



Annual Business Meeting – December 1, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by *Board President, Dennis Dougherty*

Attendees: Ray Cywinski, Dennis Dougherty, Joe Lomax, Jim Hill, Matt Ward, Frank Minch, Rich Belcher, Bob Carter, General NJACD Membership. A quorum was in attendance.

Introduction

- President provided a summary of the last year's accomplishments: Envirothon, poster contest, participated in the coordination and attended the regional meetings. NJACD representatives participated in the fly in sessions with the members of Congress.

Approval of Minutes:

Discussion:

- *Minutes from the 11/19/2018 annual meeting were distributed.*

Motion by Ray Cywinski to approve minutes, Matt Ward seconded. Motion Carried.

Financial Report *Jim Hill*

Discussion:

- Jim presented the treasurer's report and budget.

Motion by Allan Carter motion to accept financial report, Motion was seconded. Motion Carried.

Budget Presentation – Jim Hill

- Jim presented the budget for 2020 note, slight increase from previous year.
- The flower show is cancelled and will be removed from the budget.
- Discussion of budget items – Website - \$500 needs to be increased. Dennis presents case for an Executive Director position.

Motion by Matt Ward to approve budget. Motion was seconded. Motion Carried.

NACD Report: *Joe Lomax/Ray Cywinski*

- Notes the need for districts to pay their dues.
- Presents flow chart to members describing interconnections of various conservation organizations.
- Notes updates to Waters of the U.S., Endangered Species Act. Describes actions proposed for invasive species.
- Participation and engagement and succession planning to make sure that we have the best representation.
- Urban agriculture grants – urges membership to apply for grants from the NRCS to broaden revenue.
- Annual conference in Las Vegas is coming up in February.
- Succession planning is the strength and need to bring young people up through the ranks.
- Discussion of resolutions for the regional meeting. Matt and Joe shared experience with resolutions.
 - Two levels – policy that comes from the membership
 - Programmatic actions that are taken on a state by state level
 - Diversity of issues. Needs two programs to look at existing policies to see if past policy meets today's needs. Decision made whether to keep or sunset.
 - Process for resolutions. There is a website with the forms, instructions and description of process. Goes to Regional NACD, then to committee for consideration. Getting the resolution through the process is the challenge.
 - NACD has roots in agriculture. Urban conservation resolution came out of NJ for three years that went down in flames. Need careful orchestration to get through.
 - NJ, DE, NC, WA, OR and other states have become valuable partners.
 - Matt – national meeting – what we face in NJ. There was movement to gut regulations. Resolution was presented. Went nowhere at the national level. Certain allies that joined with NJ. PA, WA, OR – definite red/blue dynamic.
 - NJACD – when you go to the regional meeting, that is time to bring resolutions and provide enough time to get resolution sorted with language and to build regional support.
 - Urban Conservation would not have been part of the national discussion if not for Joe Lomax.
 - We pay dues but there is a process that we need to better understand to be heard.
- NACD has a huge breadth of policy in place that is about 150 pages. Covers multitude of conservation issues and clues as to existing policy or gap that needs to be filled or policy needs to be tweaked.
- Joe invites Carrie Lindig to discuss memorandums of agreement with the districts. Last signed in the 1990s.
- Templates for districts to update their agreements with the NRCS. Carrie has spoken to NJACD to make it less midwestern centric and more in line with NJ needs. NRCS – privacy and do not share farmer's private info.
- At the point where we need to come up with the NJ template agreement that then gets shared with the districts for further review/discussion.
- Timeframe is that NRCS wants MOAs completed by December 2019 but ultimately on districts schedule.

Election of Officers – Frank Minch

- South voted to nominate Mike Riggolizzo to State Committee
- North voted to nominate Ray Cywinski to State Committee

- NJACD Officers
 - Dennis Dougherty, President,
 - Bob Carter, Vice President
 - Matt Ward, 2nd Vice President,
 - Jim Hill, Secretary
 - No nominations for Treasury
 - NACD rep Ray Cywinski
 - NACD Alternate – no nominees

Motion made by Ray Cywinski to approve nominations. Motion Seconded. Motion Carried.

Closing Remarks

President announced upcoming events.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn. Motion Carried.