

Protecting the Environment



MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

DATE: March 15, 2023
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Lecture Room, Two DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

William Sheehan, Chairman
Hackensack Riverkeeper

Greg Remaud, Vice Chairman
NY/NJ Baykeeper

Steven Cattuna
NJSEA Delegate

Kimberly Holmes
NJDCA Delegate

ABSENT:

Mayor Anthony Suarez
HMMC Delegate

ALSO PRESENT:

Christine Sanz, Chief Executive Officer
Ruth Thompson, Deputy Attorney General
Anna Acanfora, NJSEA Director of Finance
Michael Turso, MRRRI Wildlife Biologist
Brian Aberback, NJSEA Public Information Officer
Colleen Mercado, NJSEA Senior Operations Administrator

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 December 7, 2022 meeting. Upon motion by Trustee Cattuna and second by Trustee Holmes, the December 7, 2022 Open Session Remote Board meeting minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

Chairman Sheehan presented the Closed Session Remote Board meeting minutes from the December 7, 2022 meeting. Upon motion by Trustee Cattuna and second by Vice Chairman Remaud, the December 7, 2022 Closed Session Remote Board meeting minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

5. REPORTS

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Chairman Sheehan advised the Trustees that a copy of the MCT 2022 Annual Report was contained in their board packets. He complimented Brian Aberback on the great job he did in putting the report together.

CEO REPORT

- CEO Sanz introduced and welcomed DAG Ruth Thompson who would be replacing DAG Stypinski as counsel to the Trust. The Trustees welcomed her aboard.
- CEO Sanz reported the recent purchase of a Cannon Telephoto camera lens for use by staff in taking pictures for the quarterly monitoring reports. She noted that this was a cost share with NJSEA.
- CEO Sanz reported the following license plate revenue:
CY2022 License plate revenues: \$25,772.00.
License plate revenues year to date for January and February: \$4,253.00.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Monitoring Report – 1st Quarter 2023

Mr. Michael Turso narrated a power point presentation and provided the following monitoring results:

- Central Woods, Norwood – observed some flagging on trees; will keep an eye on this and update in next report. The Red Shoulder Hawk, a State endangered breeding bird, has been observed more than once at this site.
- Fox Hill West, Norwood – There were no ATV tracks or garbage on the site this quarter. A lot of vernal pools on the site; the fowler toads most likely breeding in the vernal pools.
- Clarke Family Property, Demarest – Very well maintained. A pair of blue birds were observed, which is not a super common breeding bird in Bergen County.
- Pine Terrace, Demarest – A lot of litter on edge of property; not surprising since it is such a busy road. The interior of property had no sign of human activity.
- Emerson Woods, Emerson – Did not observe anyone walking off-leash dogs, as was seen in the past. Observed a riparian area/restoration zone with plantings of different native trees and rocks for critters to hide under. Observed a Red-breasted Nuthatch, which is generally an uncommon species.
- Pomander Walk, Teaneck – This is a popular spot for birders. Observed over 25 bird species at the site.
- Kane Natural Area, Jomike Court – Noticed a ton of barn owl pellets. Staff installed a barn owl box; hoping the owls will nest.
- Kane Riparian Area – Did not see any golf balls lodged in the mud this time. Observed two rare bird species: a drake common GoldenEye and yellow-rumped warbler.
- Kane Mitigation Bank – Roadway into the site has been repaired; much flatter and smoother. The acoustic recorder unit placed at the site picked up drake owl and barn owl, which pretty cool. Observed orange-crowned warblers and rough-legged Hawk.

- Kane Freshwater Site – Observed approximately 30 species of birds, which is always good to see a strong diversity of songbirds within the wooded wetlands.
- Skeetkill, Ridgefield – A lot of garbage/litter observed along the front edge of the property. Did see a number of water fowls species using the area such as the American black ducks and Monk parakeet.

