Pine Terrace property.
- Colleen Mercado and Donald Smith worked with BCUA and contractors to have the walkway repaired at Mehrhof Pond that was damaged during a nor'easter in October 2018. The total cost of repair was \$600.00, with half of the cost being borne by BCUA.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MCT's consultant, Donald Smith of Hansen & Smith Environmental Consulting, provided a review of the November monitoring report:

**Clarke Property, Demarest** – The property is always kept nice and neat. No environmental issues.

**Pine Terrace, Demarest** – Still having issues with garbage being thrown over the fence from the veterinary property onto the Borough's property. The problems were addressed after an initial letter was sent but it took some time. A second letter was sent to the Borough and since then a new mayor has been elected. If there are no improvements by the next monitoring period, CEO Sanz will reach out to the new mayor.

**Central Woods, Norwood** – Yard waste, leaves and grass clippings continue to be dumped on Conservation property at the end of Madison Avenue. Mr. Smith will stop at the Borough offices and advise them of this issue.

**Emerson Woods, Emerson** – There is a problem with the large deer herd eating everything "green", including the invasive mile-a-minute plant, which they eat and deposit the seeds in other places, in turn overtaking the native grass and small trees.

**Fox Hill West, Norwood** - There is still an issue with tree branches blocking the culvert at the end of McClellan Street, which is hindering stormwater flow. The town should be notified of this issue.

**Skeetkill Creek Marsh, Ridgefield** – Landscaping improvements and property enhancements have been completed. It is a great birding area and Audubon Society members are going there quite a bit and enjoying it.

**River Barge Park** – No issues. Spartina continues to increase on its own.

**Kane Tract** – Wetlands doing very well. No issues.

**Pomander Walk, Teaneck** – Lawn area is looking good but some work needs to be done on the flower beds and areas of the property near the river. CEO Sanz noted that this is a great public access project to keep in mind in the event the Trust's monies are reinstated. Chairman Sheehan noted that he recently heard there was a new town manager in Teaneck. CEO Sanz responded that she had heard that also and would target communication with the new town manager in Spring.

Mr. Smith concluded his report with an issue regarding deer that are crossing the turnpike in the area of the Vince Lombardi Bridge. He noted that most of the time the deer are going under the bridge on the pipeline road but some are taking a shortcut across the turnpike, which could be a major catastrophe for someone going 70mph and having a deer walk out in front of them. Mr. Smith said he would speak with NJSEA staff in regards to approaching the Turnpike Authority to have fencing put up to keep the deer from crossing the turnpike in that area.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

CEO Sanz introduced Terry Doss to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Doss replaced Dr. Ross Feltes as the NJSEA Chief of Natural Resources Management. Ms. Sanz stated that Ms. Doss has a tremendous reputation in the conservation field and that she will be a tremendous resource to the MCT board.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution 18-12**

Consideration of a Resolution adopting the 2019 Meadowlands Conservation Trust Budget. CEO Sanz noted that the budget did not include any money for improvements, education initiatives or property acquisition due to the situation of the missing \$3 million dollars. CEO Sanz said it was disappointing not having any monies allocated for education and staff would continue efforts in reaching out to other entities, including the County to collaborate on these types of projects. She also pointed out that there was group discussion and it was decided to no longer be a member of the Land Trust Alliance. Otherwise, the 2019 budget looked very much like last year's budget.

Upon motion by Trustee Mayor Santos and second by Trustee Holmes, roll call was taken and Resolution 18-12 was approved with all in favor.

### **Resolution 18-13**

Consideration of a Resolution adopting the 2019 annual meetings schedule. CEO Sanz noted that the meetings in 2019 have been set up quarterly and that DAG Stypinski would review case law in regards to the timely approval of meeting minutes. CEO Sanz stated that if necessary a meeting can be convened with notice to the public to approve minutes and then do more substantive items at the regular scheduled meeting. DAG Stypinski would get back to the Board if the schedule was unacceptable. Trustee Mayor Santos advised he had a conflict

with the September 11, 2019 meeting. CEO Sanz advised that the meeting could be moved to the following Wednesday, September 18 through a motion. Upon motion by Trustee Holmes and second by Trustee Mayor Santos, followed by all in favor, the 2019 meeting schedule was adopted as amended.

**Resolution 18-14**

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract for monitoring and environmental services. Chairman Sheehan presented the resolution and stated that Mr. Smith continues to do a great job for the Trust and he saw no reason to find someone else. Upon motion by Chairman Sheehan, second by Trustee Holmes and followed by all in favor, Resolution 18-14 was approved.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Upon no further business, Motion to Adjourn was made by Trustee Mayor Santos, second by Trustee Holmes, with all in favor.

The meeting concluded at 10:30 a.m.

I certify that this is a true and accurate transcript of the Open Session Minutes of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust Board of Trustees meeting of December 12, 2018.



Christine A. Sanz  
Chief Executive Officer

NAME	Roll Call	Resolution 18-12	Resolution 18-13 As amended	Resolution 18-14
Chairman William Sheehan	P	Y	Y	Y
Vice Chairman Greg Remaud	--	--	--	--
NJDCA Delegate Kimberly Holmes	P	Y	Y	Y
NJSEA Delegate Steven Cattuna	P	Y	Y	Y
HMMC Delegate Mayor Alberto Santos	P	Y	Y	Y

P = Present    -- Absent    A= Abstain  
R= Recuse    Y = Affirmative    N = Negative