

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
MINUTES  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 10, 2012**

The January meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:38 a.m. in the Auditorium the Health-Agriculture Building in Trenton, New Jersey.

Mr. Minch stated that the Open Public Meetings Act requirements have been met. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. adequate notice of this meeting was provided by giving the time, date, location and to the extent known the agenda of this meeting. At least 48 hours in advance this notice has been posted on the third floor bulletin board, Health and Agriculture Building in Trenton; mailed to The Star Ledger, the Courier Post and filed with the Office of Secretary of State.

The Flag Salute was recited.

Call of the Membership Roll indicated the following:

**Members Present**

Douglas Fisher  
John Kocubinski  
Tony DiLodovico  
Larry Katz  
Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R Goodman)  
Don Pettit  
Charlie Buscaglia  
Priscilla E. Hayes  
Brian McLendon (rep. B. Martin)  
Barbara Rosko  
Sean Moriarty, Deputy Attorney General  
Frank Minch, Administrative Analyst

**Associate Members and Others**

Dr. F. Ali, SSCC  
Tim Fekete, SSCC  
Rich Belcher, SSCC  
John Showler, SSCC  
Robert Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD  
Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD  
Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD  
Mario Tridente, HEP SCD  
Bill Brash, Mercer SCD  
Ines Grimm, Frehold SCD  
Paul Hlubik, FSA  
Jaclyn Rhoads, PPA  
Bob Dobbs, Camden SCD  
Marie Banasiak, NJFB

### **Minutes of November Meeting**

Due to quorum issues, the November minutes were not acted upon. A motion was made by Lomax, and second by Ms. Hayes. Ms Rosko, Mr. DiLodovico and Mr. Kocubinski abstained. A vote to accept the November minutes will be taken at the March meeting.

### **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Secretary Fisher requested a moment of silence in memory of Minority Leader, Assemblyman DeCroce, who passed away last night.

Bill 3992 regarding large wind power projects has been vetoed by Gov. Christie.

9:41 AM.- Mr. Cywinski arrives.

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

- 1 **Ag Water Certifications** – the Ag Water Certifications processed within the timeframe November 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. Sixteen (16) registrations and certifications were processed and approved from the following counties, Atlantic, Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester, Middlesex. Since 1981, the number of certifications and registrations has totaled 989.
- 2 **Animal Waste Plans** – There is an “all out” effort to reach livestock producers by the March 16, 2012 compliance date. To date 397 animal waste management plans have been received. The majority of plans are from Hunterdon, Salem and Warren counties accounting for 56% of all plans received. All plans must be implemented by March 2012.
- 3 **Turf Fertilizer Law-** Phase II, the certification program for licensed contractors, has been developed and is in effect. Until 2013, consumers in NJ will be permitted to purchase fertilizers containing phosphorus but cannot spread same unless either a) a soil test indicates the necessity, b) a new lawn is being established, or c) a turf area is under repair. Compliance may be enforced by the local health authorities and SCDs. Additionally, there is a blackout date (until March 1<sup>st</sup>) that prohibits licensed, certified applicators from spreading nitrogen or phosphorus fertilizers. A two tiered certification program for professional applicators will commence on January 17, 2012. The program structure is modeled after the NJDEP pesticide program and is being administered through Rutgers University.
- 4 **Ethics-** The ethics on-line briefing was forwarded to all SCDs. Questions have arisen regarding supervisors (through their normal work activities) representing clients before state agencies. Upon discussion with the NJDA Ethics Officer and the Ethics Commission, the restrictions are such that a supervisor is prohibited from appearing before the State Board of Agriculture, SSCC or SCD representing a client. It is acceptable to appear before other state agencies on behalf of a client in the course of normal work activities.
- 5 **July Meeting Location-** Cook Campus Center will be the location for the July SSCC meeting.

10:12 AM-Paul Hlubik arrives

## **SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT**

- 1 **2:90 Rules-** The technical aspects are completed and updated. Presently, the revised rules are under legal review. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding various aspects of the 2:90 rules.
- 2 **DCA Demolition Activities-** In response to district concern, the SSCC contacted the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) regarding demolition projects. In many areas of the state, local code officials do not involve the districts to determine if a certification is required before they issue a demolition permit. Upon completion of that project, the property owner is then required by the local code official to obtain a district issued Report of Compliance. In response, the DCA, issued an article in their Fall newsletter which is sent to all local construction code officials in the state specifying that the code officials contact the soil conservation district. It is hoped that this awareness and clarification will result in correction of the problem.
3. **Engineering Assistance-** Mr. Showler reviewed the engineering report overview submitted to the SSCC regarding projects he has worked on and assisted the districts during the last two (2) months including the Route 322 bypass project in Gloucester County, Fenimore Landfill closure in Morris County and Saddle River embankment reconstruction in Ridgewood, Bergen County.

## **FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM (FPCSP)**

Mr. Fekete reported on the following:

**Cost Share Payments Processed** – Since November five (5) payment requests were processed to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) totaling \$76,101.88 representing the State share for completed and functioning practices. These practices include 4 irrigation projects and 1 underground drainage project. The value of these projects exceeds \$156,204.75.

## **CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) \***

Mr. Minch reported the following regarding the CREP program.

