

Protecting the Environment



MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

DATE: December 11, 2019
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: NJSEA Environment Center 2nd Floor Lecture Room
Two DeKorte Park, Plaza, Lyndhurst, NJ

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

WILLIAM SHEEHAN, Chairman
Hackensack Riverkeeper

GREG REMAUD, VICE CHAIRMAN (VIA PHONE)
NY/NJ Baykeeper

STEVEN CATTUNA
NJSEA Delegate

MAYOR ANTHONY SUAREZ (VIA PHONE)
HMMC Delegate

KIMBERLY HOLMES (VIA PHONE)
NJDCA Delegate

ALSO PRESENT:

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

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 both the Open Session and Closed Session meeting minutes from the September 19, 2019 meeting. Upon motion by Vice Chairman Remaud to approve the minutes and second by Trustee Cattuna, the September 19, 2019 Open Session and Closed Session minutes were approved with all in favor.

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Chairman Sheehan wished everyone happy holidays. He then made reference to his Chairman's report from the September Board meeting in which it noted his conversation with Triple Five and their interest to have an interpretive sign installed in the building overlooking the Kane Tract. He stated that he sent a letter following up on this conversation to Brian Hague, Director of Government Affairs and Public Relations, at Triple Five and Mr. Hague responded back advising they were very interested in moving forward. Chairman Sheehan said the signage would tell the story of the conservation of the Kane Tract and it would give visitors to the facility an opportunity to learn a little bit about the Meadowlands. Chairman Sheehan said it sounded like that they were willing to foot the bill for the construction, exhibit and maintenance of the signage and that the only thing they needed at this time was the verbiage for the actual sign.

Chairman Sheehan advised the Board that comments were sent to the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers on behalf of the Trust in response to an application to expand the service area of the Evergreen Project, MRI-3 Mitigation Bank. He said that it's been a long-standing policy of the Trust that credits created within the Meadowlands, should be used within the Meadowlands and impacts placed within the Meadowlands should be mitigated in the Meadowlands. He said that not to comment this way would be counterintuitive to what the Trust stands for. He noted that he had not heard anything back since the letter was sent in November.

CEO REPORT

CEO Sanz stated that the CY2019 license plate revenues through October 2019 were \$16,849.00.

She advised that reimbursement had been received from the insurance company in the amount of approximately \$14,000.00 for the recent storm damage at River Barge Park. She noted that the total expenses were \$16,000.00.

CEO Sanz advised the Board that *No Dumping Signs* would be posted at Kane Tract at the end of Jomike Court in Carlstadt where illegal dumping had been observed. She thanked Don Smith for his vigilance out in the field and in keeping the Board informed about these things. She said that everyone was trying their best to combat this issue and that seems to be an on-going challenge.

Chairman Sheehan said that he had found out a month ago about the dumping at the end of Jomike Court and also reported it. He stated that this was something everyone had a responsibility for and that they should report any illegal dumping they may see in the Meadowlands District or within the Watershed. He concluded by saying that we do not want the Meadowlands to go back to the wild west that it was 25 years ago.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Clarke Property, Demarest – Property maintained nice and clean, as usual.

Pine Terrace, Demarest – Mr. Smith noted that there were problems with garbage going over the fence from the adjacent veterinarian’s property and being dragged by raccoons. It looked a lot cleaner, but not sure if the leaves falling down had covered it. He said he would check again in the spring.

Emerson Woods, Emerson – Mr. Smith commented that a five foot fence had been installed paralleling the entrance road for about 150-200 feet. He wasn’t sure why the fence had been installed but thought it could be due to concerns of all the deer there. Otherwise, the trails were open and fine to walk along.

Fox Hill West, Norwood – There were a few blockages in the creek that needed to be cleaned. Mr. Smith addressed Chairman Sheehan

Norwood Central Woods, Norwood – Everything looked fine and the creek down at Madison Avenue was flowing freely.

Skeetkill Creek Marsh, Ridgefield – A lot of diversity of wetlands plants at the edge of the marsh and the wildlife was doing well there. Mr. Smith noted that while he there he observed a gentleman feeding stray cats at the site. He informed the gentleman that he was not supposed to be feeding any wild or feral cats, or any animals. Mr. Smith went back a few days later and posted a “No Feeding” sign on the kiosk at Skeetkill.

Kane Tract North – Looking good. The bridges have all been rehabbed and redone.

