



State of New Jersey

## **BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**June 28, 2023**

**(Wednesday)**

Public meeting notice was certified by communication on June 22, 2023.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by giving written notice of 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, Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey; mailed to the Newark Star Ledger; the Camden Courier Post; the Philadelphia Inquirer and filed with the Office of the Secretary of State.

President David DeFrange called the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture to order at 1:00 pm. Board members in attendance included President David DeFrange; Vice President Dr. Ernest Beier, Paul Hlubik, Debbie Norz, Warren Hollinger, Holly Sytsema, Kurt Alstede and Lisa Specca. The meeting was held at 200 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, NJ.

Also in attendance were Secretary Douglas Fisher; Dr. Sebastian Reist, Division of Animal Health; Rose Chamberlain, Director, Division of Food & Nutrition; Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Joe Atchison, Director, Nancy Wood, Division of Marketing & Development; Chuck Roohr, Deputy Executive Director, SADC; Joe Zoltowski, Director, Division of Plant Industry; Frank Minch, Director, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources; Christina Rasiewicz, Chris Laregina, Nathan Schatz, Robert Vivian, Jeff Wolfe, Jeff Beach, Christina Hernandez and Sarah Mahmoud, Office of the Secretary. Also in attendance were Peter Furey, Ashley Kerr, NJ Farm Bureau; Dr. Brian Schilling, Rutgers University; Sarah Fenwick, Farm Service Agency, Katura Wright, Acting State Conservationist, NRCS, Bruce Eklund, NASS, Bob Blew, incoming State Board member, and Linda Walker, NJ Department of Agriculture.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

ON the MOTION of Paul Hlubik, seconded by Debbie Norz, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2023 regular meeting.

## **SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

President DeFrange thanked Dr. Ernest Beier for serving as his Vice President. He commented that they spent many hours talking on the phone during this past year and that he was always willing to listen and work together through some very tough times.

Secretary Fisher commented that it was great to have a veterinarian on the State Board and it really added a dimension that was needed. He thanked him for his dedicated service to New Jersey agriculture.

Ernest Beier commented that it had been his privilege to serve on the Board and with the members he had worked with as well as Department staff over the years.

Board member Kurt Alstede thanked both Dr. Beier and Dave DeFrange for their extended leadership roles.

At this time the new members, Bob Blew and David DeFrange, of the State Board were officially sworn-in by Legal Specialist Chris Laregina and took their seats around the table.

## **REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Holly Sytsema, Chair of the Nominating Committee reported that the Committee had met, and the following motion was made:

ON the MOTION of Barney Hollinger, seconded by Debbie Norz, Paul Hlubik was nominated as President of the State Board.

ON the MOTION of Barney Hollinger, seconded by Bob Blew, the Board voted unanimously to close the nominations for President.

The vote was unanimous in favor for Paul Hlubik as President of the State Board of Agriculture.

President Hlubik took over the meeting.

ON the MOTION of Holly Sytsema, seconded by Bob Blew, Debbie Norz was nominated as Vice President of the State Board.

ON the MOTION of Barney Hollinger, seconded by Bob Blew, the Board voted unanimously to close the nominations for Vice President.

The vote was unanimous in favor of Debbie Norz as Vice President of the State Board of Agriculture.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Burd, Mercer County Board of Agriculture, thanked Secretary Fisher for attending the recent event at Cream Ridge for the harvest and bottling event that he attended with the NJ Honey Queen Katie Holmes.

Diane Tribble and her husband Henry Rewerts reported again to the Board an ongoing situation on their farm that is being handled through the SADC. Materials had been provided to the members of the Board for their information prior to the meeting.

President Hlubik thanked them for providing the information but again commented that the State Board does not have oversight over the SADC.

Gail Walcott, Executive Director, NJ Landscape Contractors Association, presented Secretary Fisher with a plaque thanking him for his dedicated service to the New Jersey agricultural industry over the years.

