

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
APRIL 8, 2013**

The April meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:40 a.m. at the Health and Agriculture Building, 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, and 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 Associate Members and Others

Douglas Fisher

Ray Cywinski

Priscilla Hayes

Joe Lomax

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R Goodman)

Barbara Rosko

Brian McLendon (rep. B Martin)

Carl Quazza

Carrie Mosley

Sean Moriarity, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSCC, NJDA

John Showler, SSCC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSCC, NJDA

Dr. Ferdows Ali, SSCC, NJDA

R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

Mario Tridente, HEP SCD

Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Ines Grimm, Freehold SCD

Bill Brash, Mercer SCD

Bob Dobbs, Camden SCD

Paul Hlubik, FSA

Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Dr. Bill Pollock, Ocean SCD

Charles Buscaglia, Freehold SCD

Don Knezick, Burlington SCD

Robyn Jeney, NJPA

E. George-Cheniara, NJBA

Marie Banasiak, NJFB

Judy Gleason, NJDA

Amy Karpati, PPA

MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING

On motion by Mr. Lomax, and second by Mr. Cywinski, the minutes of the March 11, 2013 meeting were approved.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **Action Items-** The list was reviewed and the Committee brought up to date (see attached).
2. **Agricultural Water Registration and certification-** during the timeframe of 3/1/13 to 3/31/13, 3 agricultural water registrations and certifications were approved in the following counties: Burlington, Gloucester and Salem.
3. **Animal Waste Management Plans-** To date, 586 plans have been received statewide. Hunterdon, Salem and Warren counties have the most plans.
4. **Clean Water Council-** A hearing is scheduled for April 9th at 9 AM at DEP. The council seeks public testimony on improving the resilience of our water infrastructure.

9:45 AM- Mr. Hlubik arrived.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **2:90 Rules/Standards-** Mr. Minch recommend the Committee approve all standards as written except the land grading & topsoiling standards.

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Cywinski, the SSCC voted to adopt all rules/standards except for land grading and topsoiling.

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Lomax, the SSCC approved granting Sec. Fisher the authority to appoint a committee to work on the standards for land grading and topsoiling.

Ms. Gleason indicated that she would research to determine if a complete re-proposal of the remaining two standards was necessary or if that process could be shortened.

2. **Hurricane Sandy Emergency Administrative Order-** Correspondence has been received from three districts regarding the draft Administrative Order offering guidance on demolition, clean up and re-construction following the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy. This AO details the expedited administrative process for individuals subject to the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act.

A motion was made by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, to approve issuance of this Administrative Order subject to non-substantial changes pending legal counsel review.

3. **Compost Filter Sock** – At the last SSCC meet, there was a request from a local distributor, MCS, to re-examine their company's filter sock product and identify it in the standards. Mr. Lomax, head of the task force charged with this undertaking, provided a status update. MCS was contacted and provided Mr. Lomax with appropriate information. This information was then provided to the task force members. Mr. Lomax will be contacting the two states which have approved this product, Pennsylvania and Texas. It is anticipated that this will be ready for SSCC action at the June Committee meeting. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the issue that the SSCC will not endorse any product.
4. **Engineering Issues**- Mr. Showler provided an overview of the activities he has worked on over the last several months including, train the trainer SCD seminar, hydrology and hydraulics training, stormwater basin database update, Sussex County Court testimony and Emerson Woods channel reconstruction. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the loss of stormwater basin database (H&H) information and potential resolutions of this issue.
5. **NJ Conservation Workgroups- Sub-Committee Reports**
 - Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee- Mr. Lomax provided a brief update regarding the progress of this sub-committee.
 - District Fee Schedule and Fiscal Sub-committee- Mr. Cywinski provided a brief update regarding the progress of this sub-committee.
 - Training Sub-Committee- Mr. Brash provided an update and overview regarding the progress of this sub-committee.
 - District Review Sub-Committee- Mr. Quazza provided a brief update regarding the progress of this sub-committee.
6. **Public Comment**- Ms. Raabe, Ocean SCD Director, thanked the Committee and Secretary Fisher for incorporating Ocean SCD comments and concerns into the newly approved AO but there are several issues that may require attention. Many properties affected by Sandy have been sold to investors. Will the new owners be subject to the new requirements stated in the AO? The intent of the AO was to offer some relief to the homeowners affected by the storm, not investors purchasing properties after the storm. Ms. Raabe brought up several other issues. Secretary Fisher indicated that these items would be taken under advisement.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM (FPCSP)

1. **Extension Requests**- A request from Eleanor Kirkbride of Burlington County (\$42,350.00) for a twelve (12) month extension for a permanent open drainage project. Ms. Kirkbride is required to obtain at least one and possibly two NJ-DEP permits to clean out ditches on farm. NJDA-NRCS is assisting in this endeavor. On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Quazza, this 12 month extension request was approved.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

1. **Poster Contest-** The statewide judging took place last week and the districts will be notified of the winners shortly.
2. **NJ Envirothon-** The 2013 NJ Envirothon will be held May 4th at Camp Kettle Run in Medford. To date, 45 teams are registered. \$7,900 has been raised to defray the costs associated with this event. Three training sessions are scheduled this month for the Envirothon participants.
3. **Poster Awards Ceremony-** This event will take place at the State Museum auditorium on May 16th or 23rd.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ms. Mosley reported that the Emergency Watershed program has received 37 requests from municipalities to assist in cleanup after Hurricane Sandy. Visits have been conducted to eight municipalities and, to date, \$1.7 million has been requested from Washington, DC. The application deadline has been extended from April 1 to May 1.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mr. Hlubik provided an update on the various FSA programs.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Ms. Hayes reported that regional meetings are being held in the north, central & south this week.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon reported on the clean-up efforts from Hurricane Sandy. DEP is working with Federal agencies to distribute resources and funds to municipalities affected by the hurricane. Disposal of debris continues to be an issue.

The Clean Water Council meets tomorrow in the DEP public hearing room.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. Three charitable organizations founded by John Seward Johnson have pledged \$1.5 million to Rutgers University to endow a faculty position in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources.
2. A special lecture "The Past, Present and Future of Soil Science in an Ever-Changing Environment" was presented on March 29th by Dr. Daniel Hillel, 1951 Alumnus and 2012 World Food Prize Laureate.
3. Upcoming Events
 - Ag Field Day- April 27th
 - Commencement- May 20th

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Pollock, Ocean County Supervisor, voiced concern that debris from Hurricane Sandy may include pre-1970 construction material which may contain asbestos and lead. Was this material being separated out or being landfilled? Mr. McLendon indicated this material is being separated out and disposed of properly.

Mr. Lomax indicated that the Cape May Plant Materials Center has not received funding for the upcoming year. Approximately 200 groups/agencies were contacted requesting their support for the PMC.

Mr. Lomax reported on a project currently taking place at the Delaware Bay. Hundreds of truckloads of sand are being transported to a depleted area between Reeds Beach and Pierce's Point to encourage horseshoe crab spawning which is a critical food source for migratory birds.

Mr. Minch mentioned that traditionally, the July SSCC meeting is held outside of Trenton and if the Committee wishes to do the same this year a location must be chosen at the June meeting.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Quazza, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held June 10, 2013 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch