

State Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water & Related Resources

Quarterly Meeting
Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources
101 University Drive, Suite C4
Amherst, MA 01002
Phone: 413-548-1900

August 11, 2016 1:00 pm

AGENDA

Public Hearing – The Hampden and Hampshire conservation districts have filed a petition to merge their respective districts into one conservation district. This is the public hearing component of the process whereby the commission considers the request and receives comment and testimony from the public. Comments can also be provided to the commission beforehand by writing to Thomas Anderson, Executive Secretary, Commission for Soil & Water, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston MA 02114.

Approval of April 14, 2016 Minutes; – (voting item)

State Commission

- Hampden, Hampshire Districts
 - Supervisor Appt. to the board - **(voting item)**
 - request to merge– **(voting item)**

Mass Envirothon Council & Committee - Envirothon report

Envirothon budget- **(voting item)**

Envirothon committee membership -**(voting item)**

2016 event report – Will Snyder

Next Year

Election of State Commission Officers– (voting item)

Partner Updates

NRCS, DAR, Grange, F&W, DEP, Divisions, others

Next Meeting

Adjourn



Hampden County Conservation District
and Hampshire County Conservation District
USDA-NRCS Hadley Field Office, 195 Russell Street, Suite B-6
Hadley, MA 01035
413-585-1000, 413treesale@gmail.com

May 10, 2016

Thomas C. Anderson, Executive Secretary
Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water & Related Resources
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
Suite 900
100 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. Anderson,

The Hampden and Hampshire Conservation Districts have explored and discussed the possible merger of the two districts. A resolution to merge was passed on May 10, 2016.

The board members agree that it has been a challenge to maintain a sufficient number of board members to function separately. The districts have been meeting together for the past few years, have shared resources, jointly run the annual plant sale fundraiser and hold public events together. They also share the Hadley office space and the services of an Administrator.

The districts are petitioning the State Commission to change the district boundaries and combine the two districts, Hampden County Conservation District and Hampshire County Conservation District into one "Hampden and Hampshire County Conservation District". The effective date of the merger would be August 1st, 2016.

Sincerely,

Leon K. Ripley, Chairman, Hampden County Conservation District

Leon K. Ripley Chairman Hampden County Cons District

John Omasta, Chairman Hampshire County Conservation District

John Omasta Hampshire County Conservation District

From the Supervisor Handbook

4.02 CHANGING A DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Sometimes it is advantageous to change a district boundary to combine two or more existing districts or to separate a large district area into several smaller areas. This procedure is:

- (1)The board(s) of the district or districts affected or a majority of land occupiers who would be affected by the change petitions the State Commission to change the district boundaries.
- (2)The State Commission schedules and holds, as soon as possible, a public hearing within the affected area. All interested parties have the right to attend and be heard.
- (3)At least ten days before the hearing, the State Commission publishes a notice of the public hearing in a newspaper covering the proposed area.
- (4)After the hearing, the State Commission determines whether a majority of the land occupiers who would be affected by the boundary changes are in favor of the proposal and that this proposal is in the best interest of the district or in the public interest. If this determination is made and recorded in the minutes, the boundaries are changed. If this determination cannot be made, district boundaries are unchanged.