President Hlubik and David DeFrance presented Secretary Douglas Fisher with a Proclamation from Governor Murphy thanking Secretary Fisher for his years of dedicated service to New Jersey. He announced that the State Board had made a contribution on his behalf to a local charity. Secretary Fisher received a standing ovation.

In recognition of Dairy month, there was an ice cream (NJ made) social and toppings courtesy of Alstede Farms. In addition, a video of heartfelt messages from many colleagues that Secretary Fisher has worked with over the years, including Governor Phil Murphy and US Senator Cory Booker, was played for the audience, and presented to Secretary Fisher.

Secretary Fisher commented that he was blown away by all the comments and the wonderful video that was produced and stated that he was proud of this time with the Department of Agriculture and the opportunity to work with the agricultural industry.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Fisher made the following comments:

Christina Hernandez and Sarah Mahmoud made a brief presentation on applying to be an approved vendor for the WIC and the FMNP programs, specifically if you have less than five acres. They provided a fact sheet for all the information to apply to these programs in a clear, concise format. The programs are run by the NJ Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture has an agreement to help provide information on the programs. He thanked them for their efforts with this.

Secretary Fisher gave brief comments about his tenure with the Department and thanked those who had worked with him. He thanked David DeFrance for his service to the State Board, he noted that he served that agricultural industry well during his tenure as President. Finally, he congratulated the newly elected President Paul Hlubik.

Chuck Roohr, Deputy Executive Director, SADC, reported that at their June 22 meeting, they voted to send the Soil Protections Standards to the NJ Register for publication, and that the earliest date for publication would be August 7. He noted that updates for the AMP updates had been sent to the Register for publication as well. In addition, he reported that they had been holding webinars to go over the Special Occasion Events rule and made an in-person presentation to the Somerset County Ag Development Board members and invited other County Ag Development Boards to participate. He stated that the webinar is posted to the website for any who might want to view it and there are several other presentations scheduled.

Board member Kurt Alstede asked about the status of the maps. Mr. Roohr commented that the SADC staff is working to have the maps go out simultaneously with the publication of the Soil Protection Standards Rule in the NJ Register.

Joe Atchison, Assistant Secretary, thanked Board members Kurt Alstede and Debbie Norz for their help in formulating the idea for the video and today's festivities. He thanked Jeff Wolfe, Jeff Beach and Christine Fries for their work on the actual video. He announced that National Blueberry Month would be celebrated on the boardwalks in Atlantic City, Seaside Heights and Wildwood on July 10. He will be attending NAAMO Conference in Reno, Nevada. In addition, he noted that he and Christine Fries would be in Boston, attending the New England Produce Council Show, August 21-23. He noted that all forms of the Jersey Fresh campaign are now running (cable tv ads, radio spots, beach event days, billboards, airplane banners, magazine ads) and getting out there in front of as many people as possible. He thanked Secretary Fisher for many great years of service.

Frank Minch, Director, Division of Agricultural & Natural Resources, reported that the DEP would be publishing the Inland Flood Rules in the July 17, 2023 New Jersey Register. He noted that he was reviewing the Comment Response document which is more than 100 pages. It was still being reviewed but there did not seem to be any substantive changes. In addition, he noted that the deer fencing program was open but there have been very few submissions. He noted that the information is posted on the Department website under Grants. In addition, he reported on an informational sheet that was prepared on harmful Algal Blooms that was also posted on the Department website as it concerns livestock and pets.

Rose Chamberlain, Director, Division of Food & Nutrition, reported that the Farm to School team has been and continues to be involved in several activities and recently presented at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office's Summit where they had the opportunity to present their program to all the other States in our region. They hope to work together on some projects going forward. She reported that the Summer Food Service Program was well underway, training of the summer monitors was currently being held and that there were 170 sponsors in this year's program. The School Nutrition program staff has been working to be sure that the schools are equipped to start the Working Class Families Act legislation starting this September. Our staff provides training for this and has prepared many guidance documents. She reported that we have a Contracts and Procurement Unit that reviews all the 800 School Food Authorities. To date they have approved 390 out of 443 food service management company contracts. Rose thanked Secretary Fisher for his leadership and mentorship over the past 12 years when she first came to State Government.

