

Protecting the Environment



MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES REMOTE MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

DATE: March 10, 2021
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Remote via Zoom

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

WILLIAM SHEEHAN, Chairman
Hackensack Riverkeeper

GREG REMAUD, VICE CHAIRMAN
NY/NJ Baykeeper

STEVEN CATTUNA
NJSEA Delegate

MAYOR ANTHONY SUAREZ
HMMC Delegate

KIMBERLY HOLMES
NJDCA Delegate

ALSO PRESENT:

CHRISTINE SANZ, Chief Executive Officer
JASON STYPINSKI, Deputy Attorney General
EDWARD BULMER, Co-Finance Director, NJSEA
COLLEEN MERCADO, Senior Operations Administrator, NJSEA

1. Chairman Sheehan called the meeting to order.
2. Sunshine Law Statement- CEO Sanz read the notice of meeting required under the Sunshine Law.
3. Roll Call

4. **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Chairman Sheehan presented the Open Session and Closed Session meeting minutes from the December 9, 2020 meeting. Upon motion by Trustee Holmes and second by Trustee Mayor Suarez, the December 9, 2020 Open Session and Closed minutes were approved with all in favor.

5. **REPORTS**

CHAIRMAN REPORT - none

CEO REPORT

CEO Sanz stated that the license plate revenues for CY2020 were \$18,593.54 and so far for CY2021 revenues are \$1,220.00.

CEO Sanz advised the Board that the MCT 2020 Annual Report had been posted on the Trust's website. She thanked the staff members that worked on the report: Brian Aberback, Colleen Mercado, Anna Acanfora and Ed Bulmer.

CEO Sanz reported to the Board that Congressman Gottheimer invited the MCT to participate in a Zoom meeting held on March 5th for the 5th District Environmental Group. She noted that this was the first time the Trust had been invited to participate. She stated that there was an opportunity for attendees to speak about issues affecting their particular entity and that she spoke in general on the issue of illegal and inappropriate riding of ATV's within in natural areas. She said that this was echoed by all the groups on the call and they felt it was a state-wide issue.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Terry Doss presented the March monitoring report.

Clarke Property, Demarest – Property well maintained and no issues.

Pine Terrace, Demarest – Staff noted approximately a dozen deer and on the site. Also, saw algae in the creek that goes through the site, which was odd due to freezing temperatures. Staff will keep an eye on this as the temperatures warm up.

Emerson Woods, Emerson – Some foot traffic but no ATV's or bikes. There were a lot of vines on the mature trees that could be mile-a-minute, which is a concern throughout the Meadowlands and is killing off native vegetation. Some algae was spotted in the creek despite the cold temperatures. There was also a tree that had fallen and taken down a fence that was keeping deer out. The fence needs to be put back up.

Norwood Central Woods, Norwood – There were signs of deer all around, but no human or ATV tracks.

Fox Hill West, Norwood – Also a lot of signs of deer but no signs of ATV tracks. The creek on the property looked pretty clear and no debris or dumping.

Pomander Walk, Teaneck – Very clean site; no debris.

Skeetkill Creek Marsh, Ridgefield – The two islands that were cleared last year of phragmites were still clear. Staff has other ideas for controlling the phragmites and would

be back out there next month to experiment and clear any new phragmites. There was a lot of debris (food waste, cups, bags) along the shoreline. A clean up would be good to schedule here.

Kane Tract (lower 43 acres) – A Common Merganser and a couple of different waterfowl sighted in the area. Site is clean.

Kane Forested Fish Water Area - Concerns about mile-a-minute and lack of understory.

Kane Natural Area – Some debris along road-side by Washington Avenue and a lot of debris at the end of Jomike Court. Marsh itself was beautiful and a lot of geese throughout.

Ms. Doss noted that staff would be doing monthly point counts at the sites located in District and seasonal counts on the out-of-district sites. They will report on the birds they hear and observe.

Trustee Mayor Suarez commented that it was disappointing to see all the garbage at Skeetkill and noted that Ridgefield would be having their clean-up day towards the end of April. He said they would probably have their volunteers out there to clean it up.

Vice Chairman Remaud asked Ms. Doss about the algae that was sighted at two of the sites. He wanted to know if there was anything that could be done preemptively to slow the Algal blooms and what management techniques might be available.

Ms. Doss replied that she would talk to others and get back to the Board with some answers.

7. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

8. **NEW BUSINESS** – Vice Chairman Remaud spoke about regional money, some which is federal money, that is heading into the region and he raised an issue of groups, such as the Harbor Estuary Program, Hudson River Foundation, New York Waterfront Alliance and Regional Planning Association that are talking about Meadowlands sites and listing priority restoration and mitigation sites in the Meadowlands without getting input and sign off from organizations and residents that live and work in the region. He commented that sometimes it gets to the point where projects are already a done deal, and packaged in funding proposals, before people find out about it. He said that he has and will continue to advise them that when they talk about the Meadowlands they need to talk to the NJSEA, the Mayors, and elected officials in region. He stated that he is concerned when other groups try to broker the restoration action, when you have much more qualified people, such as the NJSEA and other folks.

CEO Sanz thanked Vice Chairman Remaud for his efforts to include the NJSEA and make them part of the conversation with these groups. She commented that the people on the ground in any particular region are the ones with the best knowledge and the best ability to help. She stated that the NJSEA does have a good outreach with the Governor's office in getting the policy folks to see what is being done up here.

9. RESOLUTIONS - None

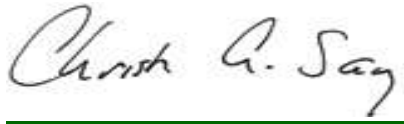
10. CLOSED SESSION- Chairman Sheehan stated that there was no need for closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Upon no further business, Motion to Adjourn was made by Trustee Mayor Suarez, seconded by Trustee Holmes, followed by 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 March 10, 2021.



Christine A. Sanz
Chief Executive Officer

NAME	Roll Call
Chairman William Sheehan	P
Vice Chairman Greg Remaud	P
NJDCA Delegate Kimberly Holmes	P
NJSEA Delegate Steven Cattuna	P
HMMC Delegate Mayor Anthony Suarez	P

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