



New Jersey Community Forestry Council
Meeting Minutes
In-Person and Virtual Meeting, Assunpink WMA
May 9, 2024; 10:00 AM

The December bi-monthly meeting of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council ("Council") was called to order by Chairperson 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 David DeCredico.

Members Present: Neil Blitz, Dr. Jason Grabosky, Dr. Melanie McDermott, Dr. Matthew Olson, Kristin Ace, Lori Jenssen, Joseph Greipp, Michael Martini, Vinh Lang, Barry Emens, William Brash, Pam Zipse, Lisa Simms, Mark Beamish

Excused: Steve Chisholm, Carl Bowles

NJ Forest Service Present: State Forester Todd Wyckoff, Manager Greg McLaughlin, Terri Slack, Patricia Shapella, Gail Harje, Ryan Bellinger, Anthony Burgos, Cara Escalona, and David DeCredico. Quorum was met upon completion of the roll call.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 3/14/2024 Meeting

Bill Brash called attention to the March meeting minutes. Neil Blitz moved to approve, seconded by Barry Emens. Vote to approve was unanimous.

State Forester's Report

State Forester Todd Wyckoff let council know that staff are at NMSFA committee meetings. Mr. Wyckoff thanked and congratulated the NJ Tree Foundation for a wonderful Arbor Day celebration and thanked NJ ISA and NJ Shade Tree Federation. Mr. Wyckoff noted that the NJFS announced the LOG IRA grants at Arbor Day as well. Mr. Wyckoff congratulated Rutgers on the SAF review process and having an in-person review, and thanked them for the opportunity to participate. Mr. Wyckoff thanked Carl Bowles for the invitation to the APWA trade show. Mr. Wyckoff noted that the GC grant application is still in progress.

Chairperson's Report

Mr. Brash congratulated Rutgers on the SAF accreditation process and thanked them for the opportunity to participate. Mr. Brash reminded the council that the guidelines subcommittee is planning outreach sessions for the new CFMP guidelines.

New Business

Fiscal Report

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

Program Report

David DeCredico provided the program report, also included in the packet. It was noted that program Annual Accomplishment Reports was due Feb. 15. 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 updated that they are working on scheduling outreach meeting for guidelines rollout.

No Net Loss Subcommittee gave an update.

Unfinished Business

None

Public Comment

Neil Blitz asked a question about the green communities grant and availability of funds for rounds of grant applications and discussion ensued.