Dr. Sebastian Reist, Division of Animal Health, reported that there had been a quarantine for a horse that initially tested positive for EHM, but was later found that it was not. He reported that they had just received a chute and corral system as part of the emergency management planning and invited the Board to come and see it.

Joe Zoltowski, Director, Division of Plant Industry, thanked Secretary Fisher for all that he has done for the industry and for the Department staff. He announced that the Spotted Lanternfly reimbursement program has begun and there has been much interest. He reported that there are just a few more applications for the Gypsy Moth program.

### **REPORT OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Brian Schilling, represented the College and reported the following:

- Congratulated Secretary Fisher on his retirement and thanked him on behalf of the Experiment Station leadership, faculty, and staff. He stated that it had been an honor working with him.
- Food Technology Conference on the main campus with former Food Innovation Center Director Lou Cooperhouse as the keynote speaker talking about technology.
- Precision Agriculture – drone technology.
- Guidance from the Board of Managers for where they need to go for the Experiment Station and the Research farms and making substantial investments in each.
- Waiting for the budget to be released.
- NJALDP – Amy Blew is doing a great job as Chair of the Committee. He reported that acceptance letters had been sent for Class 12 to start in September.

### **REPORT OF NJ FARM BUREAU**

Peter Furey represented the Farm Bureau and provided a written update for the Board. He yielded his time for the Farm Bureau to commend Secretary Fisher for his years of dedicated service to the agricultural industry. He noted that over the years he has continued to provide leadership to the Department of Agriculture and the agricultural industry overall.

Board member Kurt Alstede asked about the new system for working papers and the roll out of the new electronic system. He encouraged all farmers to take advantage of the new program. Board member Debbie Norz reported that she had approval within hours of submitting paperwork.

It was asked about the SADC formula legislation, and it was noted that this Friday is the last day for action.

### **REPORT OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)**

Sarah Fenwick, representing the Farm Service Agency, report the following:

#### **County Committee (COC) Elections**

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. The COC assists in the delivery and administration of farm programs in the community and provide local agricultural guidance and insight to FSA staff. The nomination period is now open and will end August 1<sup>st</sup>. Additional information regarding the upcoming election can be found on the NJ FSA website and [fsa.usda.gov/news-room/county-committee-elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/news-room/county-committee-elections).

### **Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)**

The 2023 Organic Certification Cost Share Program is now open, and FSA will be accepting applications through October 31, 2023 for certification expenses paid October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. Organic producers will be reimbursed up to 75% of costs associated with organic certification, up to \$750 per scope (crops, wild crops, processing/handling).

### **Emergency Relief Program – Phase 2 (ERP Phase 2)**

Emergency Relief Program (ERP) and Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) assistance to crop and livestock producers who sustained losses due to a qualifying natural disaster event in calendar year 2022 has been announced (previously covered 2020 and 2021). USDA is sharing early information to allow producers time to gather documents in advance of program delivery. Through distribution of remaining funds, USDA is also concluding the 2021 ELRP program by sending payments in the amount of 20% of the initial ELRP payment to all existing recipients.

ERP is authorized under the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, which includes \$10 billion in assistance to agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021.

Phase Two builds on ERP Phase One, which was rolled out in May 2022.

Phase 2 is a tax year-based certification program that provides assistance for producers that suffered a loss in revenue due to necessary expenses associated with losses of eligible crops (excluding crops intended for grazing), due in whole or in part, to a qualifying disaster event that occurred in the 2020 or 2021 calendar year.

Qualifying natural disaster events include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions. The enrollment period for ERP Phase 2 began on January 23 and will run through July 14, 2023.

### **Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP)**

PARP is authorized and funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. PARP provides assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who suffered at least a 15% decrease in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to either 2018 or 2019 as elected by the applicant.

