

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 10, 2011**

The November meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairperson Douglas Fisher at 9:42 a.m. in the Auditorium at the Health-Agriculture Building in Trenton, NJ

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
Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)
Maria Collazo, NRCS
Barbara Rosko
John Kocubinski
Priscilla Hayes
Don Knezick
Eileen Kelly, DAG
Frank Minch, Administrative Analyst

Associate Members and Others

Ed Wengryn, NJ Farm Bureau
Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD
Rich Belcher, SSCC
Ferdows Ali, SSCC
Tim Fekete, SSCC
John Showler, SSCC
Paul Hlubik, USDA, FSA
Cathy Costa, Burlington SCD
Robert Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD
Victor DeVasto, Gloucester SCD
Raymond Cywinski, Bergen SCD
Robert Dobbs, Camden SCD
Ines Grimm, Freehold SCD
David Friedman, Ocean SCD
Bill Slack, Ocean SCD
Tony DiLodovico, Ocean SCD

Minutes of Nov. 8, 2010 Meeting

On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Dr. Murphy, the Minutes of November 8, 2010 were approved. Mr. Kocubinski and Mr. Knezick abstained.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- Secretary Fisher remarked that he was pleased that concerns from the Hudson, Essex, Passaic SCD regarding the SSCC Administrative fee (\$25 fee on all Soil Erosion & Sediment Control plans filed) have finally been resolved.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

- **2011 SSCC Meetings** – All 2011 SSCC meetings will take place in the Auditorium of the Health and Agriculture Building in Trenton unless advised otherwise.
- **2:90 Rule**- NJDA received notice from the Office of Administrative Law that the 2:90 regulations have been officially readopted.
- **Partnership Meeting**- This meeting was held in Freehold on December 17th and was well attended by the core conservation partnership. All SCDs were represented. A variety of topics were discussed. Long range goals and priorities were set. A summary of the meeting is being compiled and, when completed, will be sent to all participants.
- **Report of Accomplishments**- The Division of Ag. and Natural Resources submitted a report of accomplishments to Secretary Fisher which included district accomplishments for the year. In turn, the NJDA will compile reports from all divisions and send this report to the Governor.
- **Supervisor Indemnification/Tort Liability**- Several older memos (1/12/76 & 10/17/78) from the Department of Law and Public Safety regarding this subject were reviewed. The SSCC is working with the DAG to obtain answers and clarify any confusion with respect to district supervisor coverage despite the termination of per diem reimbursement.
- **SCD Audits**- Freehold and Warren SCDs were contacted by the Office of the Comptroller for their 2008 and 2009 district audits. SSCC staff contacted the Office of the Comptroller regarding the nature and purpose of this request. Staff was told that the request was made to ensure that audits were completed as required. SSCC staff will compile SCD audits for that timeframe and submit to Comptroller's office.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

- **Barnegat Bay Executive Order**- Mr. Chalofsky reported that the Governor has made the Barnegat Bay a priority of his administration and has directed NJDEP to oversee the implementation of legislation related to Barnegat Bay. Mr. Chalofsky addressed the necessity to move forward with development of soil restoration standards in an expedited fashion.

- **Engineering Assistance** – 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. In addition, Mr. Showler reviewed a comparison of current vs. proposed standards text related to soil quality and compaction. He also reviewed a letter regarding a meeting held November 18th between EPA, DEP, NJDA and SCDs pertaining to roles and responsibilities of each organization and a contact list.
- **HEP SCD Fee Schedule-** The only change to the fee schedule is the addition of the \$25 Administrative fee.
On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Knezick, the HEP fee schedule revision was approved.

STORMWATER DISCHARGE PROGRAM

Mr. Minch reported that SSCC staff is working to obtain information from DEP to complete the spreadsheet for quarterly reimbursement of stormwater funds. In addition, some administrative and technical issues are being addressed and, once resolved, a statewide bulletin will be issued to clarify any confusion the districts have pertaining to this matter.

- **Wantage Township-** Messrs. Showler and Lundin provided an update for the committee regarding this former exempt municipality. As of January 1st, the Sussex SCD has obtained all pertinent files. Mr. Lundin thanked the SSCC for their assistance in resolving this issue.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM (FPCSP)

Mr. Fekete reported on the following:

- **Cost Share- Water Allocation Requirements-** During the September SADC meeting it was decided by their committee to require any cost share applications requesting funds for irrigation wells to also submit their agricultural water registration and/or certification information. NRCS and CAP employees have been informed of this new requirement. In addition, this impacts two (2) applications which will be brought before the SSCC today.
- **New Applications -** On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the following applications were approved, pending the funding approval of State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)*.

The applications for John & Judith Probasco and Home Farm LLC (Burlington) were conditionally approved 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>
Burlington	Home Farm LLC	Irrigation Well	\$6,000.00
Burlington	J & J Probasco	Irrigation Well	\$3,600.00
Cumberland	Sarah Lee Bonham		
	Agent: Bonham Farms	Irrigation	\$29,780.00
Mercer	D & J Kosek	Diversion	\$38,664.46
Salem	James Catalano	Irrigation	\$31,381.18
Salem	DuBois Prop, LLC		
	Agent: Spring Brook	Irrigation	\$23,536.20

*All applications (except Home Farm, LLC and James & Judith Probasco) will be forwarded to the SADC with a recommendation for funding approval. 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 Requests-** A request from Vaccaro Farms of Burlington County (\$23,405) for a three (3) month extension for a terrace system project was approved on motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Knezick. Mr. Vaccaro has completed the work, he is awaiting invoices from the contractor.

