

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
MINUTES  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY  
MARCH 14, 2011**

The March meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:44 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  
Barry Chalofsky (rep. Bob Martin)  
Louise Davis  
John Kocubinski  
Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R Goodman)  
Maria Collazo, NRCS  
Don Knezick  
Priscilla E. Hayes  
Joe Lomax  
Barbara Rosko  
Ken Marsh  
Frank Minch, Administrative Analyst  
Eileen Kelly, Deputy Attorney General

**Associate Members and Others**

Bob Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD  
Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD  
Rich Belcher, SSCC  
John Showler, SSCC  
Cathy Costa, Burlington SCD  
Bill Brash, Mercer SCD  
Paul Hlubik, FSA  
Don Yarus, Burlington SCD  
Tim Fekete, SSCC  
Dr. Ferdows Ali, SSCC  
Glen Van Olden- HEP SCD  
Ines Grimm- Freehold SCD  
Elizabeth George-Chiniara  
Jaclyn Rhoads

**Minutes of January Meeting**

On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Dr. Murphy, the Minutes of January 10, 2011 were approved, Mr. Lomax and Mr. Marsh abstained.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

- **Comptroller's On-Line Transparency Report** – The State Comptroller issued a report on website transparency for independent local authorities. Based on this report two (2) pieces of legislation have been proposed which detail specific information

required such as the establishment of a web site for each organization which details contact information, meeting schedules and minutes, budgets for the last three (3) fiscal years, audits for the last three (3) years and annual reports in addition to other information. The SSCC will be issuing guidance to the SCDs in the near future.

- **Animal Waste Plan Processing Bulletin** – On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the Administrative Bulletin 2011-1.0 regarding High Density Animal Waste Plan Processing was approved. This document provides guidance and direction to SCDs since high density plans must be reviewed and approved by the SCDs.
- **Ag Water Certifications** – the Ag Water Certifications processed within the timeframe January 1, 2011 to February 28, 2011 were reviewed. Seven (7) renewals were processed and approved from the following counties, Atlantic, Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester.
- **OPRA** – Updated forms for SCDs were distributed and reviewed. These forms and an electronic version of the handbook for the records custodian will be issued shortly.
- **Regional Supervisor Meetings-** These meetings are scheduled as follows: April 7<sup>th</sup>- Central SCDs, April 14<sup>th</sup>- Southern SCDs and April 20<sup>th</sup>- Northern SCDs. SSCC staff is working w/ the NJACD to prepare the agenda for these meetings.

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

- **Soil Restoration Standards Meeting** – Mr. Minch reported that the first meeting of the workgroup was held recently. This broad based group had lengthy discussions regarding various topics. The next meeting of this workgroup will be held Thursday, March 17th. It is anticipated that the committee members will be delving into more technical aspects.
- **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reviewed the engineering report overview submitted to the SSCC regarding projects Mr. Showler has worked on and assisted the districts during the past two months, especially the Soil Restoration Standard, draft Technical Bulletin regarding solar array projects and the Camden SCD Watershed Grant. In addition, an update was provided on the landslide issue in Sussex County.
- **SCD Review of Stormwater Management-** Mr. Brash reported the SCD was approached by the Environmental Commission from Hamilton Township in Mercer County to possibly provide some type of technical assistance regarding stormwater management. It was cited in a report from the River Keepers that the township was not conducting their stormwater management reviews according to DEP guidelines. This technical assistance from the Mercer SCD would assist Hamilton Township in fulfilling their obligations in this area.  
A lengthy discussion regarding this issue was conducted which touched upon numerous items including the authority of the Environmental Commission and the liability of the district. The committee recommended that Mr. Brash proceed cautiously and gather more information before the SSCC can render any decision regarding this issue.
- **Exempt Municipality Reviews-** To date, staff is still receiving, reviewing and compiling submitted reports. The deadline for SCDs to submit completed reviews is mid April. Once all reports are received, a summary report will be compiled.