Mr. Turso responded to Vice Chairman Remaud’s question regarding the source of the litter found at Skeetkill, advising that the garbage was mostly from people using the area to have lunch and tossing their lunch remains. Chairman Sheehan commented that the Hackensack Riverkeeper volunteers are always looking for something to do and he would have one of the outreach coordinators get in touch with Terry Doss for a possible cleanup.

Ms. Doss noted that the USDA reached out in regards to ordering weevils to control against the mile-a-minute invasive plant species. She recommended ordering them for both the Kane wooded area and Skeetkill island. Chairman Sheehan was in agreement.

7. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

8. **NEW BUSINESS** – CEO Sanz spoke about the possibility of installing informational signage on the Trust properties, as suggested by the Board at the last meeting. She indicated that the Board packets contained various proofs of what the signs would possibly look like. She noted that Brian Aberback had done a great deal of work in preparing the proofs and obtaining price quotes. She said the signs would contain the property name, the Meadowlands Conservation Trust name, and a QR code. She explained that the QR codes could be set up so that the public could link to the MCT website where they will be able to see all the great work being done by staff along with specific plants, birds and amphibians that might be seen at the site. She presented a draft resolution that would authorize a not to exceed cost of \$13,236.00 in total. She noted that since the Trust would need to obtain access rights from certain property owners, the final cost could be less. She said that if the Board was interested in adopting the Resolution on the signage, the Chairman could read it into the record.

Vice Chairman Remaud stated that he was thrilled and said he thought it would benefit all the sites. He said the idea of the QR code was wonderful since it can be updated with various information.

Chairman Sheehan said it was a great idea, particularly the QR code. He noted that the Riverkeeper uses the QR codes to check up on things. He then presented Resolution 23-02 and read it into the record.

Resolution 23-02 Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Signs by Lynn to Design, Produce and Install Identification Signs for Meadowlands Conservation Trust Properties.

Upon motion by Trustee Cattuna, second by Vice Chairman Remaud, Resolution 23-02 was adopted by a vote of 4-0.

9. **RESOLUTIONS** – None

10. **CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution 23-01 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:

- Bellemead Corporation Potential Property Donation – Status of Negotiations

CEO Sanz read the Closed Session Resolution into record.

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Remaud and second by Trustee Cattuna followed by all in favor Resolution 23-01 was approved unanimously to enter Closed Session.

Closed Session commenced at 10:30 a.m.

Open Session re-commenced at 10:45 a.m.

Before adjourning, Chairman Sheehan stated that Trustee Mayor Suarez would be leaving the Board as he had been nominated to the Bench. He noted that he had not been fully confirmed as yet but in the meantime he would like to have a letter of congratulations drafted. CEO Sanz advised that staff would be pleased to put something together.

11. **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 10:47 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 15, 2023.



Christine A. Sanz
Chief Executive Officer

March 15, 2023

NAME	Roll Call	Resolution 22-01	Resolution 22-02
Chairman William Sheehan	P	Y	Y
Vice Chairman Greg Remaud	P	Y	Y
NJDCA Delegate Kimberly Holmes	P	Y	Y
NJSEA Delegate Steven Cattuna	P	Y	Y
HMMC Delegate Mayor Anthony Suarez	--	--	--

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

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST
2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND COMPREHENSIVE
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

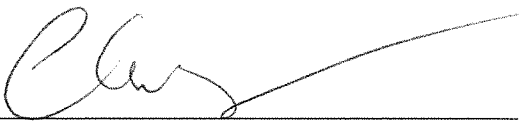
BE IT RESOLVED that the Meadowlands Conservation Trust Financial Statements and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report prepared by Mercadien, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, for the year ending December 31, 2022 is hereby accepted.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by Meadowlands Conservation Trust Board of Trustee vote.



William Sheehan, Chairman

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Meadowlands Conservation Trust at its meeting of June 21, 2023.



Christine A. Sanz, Chief Executive Officer

Resolution No. 23-03