A request from Tomasello Winery of Camden County (\$25,746.30) for a twelve (12) month extension for a drip irrigation system was approved on motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Knezick. Mr. Tomasello can not complete the installation of the project until he plants grapes, which will be planted in the Spring 2011.

A request from Ronald Hitchner (\$25,807.50) of Salem County for a twelve (12) month extension for an underground drainage project was approved on motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Knezick. Mr. Hitchner is approximately 70% complete with the project and needs the additional time to complete.
- Cost Share Payments Processed** – Since September, six (6) payment requests were processed to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) totaling \$46,941.88 representing the state share for completed and functioning practices. These practices include two (2) irrigation projects and one (1) HUAP project, one (1) water impoundment reservoir, one (1) animal waste control facility & one (1) diversion. The total value of these conservation projects exceeds \$119,121.25.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) *

Mr. Fekete reported the following regarding the CREP program:

Conservation Practices	Contracts Approved		Payments Processed	
	This Period	Cumulative	This Period	Cumulative
Filter Strips (acres)	0	285.5	3.9	263.26
Grassed Waterway (acres)	0	109.7	9.2	84.62
Lined Waterway (feet)	0	55,271	0	3,384
Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	0	221.9	0	191.1
Number of Contracts	0	143	7	121
Funds Obligated/Expended	\$0	\$324,934.44	\$31,051.45	\$229,384.54

*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 the following:

- **2011 NJ Envirothon-** This event will be held in Bergen County at Camp Glen Gray on Sat., May 7th. The theme is “Saltwater and Freshwater Estuaries”.
- **Poster contest-** Copies of the State wide poster winners were distributed. These posters were forwarded to the National Poster Contest. Results from this competition are expected shortly.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Ms. Collazo reported on the following:

- Janice Reid is Acting State Conservationist until the end of January. Don Pettit, the new State Conservationist, will report at the beginning of February.
- Mr. Pettit plans to attend the NACD meeting in Tennessee.
- The Federal Government is currently working under a “Continuing Resolution” until March.
- Field offices are working on EQIP ranking at the current time.
- Also, applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program are being accepted through January 21st. In addition, applications for the Organic Initiative are being accepted through March 4th.

- NJ-NRCS has provided each district with a copy of “Dirt-The movie”.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) REPORT

Mr. Hlubik reported on the following:

- **Conservation Loans-** To date \$325,000 in low interest (1.75%) loans have been approved for conservation practices.
- **Disaster Declaration-** All sixteen (16) agriculture counties were declared disaster areas, which makes them eligible for low interest emergency loans. In addition, an “Administrative Declaration” was declared in Monmouth and Salem Counties due to the snow storm last week. This makes some greenhouse operations eligible for farm emergency loans.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

No report.

NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

No report.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

- A summary of the “Nutrient Management Summit” is on-line.
- **To the Bottom of the World-** An unusually large contingent of scientists and students are headed for the Antarctica this year. These scientists from Rutgers/SEBS/Institute of Marine & Coastal sciences will be sent to study the physical oceanography geochemistry of its seas.
- **NJ CASE Professor of the Year-** Scott Glenn, who led a team of faculty, students and staff in a successful effort to send the first submersible robot glider across an ocean, has been named the 2010 NJ Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).
- **APLU Regional Award-** Chad Ripberger, 4-H agent and department head of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County was honored with the Northeast Regional Award for Excellence in Extension at the 123rd Annual Meeting of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU).
- **Invasion of the Stink Bug-** A group of scientists at Rutgers is seeking a way to control the brown marmorated (marbled) stink bug before any further damage is done. Some producers are reporting up to a 70% loss on their crops.

- **Upcoming events-** 1/11/11- 1/13/11- 2011 Atlantic Coast Ag Convention & Trade Show- Trump Taj Mahal- Atlantic City. 2/10/11- Executive Dean's Distinguished Lecture: Susan Solomon; "A world of Change: Climate Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". 1/13/11- 1/14/11- 20th Anniversary Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium. 2/1/11- 2/3/11- Mid Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention and Trade Show- Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, Pa.. 2/4/11- Central Jersey Vegetable Growers Meeting- RCE Monmouth County Ag Building, Freehold
- NJAES January Short Courses- www.cpe.rutgers.edu/calendar/jan2011.html

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS

- **Burlington SCD Fee Schedule-** Mr. Knezick questioned the opportunity for the district to make an interim fee schedule adjustment to incorporate the administrative fee while a full fee schedule modification is under review by SSCC staff. On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the Burlington SCD fee schedule revision incorporating the administrative fee only was approved.
- **Solar Issues-** Mr. Kocubinski was unclear on several issues related to ag and solar operations. It was noted that SADC has a just completed a summary document regarding regulations covering this issue. SSCC staff will provide this information to Mr. Kocubinski.
- Mr. DiLodovico, Ocean SCD supervisor expressed his concern regarding EPA issuing hefty fines builders for minor infractions, misunderstanding or confusion in interpretation of the Stormwater Regulations. It was reiterated that there should be one direction, one voice and consensus regarding this issue.

On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Ms. Davis, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch
Administrative Analyst