- **Single Family Home Exemption** – The committee, consisting of various district managers is meeting to prepare a guidance document that ensures all SCDs are applying the regulations uniformly.
- **Solar Array Project Technical Bulletin-** Mr. Showler reviewed the draft document, Technical Bulletin 2011-1.0, Solar Array Applications. Mr. Showler is awaiting district comments to incorporate into the final version of the bulletin.
- Mr. Minch announced, and the SSCC officially recognized Mr. Showler for obtaining his P.E. license.
- **Somerset-Union Supervisor Appointment-** The Local Nominating Committee met regarding filling the two (2) supervisor vacancies. The results and preferences were submitted to the State Nominating Review Committee which met via tele-conference March 10<sup>th</sup>.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Davis, Mathew Loper, County Engineer, was appointed to complete the unexpired term (6/30/12) of Mike Amorosa, former County Engineer, who stepped down because of additional duties he has in his new position as County Administrator.

The Local Nominating Committee did not express a preference between James Laine or David Johnson to fill the vacant supervisor position. The Review Committee is in the process of setting up interviews with each of the candidates and it is anticipated that this process will be completed by the May SSCC meeting.

- **Burlington SCD Fee Schedule Request-** Mr. Minch recommended that the Burlington fee schedule revision be tabled until several issues are resolved. The Burlington SCD, represented by former director, Don Yarus, spoke to the SSCC to approve the request before them.

Mr. Knezick recused from discussion and left the room before a lengthy conversation ensued. The SSCC decided not to take action on this fee schedule increase until further work is completed on this request. Mr. Lomax and Mr. Kocubinski will assist Mr. Minch in reviewing the Burlington SCD fee request.

### **STORMWATER DISCHARGE PROGRAM**

- Mr. Minch reported that staff is working with Brian McLendon of DEP in the transfer of historical documentation and paperwork regarding Stormwater Discharge Permits.

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

Mr. Fekete reported on the following:

- **New Applications** - On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Lomax, the following Priority I and II applications were approved, pending the funding approval of State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)\*.

The applications of Paul & Joan Macrie (Atlantic County) and Von Thun Country Farm Market (Middlesex County) were conditionally approved on motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Lomax, pending receipt of agricultural water registration and/or certification.

## **PRIORITY I- PERMANENTLY DEED RESTRICTED**

<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Requested</u>
Atlantic	P, M & N Macrie	Irrigation	\$39,309.60
Atlantic	P&J Macrie	Irrigation Well	\$29,160.00
Gloucester	Russell Leone	Irrigation	\$22,925.00
	Agent for L Coco		
Gloucester	L & D Weiss	Windbreak	\$1,350.00
Middlesex	Von Thun Country Mkt	Irrigation Well	\$4,800.00
	Agent for R&S Von Thun		
Monmouth	C&J Farms	Irrigation	\$13,949.50
	Agent for Kildee Farms		
Morris	Timothy Jones	An wste stor fac	\$6,8600.00
Morris	Centenary College	An wste stor fac	\$10,500.00
Sussex	W& C Van Wingerden	H2O Imp. Res.	\$17,217.00
Warren	Mitchell Jones	Diversion	\$10,576.25

## **PRIORITY II- 8YEAR PROGRAM**

<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Requested</u>
Atlantic	County Line Blueberry	Irrigation	\$26,600.00

\*All applications will be forwarded to the SADC with a recommendation for funding approval when money becomes available (except Paul & Joan Macrie & Von Thun Country Mrkt.). Copies of all applications will be maintained as part of the minutes of this meeting and kept on file at the Office of the Executive Secretary.

- **Extension Request-** A request from Gerald Lyness of Hunterdon County (\$2,216) for a twelve (12) month extension for a diversion was approved on motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Ms. Hayes. Mr. Lyness is awaiting an approved design from USDA-NRCS.
- **Cost Share Payments Processed** – Since January six (6) payment requests were processed to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) totaling \$40,236.41 representing the State share for completed and functioning practices. These practices include 4 irrigation projects, 1 stream protection and 1 terrace project. The value of these projects exceeds \$109,062.62.