Kane Tract South @ River Barge Park – Continues to be doing well. Spartina is doing fantastic and a lot of wildlife are utilizing it.

Pomander Walk, Teaneck – Mr. Smith has a concern about the paved area where the bricks are raised up and is dangerous for the seniors that come over to sit by the river and have to walk over this paved area. CEO Sanz commented that funds had been allocated in the proposed 2020 Budget to improve that space and make it a great public access area, since it is clearly utilized.

Mr. Smith concluded his report. He then spoke briefly about his observations over the years of northern Bergen County properties where deer are decimating the woods and their concerns of all of the auto accidents occurring. He spoke specifically of the bow hunt in Saddle River, which he stated has helped to unload the deer population there. He noted that statistics show that the average roadkill now in New Jersey is 26,000 a year.

Mr. Mark Renna of Evergreen Environmental, owners and operators of the MRI-3 Mitigation Bank, addressed the Board regarding the MRI-3 expansion request which Chairman Sheehan had commented on earlier in the meeting. He said that he had written a response to the Army Corps. and hoped that it would be in the Trust hands soon. He said that he wanted to clarify a couple of things for the record on behalf of what was stated earlier in the meeting and went on to discuss the service area boundaries of the MRI-1, 2 and 3 mitigation banks, and also

mentioned the Kane mitigation site. Mr. Renna then explained to the Board the reason for the proposed expansion.

Mr. Renna concluded with a comment on the proposed phragmites control project at Skeetkill, which he noted was described in the minutes of the Trust's September Board meeting. He had questions regarding the sand that was being proposed for the experiment.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Sheehan presented the following resolutions:

Resolution 19-04

Consideration of a resolution adopting the CY2020 annual meetings schedule. Upon motion by Trustee Cattuna, second by Trustee Holmes followed by all in favor, Resolution 19-04 was approved unanimously.

Resolution 19-05

Consideration of a resolution adopting the CY2020 Meadowlands Conservation Trust budget. Chairman Sheehan noted that a copy of the proposed budget was included in the Trustee packets. Upon motion by Trustee Holmes and second by Vice Chairman Remaud, roll call was taken and, Resolution 19-05 was approved with all in favor.

Resolution 19-06

Consideration of a resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract with Hansen and Smith for monitoring and environmental services. Trustee Mayor Suarez commented that Skeetkill Marsh was located in Ridgefield and since he is Mayor of Ridgefield he wanted to make sure that it wasn't a conflict with him voting affirmatively on this resolution. CEO Sanz responded that it shouldn't be a conflict but it would be noted on the record. Upon motion by Chairman Sheehan and second by Trustee Cattuna, roll call was taken, and Resolution 19-06 was approved with all in favor.

Resolution 19-07

Consideration of a resolution authorizing reimbursement to the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority. Upon motion by Vice Chairman Remaud and second by Trustee Holmes, roll call was taken. Resolution 19-07 was approved by majority vote, with Trustee Cattuna recusing himself.

Resolution 19-08 - CLOSED SESSION

Resolution authorizing the MCT to conduct a meeting, to which the general public shall not be admitted for the purposes of discussing legal matters, personnel matters and contract negotiations.

Before going into Closed Session, Mr. Smith thanked the Board for their vote of confidence and wished everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday.

CEO Sanz read the resolution for Closed Session into record. Upon motion by Trustee Cattuna, second by Trustee Holmes and followed by all in favor, Resolution 19-08 was approved.

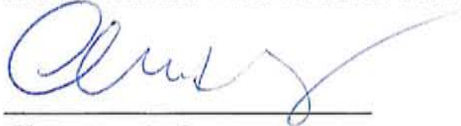
CLOSED SESSION - commenced at 10:30 a.m.

OPEN SESSION - recommenced at 10:40 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT - Upon no further business, Motion to Adjourn was made by Trustee Cattuna, seconded by Trustee Holmes, followed by all in favor.

The meeting concluded at 10:43 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 11, 2019.



Christine A. Sanz
Chief Executive Officer

NAME	Roll Call	Resolution 19-04	Resolution 19-05	Resolution 19-06	Resolution 19-07	Resolution 19-08 Closed Session
Chairman William Sheehan	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vice Chairman Greg Remaud	P via phone	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NJDCA Delegate Kimberly Holmes	P via phone	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NJSEA Delegate Steven Cattuna	P	Y	Y	Y	Recused	Y
HMMC Delegate Mayor Anthony Suarez	P via phone	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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