

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 9, 2015**

The March meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:39 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

Sylvia Kovacs

John Kocubinski

Charlie Buscaglia

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Joe Lomax

Tony DiLodovico

Dave Lamm (rep. C. Mosley)

Michael Rigolizzo

Sean Moriarty, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

Bob Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD

Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Bob Dobbs, NJACD

Ryan Rebozo, PPA

Paul Hlubik, USDA, FSA

MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2015 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the minutes of the January 12, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Secretary Fisher mentioned that there is a "floated idea" regarding the issue of soil disturbance on preserved farms. It is based on a Rutgers study & six years of SADC Committee work. It is an extremely contentious issue within the agriculture community. If, and when, it becomes a proposed rule, it will be discussed more thoroughly at the SSCC.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. **Audit Manual-** The Cape/Atlantic SCD had provided a request for extension of the comment period. On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Kovacs, the comment period for the Audit Manual has been extended 30 days to allow SCD auditors the chance to review and comment on the manual.

9:47 AM- Mr. Buscaglia arrived.

2. **Supervisor Appointments-** letters have been sent to supervisors whose terms are expiring. SCDs have been advised to activate their Supervisor Nominating Committees.
3. **Regional Supervisors Dinner-** Letters have been sent from the NJACD to all members regarding these meetings. They are scheduled as follows: North (March 18th), Central (March 24th and South (March 26th). A notice was sent from the Association to all members.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Soil Restoration Standard-** Mr. Minch reported that the cost/benefit analysis for soil restoration is being examined by the soil restoration subcommittee.
2. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reviewed a report of his activities for the first quarter of 2015 including FEMA Dam Safety Seminar, Detention Basin Database Project, Golden Orchard Age Restricted Community (Bergen) and Great Adventure 90 Acre Solar Array (Ocean), among other things.
3. **Penalty Schedules –** Mr. Minch provided a brief update regarding an inquiry from a builder in Morris County who was assessed a penalty for failure to obtain a SESC certification. This inquiry was referred to the Morris SCD and the builder's funds have since been returned. Mr. Minch reiterated the program authorities with respect to penalty assessment.
4. **New Jersey Conservation District Sub-Committee Reports**
 - **Training-** Mr. Minch indicated this sub-committee must appoint a chair to replace the co-chairs who have stepped down.

- **Policies & Procedures-** Mr. Lomax provided an update regarding the activities of this sub-committee. The single family dwelling interpretation with frequently asked questions has been completed and circulated for comment. The 251 Policy and Procedures Manual with appendices has been completed. The Administrative Operations manual in draft form and should be completed for the May meeting. The Supervisor Performance Standards is the next task for this sub-committee.
- **Fee/Fiscal-** Mr. Cywinski provided an update regarding the activities of this sub-committee. The comment period for the audit manual was extended for an additional 30 days.
- **Review/Appraisal-** Mr. DiLodovico provided an update regarding the activities of the sub-committee.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Mr. Belcher reported on the following activities:

- **Flower and Patio show-** The theme of the show was “Great American Novels” and the conservation partnership’s display was Conservation with Huck Finn. This project won two first place awards and two second place awards.
- **NJ Envirothon-** To date, 33 teams from 16 counties are registered. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. Team registration has been extended to March 16th.
- **Poster Contest-** All district winning posters are due by April 1st for statewide judging. Nationally, NJ had a first place winner in the 4th to 6th grade category. The poster was submitted from the Freehold SCD
- **Awards Ceremony-** The date to schedule this event will be discussed at the NJACD meeting later today.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings involving the University and co-operative Extension.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Mr. Lamm provided an update on the activities of the NRCS specifically the temporary closing of two of the service centers, one (Hackettstown) due to heavy snow twisting roof beams and the second (Woodstown) due to frozen water pipes which burst.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mr. Hlubik provided an update on the programs and activities of FSA.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. Cywinski reported on the activities of the NJACD including planning for the annual conference & the 2016 Northeast Regional NACD meeting which will be hosted by New Jersey. Mr. Cywinski thanked Rich Belcher and the staff of Freehold and Cape-Atlantic SCDs for all their efforts and hard work involving the Flower Show.

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Mr. Lomax spoke at length regarding the NACD annual conference in New Orleans and various highlights of this well attended conference. Over 900 individuals attended this meeting. The 2015 Northeast Regional NACD meeting will be held August 2nd and 3rd in West Virginia. The next annual NACD will be held in Reno, Nevada January 31st to February 3rd

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A discussion was held regarding SCD diversification of duties and tasks to attract additional operational funding.

On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Mr. Lomax, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held May 11, 2015 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch

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