The enrollment period for PARP began on January 23 and will run through July 14, 2023. Since PARP has limited funding, no payments will be issued until after the enrollment period ends and a determination of whether a payment factor will apply is made.

### **Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces assistance for dairy producers with the new Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP). ODMAP is established to help mitigate market volatility, higher input and transportation costs, and unstable feed supply and prices that have created unique hardships in the organic dairy industry. Specifically, under the ODMAP, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is making \$104 million available to organic dairy operations to assist with projected marketing costs in 2023, calculated using their marketing costs in 2022.

FSA is providing financial assistance for a producer's projected marketing costs in 2023 based on their 2022 costs. ODMAP provides a one-time cost-share payment based on marketing costs on pounds of organic milk marketed in the 2022 calendar year. ODMAP provides financial assistance that will immediately support certified organic dairy operations during 2023 keeping organic dairy operations sustainable until markets return to more normal conditions. FSA will begin accepting applications for ODMAP on May 24, 2023. Eligible producers include certified organic dairy operations that produce milk from cows, goats and sheep.

The signup period opened May 24<sup>th</sup> and runs through July 26, 2023. Details about the Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program will be available and updated at [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov) as more details are released.

### **Loss Adjusters**

New Jersey Farm Service Agency is seeking Loss Adjusters (LAs) for the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Loss Adjusters are required to have knowledge of field crops and specialty crops, as well as a thorough understanding and execution of crop adjusting guidelines and program provisions, as applicable to FSA programs. If interested, please contact Aly Dyson, NJ FSA Farm Program Disaster Specialist, [Alyson.Dyson@usda.gov](mailto:Alyson.Dyson@usda.gov), with any questions.

## **REPORT OF NRCS**

Katura Wright, Acting State Conservationist, reported the following to the Board:

- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Improvements and Availability of Funding**
  - Applications for RCPP are being accepted now **through August 18** through the RCPP portal.
  - The 2023 RCPP funding priorities are projects that support climate-smart agriculture as well as urban agriculture and underserved farmers and ranchers.
- **Conservation Outcomes Webinar Series: Research on the Use of Precision Ag Technologies for Cropland Phosphorus Management**
  - On July 20 at 1:00 p.m. eastern, Dr. Douglas R. Smith from the USDA Agricultural Research Service's Grassland Soil and Water Research Laboratory will present research on the use of precision ag technologies to improve cropland phosphorus management.
  - Dr. Smith will share findings from collaborations with the USDA Conservation Effects Assessment Project, including field studies focused on reducing fertilizer runoff and increasing profitability by prioritizing high-yield areas for crop production.
  - No registration is required. If interested, the link to the webinar can be found on the NRCS website at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-outcomes-webinar](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-outcomes-webinar).

- **Funds to Advance Sustainable Technologies Now Available to New Jersey Shellfish Producers**
  - Funding is now available to New Jersey shellfish aquaculture producers to implement conservation practices that promote aquatic habitat on shellfish leases and enhance water quality through the NJ COASTAL Project, an RCPP agreement with the Ocean County Soil Conservation District (OCSCD).
  - The target area for this project is the state's coastal bays, with a focus on the Barnegat and Great Bay region.
  - Applications are due July 15.
- **USDA Seeks Members for Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production**
  - USDA is seeking nominations for four positions on the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.
  - Four positions are open for nominations including:
    - One individual representing urban agriculture.
    - One individual representing an institution of higher education or extension program.
    - One individual representing business and economic development, which may include a business development entity, community development initiatives, a chamber of commerce, a city government or a planning organization.
    - One individual representing related experience in urban, indoor, and other emerging agriculture production practices.
  - Nominations will be open to the public through July 15.
- **SAVE THE DATE: RCPP Easement Information Session**
  - The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) invites potential partners to join an information session to hear about Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) easements. The session will focus on easement-related aspects of RCPP project proposal development, project planning and implementation.
  - Wednesday, July 12, 2023 @ 2:00 pm ET
  - Join Meeting (Zoom)
  - Meeting ID: 160 940 1378  
Passcode: 803806

Organizations, institutions, conservation districts, states, Indian Tribes, and other groups are invited to partner with us through RCPP. For more information about RCPP and how to apply.

