



New Jersey Community Forestry Council
Meeting Minutes
In-Person and Virtual Meeting, FREC
January 11, 2024; 10:00 AM

The January bi-monthly meeting of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council (“Council”) was called to order by Chairman Bill Brash at 10am and the Open Public Meetings Act notice was read. The notice was also available in the meeting packet. The roll call was taken by Brian McDonald.

Members Present: William Brash, Mark Beamish, Dr. Jason Grabosky, Dr. Melanie McDermott, Kristin Ace, Pam Zipse, Joseph Greipp, Dr. Matthew Olson, Lisa Simms, Michael Martini, Steve Chisholm, Neil Blitz.

Excused: Vinh Lang, Lori Jennsen, Carl Bowles, Barry Emens

NJ Forest Service Present: State Forester Todd Wyckoff, Terri Slack, Rachael Vannatta, Patricia Shapella, Gail Harrje, Brian McDonald, Michael Hart, Ryan Bellinger. Quorum was met upon completion of the roll call. State Ethics briefing was completed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 12/14/2023 Meeting

Chairperson Brash called attention to the December meeting minutes. Kristin Ace moved to approve, seconded by Joe Greipp. Vote to approve was unanimous with Steve Chisholm asking for an edit prior to approving.

State Forester’s Report

State Forester Todd Wyckoff thanked Bill Brash for presenting on the guidelines at the BTE meeting dinner. Guidelines have been posted on the NJFS website. Rollout is under way and GC grant under way.

IRA grant will be announced very soon. Arbor day planning is under way with NJTF and information will be shared with council when available. Mr. Wyckoff announced Forester Trainee role, discussion ensued.

Chairperson’s Report

Bill Brash congratulated everyone on the CFMP Guidelines being posted and getting across the finish line. Mr. Brash presented the guidelines update at the BTE dinner meeting and was optimistic about the response received. Discussion ensued regarding plan expiration dates and approval process.

New Business:**Fiscal Report**

Patricia Shapella reported on the fiscal state of the program, which was provided in the packet.

Program Report

Mr. McDonald provided the program report, also included in the packet. It was noted that program Annual Accomplishment Reports will be due Feb. 15 which is approaching soon. Discussion ensued surrounding CFMP due dates.

Legislative Issues

Ms. Slack provided the legislative report, also included in the packet. Discussion ensued surrounding current legislation.

Subcommittee Reports:

Guidelines Subcommittee proposed to pivot focus on supporting rollout of guidelines.

No Net Loss report included in packet.

Unfinished Business:

Chairperson Brash brought up the time period for grants, application rates and survival period for tree planting. Discussion ensued around these topics.

New Business:

May council meeting will be held at Assunpink WMA - 1 Eldridge Rd, Robbinsville NJ 08691

Public Comment: