

Protecting the Environment



MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REMOTE MEETING OPEN SESSION MINUTES

DATE: September 8, 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

TERESA DOSS, Co-Director MERI

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 Remote Board meeting minutes from the June 9, 2021 meeting. Upon motion by Trustee Cattuna and second by Trustee Mayor Suarez, the June 9, 2021 Open Session Remote Board meeting minutes were approved with all in favor.

Chairman Sheehan presented the Closed Session Remote Board meeting minutes from the June 9, 2021 meeting. Upon motion by Trustee Cattuna and second by Vice Chairman Remaud, the June 9, 2021 Closed Session Remote meeting minutes were approved with all in favor.

5. **REPORTS**

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Chairman Sheehan commented on a transit plan that was recently released to study the building of a new highway across the Meadowlands which would begin in Secaucus and come up the Turnpike to American Dream. He stated that as soon as he heard about the plan, he voiced his opposition. He explained that he would like to see the trains running full-time and that we should use the resources already spent and paid for during the development of the Xanadu project. He stated that coming up with a bus route now is very, very late.

Chairman Sheehan informed the Board that he was very happy to report that through the efforts of Senator Sarlo and other legislators the Trust had been made whole again through funding contained in the State FY2022 Budget. He said that this funding now gives the Trust the ability to start addressing some of the issues that had to be put on the back burner. He then thanked Mr. Aberback for the great work he did on the press release.

CEO Sanz agreed with the Chairman's comments and said that staff was very pleased to work together with Senator's Sarlo's and Assemblyman Calabrese's offices; as well as NJSEA President Prieto and the Governor's office. She said that everyone is pleased to see so many officials that are in the corner of the Trust; and staff is ready to continue these great relationships. She concluded by saying that it was a great idea to try and recognize all of them and staff was ready to work with the Board to put something together.

Vice Chairman Remaud stated that he also wanted to thank CEO Sanz, DAG Stypinski, Ms. Mercado and Mr. Aberback along with NJSEA staff, Chairman Sheehan and fellow Board members for all their efforts.

CEO REPORT

CEO Sanz updated the Board on the following:

- CY2021 License plate revenues through July were \$12,262.61;
- Approximately \$2,4000.00 was reimbursed by the insurance company for the damage to the pavilion at River Barge Park;
- CEO Sanz informed the Board of recent procurements relative to property maintenance. She said the one purchase was for a license plate capture camera at a cost of \$550.00 which has been installed in the area of the Kane Tract due to the illegal dumping in that area. She noted the second purchase, in the amount of \$500.00, was for 500 weevils from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture for controlling the Mile-a-minute that is invading the Kane Fresh Water area.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Terry Doss presented the August monitoring report for the Trust properties. The following are highlights from her report:

- Mile-a-minute and other invasive vegetation is an issue on a few of the Trust sites and throughout the State; Staff to look at purchasing additional weevils to release as a starting point.

- Deer have also been an issue on the properties.
- Kane Natural Area – there is still some dumping happening at the end of Jomike Court but newly installed camera should help in capturing violators. Ms. Doss also presented some of staff’s ideas to both improve this area and prevent dumping. She pointed out the different viewpoints and said the thought would be to open up this area to the public; possibly work with Bergen County Audubon and other groups to help with the maintenance of the site.
- Chairman Sheehan mentioned that there had been conversations in the past regarding ideas for the Kane Natural Area that had stopped once the funds were taken. He said he would like to resurrect these conversations and look at putting something together in the upcoming year.
- Meadowlands Breeding Bird Atlas – observations occurring in the Kane Natural Area, Freshwater area Mitigation Bank.
- Skeetkill Creek – looks great. Some debris along sides of property by road.

7. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

8. **NEW BUSINESS** - None

9. **RESOLUTIONS** – None

10. **CLOSED SESSION**- CEO Sanz read the Closed Session Resolution into record. Resolution 21-02 Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the Meadowlands Conservation Trust to conduct a meeting, to which the general public shall not be admitted for the purposes of discussing:

- Potential Property Donation – Murray Hill Parkway
- Update on negotiations with Bellemead Corporation
- Triple Five Obligation
- Update on Hanover Holdings Potential Property Donation

Upon motion by Trustee Holmes, seconded by Trustee Cattuna and followed by all in favor Resolution 21-02 was approved unanimously to enter Closed Session.

Closed Session commenced at 10:23 a.m.

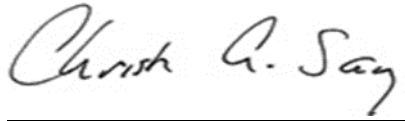
Open Session re-commenced at 11:00 a.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon no further business, Motion to Adjourn was made by Trustee Cattuna, seconded by Vice Chairman Remaud, followed by all in favor.

The meeting concluded at 11:02 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 September 8, 2021.



Christine A. Sanz
Chief Executive Officer

September 8, 2021

NAME	Roll Call	Resolution 21-02
Chairman William Sheehan	P	Y
Vice Chairman Greg Remaud	P	Y
NJDCA Delegate Kimberly Holmes	P	Y
NJSEA Delegate Steven Cattuna	P	Y
HMMC Delegate Mayor Anthony Suarez	P	Y

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