<b>Conservation Practices</b>	<b>Contracts Approved</b>		<b>Payments Processed</b>	
	<b>This Period</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>This Period</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Filter Strips (acres)	0	313.8	0	279.26
Grassed Waterway (acres)	2.1	122.6	1.5	95.42
Lined Waterway (feet)	1,900	65,957	0	3,528
Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	0	221.9	0	191.1
<b>Number of Contracts</b>	3	160	1	140
<b>Funds Obligated/Expended</b>	\$5,038.60	\$361,427.95	\$7,948.30	\$270,136.86

\*On February 3, 2004 at the N.J. Agricultural Convention the CREP Program Agreement was signed by the Governor and USDA Farm Services Agency Administrator to establish 30,000 acres of vegetative filter strips with 10-15 year contracts on ag land to protect water quality.

## **CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

- 1 **2011 Poster Contest-** Award ceremony will be held May 17<sup>th</sup> at the State museum. A statehouse tour will follow the awards ceremony.
- 2 **NJ Flower & Patio Show-** Feb. 16-19<sup>th</sup>. This years' theme is "Old Time Movies". The Conservation Partnership will be highlighting the Alfred Hitchcock movie "Rear Window". Mercer County Community College has donated greenhouse space so the flowers utilized in the display can be forced into bloom.
- 3 **2012 NJ Envirothon-** Is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Farmingdale, NJ. The Freehold SCD will host the event in 2012. The theme this year is "Non-Point Source Pollution".

## **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT**

Mr. Pettit reported on the following:

- 1 **Conservation Security Program-** Sign up has been extended to Jan. 22nd. To date, there are seven (7) applications on hand.
- 2 **National Conservation Innovation Grant-** This nationwide initiative has a sign up deadline of Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. Proposals may be funded for up to \$1,000,000.
- 3 **NJ Innovation Grant** – This initiative will be announced shortly. Proposals may be funded up to \$70,000.
- 4 **National Initiatives-** There are three (3) National initiatives; high tunnel projects, energy efficiency projects and organic agriculture. The first of three (3) sign up deadlines is Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 5 Sec. Vilsak unveiled his "Blueprint for Stronger Service". The department has experienced a \$3 billion cut in funding and this initiative addresses how the department will operate more efficiently with those deep cuts. In the past fifteen (15) months, USDA has lost 7,000 employees through retirement. It is projected that 259 USDA offices nationwide will be consolidated. In addition, there are some administrative functions which will be consolidated.
- 6 **Budget-** The initial NJ-NRCS budget allocation is close to last year's allocation. The Conservation Technical assistance portion was reduced by \$1 million but the Farm Bill allocation was increased by approximately \$1 million from last year.

## **FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

Mr. Hlubik reported on the following:

- 1 **Consolidation-** Nationwide, 131 FSA offices will be consolidated and closed. There will be no office closings in NJ.
- 2 **CRP-** Of the 295 CRP contracts in NJ, 181 (694.7 acres) are CREP contracts.

## **NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Mr. Buscaglia reported on the following:

- 1 The NJ Agriculture Convention is scheduled for next week.
- 2 2012 NACD meeting will be held in Las Vegas next month
- 3 Regional Supervisor meeting are being scheduled for late April. A CPA will be in attendance to discuss district budgets and audits.
- 4 The 2012 NJ Envirothon will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 5 The 2012 Conservation Conference is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Hightstown.

## **NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Mr. McLendon reported on the following:

1. Implementing the 10-Point Plan for the Barnegat Bay is a priority.
2. Action Item # 4 of the 10-Point Plan regarding soil compaction will be addressed as part of the Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in NJ.
3. DEP is promoting district involvement in stormwater program activities. The Barnegat Bay project is being utilized as a model of cooperation between many agencies and organizations working together to accomplish a specific goal.
4. To date, DEP has processed \$11 million in principal loan forgiveness to municipalities in the Barnegat Bay vicinity to implement stormwater management practices.
5. An additional \$5 million will be made available to these same municipalities bring the total spent on the Barnegat Bay endeavor to \$25 million.
6. DEP has set aside \$280,000 regarding entering historical data regarding Barnegat Bay hydraulics/hydrology into a database.
7. Updates, revisions and changes have been made to the Stormwater Construction General Permit (5G#3). Public comment period closes Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> with adoption proposed for Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. The biggest change is that applicants must file via e-permit. Paper applications will no longer be accepted.

## **SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

- 1 Two (2) faculty members have been honored by being named “Fellows” by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- 2 Currently in winter break, the spring semester resumes Tuesday.
- 3 A lecture will be given on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> entitled “The Emerging Ecological Paradigm of Agriculture and Scholarship.
- 4 Information for homeowners on the lawn fertilizer law may be found on the Snyder Farm website.
- 5 Soil Health Conference is scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup>. The draft agenda has been completed.

## **RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Dr. Katz reported on the following:

1. Extension agents are spreading the news regarding the Animal Waste Program and the consequences of not being in compliance.
2. Jack Rabin has collected a great deal of information regarding high tunnel program. This information will be posted on the Snyder Farm website.
3. Jack Rabin gave a talk at the Farm Bureau convention entitled "Ag in the Middle" which dealt with the management and risks concerning mid-sized agriculture operations. A team of experienced and new extension agents will be formed to address this issue

## **PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS**

None

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. DiLodovico, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch, Administrative Analyst