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

Mr. Fekete 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	285.5	0	263.26
Grassed Waterway (acres)	0	109.7	1.9	86.52
Lined Waterway (feet)	0	55,271	0	3,384
Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	0	221.9	0	191.1
<b>Number of Contracts</b>	0	143	3	124
<b>Funds Obligated/Expended</b>	\$0	\$324,984.64	\$10,950.90	\$240,335.44

\*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:

- **Flower and Patio Show** – The conservation partnership entry, Shrek and Rain Gardens, garnered three (3) 1<sup>st</sup> Place awards.
- **NJ Envirothon** – Registration deadline was March 1, 2011. To date, fifty (50) teams are registered for this event which is scheduled to take place Sat. May 7<sup>th</sup> at Camp Glen Gray in Bergen County. Regional review or training sessions are scheduled for students and advisors as follows; South- 4/1, Central-4/6 & North- 4/13.  
Fundraising for this event is on-going. To date, \$1,800 has been raised this year but there is \$25,000 to \$30,000 in reserve from previous years. Mr. Belcher has submitted a grant request to PSE&G for \$4,000. In addition Cannon provides each state with a \$750 grant.
- **Poster Contest**- NJ placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and received an honorable mention in the national competition. The NJACD is in the process of planning an awards ceremony for the NJ poster winners. In addition, the grand champion winning entry will have their poster reproduced on an educational folder.

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

Ms. Collazo reported on the following:

- **Budget Update**- The Federal Government is operating under a continuing resolution until March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- NJ-NRCS Field offices are working to have all conservation contracts signed by the deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The various upcoming meetings and trainings NRCS is involved with was reviewed and detailed.

### **FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

Mr. Hlubik reported on the following:

- CRP update was provided. There is a general sign up which runs from today until April 15<sup>th</sup>. Nationally, this is the 25<sup>th</sup> year the CRP program has been in existence.
- Ten (10) new contracts for the SAFE program are being considered.
- Eight (8) new GRP contracts have been approved.
- Contingency plans are in place if a budget or continuing resolution is not passed.
- The President's 2012 proposed budget calls for a shift or decrease in funds in certain programs such as the Conservation Loan Program. The emphasis will be more on loan guarantees than direct loans.
- A conservation rally will be held in Monmouth County on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- USDA Secretary of Agriculture has announced that USDA has negotiated and settled a second claim in the Pickford vs. USDA suit. USDA, in an effort to be proactive, has established a process and a task force in an effort to settle out of court any civil rights claims that meet certain criteria.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

- Spring Break- March 14-21.
- The Rutgers Food Innovation Center (FIC) is developing innovative and healthy ways of integrating NJ grown produce into the state's school food program.
- Richard A. Lutz, a highly respected oceanographer and marine biologist, has been named Director of the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences (IMCS) at Rutgers University.
- The NJ Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health (IFNH) at Rutgers University announced that Dr. Anita Brinker has joined the IFNH research team in the capacity of Manager of the Nutritional Metabolomics Research Core Facility.
- NJ Fertilizer Law: FAQ website-  
<http://snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/fertilizerlawFAQ.html>
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension is currently presenting the nationally acclaimed farm business educational program for farm women, Annie's Project, at two locations in New Jersey: Cape May County in southern New Jersey and Hackettstown in northern New Jersey.
- The NJAES Jersey Tomato working group continues to work on bringing back the old time Jersey Tomato flavor from field and taste testing the old tomato varieties to soil fertility research and breeding of new open pollinated varieties.

- Rutgers Master Gardener Program won the 2010 Governor's Award in the Environmental/ Student Activity Category. Active in 18 counties throughout the state, approximately 2,400 Master Gardeners volunteered nearly 158,000 hours in 2009.
- A symposium regarding "Communicating about Climate Change" will be held 3/30 at the Cook Campus Center.
- Ag Field Day/ Rutgers Day will be held 4/30.
- NJ Compost Operator Certification Course will be held 3/18.
- The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Gardeners School will be held 3/19
- A hands-on workshop, "Rain Garden Training for Professional Landscapers-Installation" will be held 3/24.

### **PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS**

Jaclyn Rhoads of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance requested an update regarding incorporating Pinelands specific recommendations to the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Standards. Mr. Showler indicated that the committee tasked with updating the standards is awaiting comment and feedback in conjunction with working on the soil restoration standards and all updates and changes will be completed together.

On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Lomax, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch  
Administrative Analyst