She noted that this would be her last meeting with the State Board as she has been transferred back to Georgia.

#### **REPORT OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)**

Bruce Eklund reported that New Jersey ranks fourth in floriculture. In addition, on July 19 the vegetable chem survey will be released. He noted that it is important for them to have this information as it is used for important data. He noted that on June 30 the data would be released for field crops, hay, soybeans, and corn.



## BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

President Hlubik called for Board member comments and Committee Reports.

Lisa Specca commented that she had a conflict with Ocean County and that the other counties were in recess for the summer. She commented that she had attended the training for transition to electronic WIC and it went well, everyone was professional, and it was well received. She noted there was a problem with the QR code that had been sent out and was discouraged but she was assured that they were moving forward and had replaced the codes that had been a problem and would stay on top of that. She noted that it seems at the state level things seem to be better but there were still issues at the county level. She is cautiously optimistic but believes that they are trying to make it work. She noted that she is working with Frank Minch on some of the issues that the Plastic Bag Ban Committee needed answers from the DEP staff. Frank will work with DEP to see what some options might be.

Holly Sytsema reported that in Sussex County the bear issue continues to be a problem. The bears are out, and many have 3 and 4 cubs. There have been 12 Category 1 Sightings already as of June 1. Officials are expecting a dramatically increased bear presence. She noted that they have experienced extremely dry conditions and the early crops are very stressed. Hay yields are also down.

Dave DeFrance reported that it has been very dry. He noted that the recent rain has been a very happy relief for the nursery industry. He thanked Secretary Fisher for his leadership and working side by side with the State Board of Agriculture over the past several years and wished him a great retirement. He reported that the Right to Farm Committee meeting would be held sometime in July.

Dave reported that the Grants Committee had met to discuss the Wine Industry Grants and made the following recommendation:

**Garden State Wine Growers (promotional)** – requested amount: \$497,275.62

Allotment suggested: **\$398,335.62**

**Application:** Funding marketing and public relations campaigns through all aspects of the media.

Continued support for Wine Trail Weekends and Wine Week. The purchase reusable cloth wine bags that will be available to all NJ wineries. Funding awards for a NJ wine competition.

**Garden State Wine Growers (research)** – requested amount: \$56,000.00

Allotment suggested: **\$56,000.00**

**Application:** 2<sup>nd</sup> year in of a planned multi-year Vineyard Floor Management Trial. Purchase equipment, seeds, and compost. Funding for soil health lab testing.

**Wine Advisory Council:** Larry Sharrott recused himself from grant discussion.

**Winemakers Co-Op (research)** – requested amount \$48,940.00

Allotment suggested: **\$42,940.00**

**Application:** Continued publishing New Jersey Grape & Wine Insider. Viticulture and vinification educational forum. Database of grapes grown in state by variety.

**Wine Advisory Council:** Allocated only \$2,500 for newsletter and completely removed the grape database.

ON the MOTION of David DeFrance, seconded by Debbie Norz, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Wine Industry Grants as presented.

Kurt Alstede reported that both deer and bear damage are a continued problem. He noted that depredation permits are harder to get. Everything was very dry and now everything is very wet. He has not heard of any significant hail. He noted that he would like to get a letter to RMA to have grape coverage extended to include Hunterdon and Mercer County.

ON the MOTION of Kurt Alstede, seconded by Debbie Norz, he made a motion that the Board send a letter to RMA seeking approval for grape crop insurance coverage to include Hunterdon and Mercer County.

Barney Hollinger reported to the Board that Cumberland County is on summer break and was not able to make Cape May's Board meeting. He noted that they just had rain last night but that it was pretty dry in the South. He congratulated Secretary Fisher and thanked him for his dedicated service.

Bob Blew commented that he was happy to finally be sworn-in and to attend a meeting.

Debbie Norz reported that the Board received a tentative schedule of the legislative tour scheduled for Cape May on July 13.

ON the MOTION of Debbie Norz, seconded by Barney Hollinger, the Board voted unanimously to re-send a letter on A5209 and S3615, the Agri-tourism Fund to include the Department of Agriculture.

ON the MOTION of Debbie Norz, seconded by Barney Hollinger, the Board voted unanimously to send a letter in opposition to A5262/S4050 that would move the Division of Food & Nutrition to Human Services. The letter would go to the Senate and Assembly sponsors as well as the Senate President and Assembly Speaker.

She reported that the Somerset Ag in Action was a huge success and there were more than 350 people in attendance at Puskas Dairy Farm and it was a well-received event. She congratulated Secretary Fisher on his retirement.

President Paul Hlubik asked for a moment of silence for a recent tragic farm accident in which a young life was lost.

He congratulated Secretary Fisher on his retirement. He held the industry together for several years and wished him well in the next chapter of his life. He thanked Debbie and Kurt for working with the Department staff on the day's events.

He attended the Middlesex County Board of Agriculture meeting at the fairgrounds, and it was an excellent meeting. He noted that in Burlington County he had not received much rain at all. He noted that the commodity prices were up and down depending on where you are located. He said that he heard that it was the most volatile weather since 1988.

There was a brief discussion regarding S2186 on the Invasive Species Taskforce and the hope that it will be paused until the fall.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Final Approval of Proposed Rulemaking – Adoption of Amendments to N.J.A.C. 2:1–3.3 (Administration)

The public comment period has ended with one public comment. If the Board acts in favor, the Notice of Adoption will be published in the NJ Register, and the amendments will become effective upon publication.

ON the MOTION of Lisa Specca, seconded by Holly Sytsema, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Adoption of Amendments to N.J.A.C. 2:1–3.3 pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.

#### Authorize Proposed Rulemaking – Proposal to Readopt N.J.A.C. 2:71 (Grading and Standards) with Amendments

If the Board acts in favor, the Notice of Proposal will be published in the NJ Register, followed by a 60-day public comment period, after which the Board can adopt the proposed rulemaking if it decides to do so.

ON the MOTION of Debbie Norz, seconded by Bob Blew, the Board voted unanimously to Authorize Proposed Rulemaking – Proposal to Readopt N.J.A.C. 2:71 (Grading and Standards) with Amendments pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.

#### Final Approval of Proposed Rulemaking – Readoption of N.J.A.C. 2:5 (Quarantines and Embargoes on Animals) with Amendments and New Rules

The public comment period has ended with two comments from the same person. If the Board acts in favor, the Notice of Adoption will be published in the NJ Register, and N.J.A.C. 2:5 will be readopted with the amendments & new rules that were proposed in March 2023.

ON the MOTION of Kurt Alstede, seconded by Lisa Specca, the Board voted unanimously to give final Approval of Proposed Rulemaking – Readoption of N.J.A.C. 2:5 (Quarantines and Embargoes on Animals) with Amendments and New Rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.

#### Outstanding Young Farmer

The Board was presented with the name of the candidate selected but was not announced until the winner could be notified.

ON the MOTION of Debbie Norz, seconded by Holly Sytsema, the Board voted unanimously to send the letter to the winner.

ON the MOTION of Debbie Norz, seconded by Barney Hollinger, the following motion was made: By June 30 the process regarding the Secretary of Agriculture position will be posted on the Department of Agriculture website. Requests for the information packets will not be sent until July 5.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lori Jensen, NJNLA, asked that the Board if they would consider sending a letter to the sponsors of the Invasive Species Taskforce to ask for additional time.

ON the MOTION of Barney Hollinger, seconded by Bob Blew, the Board voted unanimously to send a letter.

#### **RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

ON the MOTION of Debbie Norz, seconded by Barney Hollinger, the Resolution for Executive Session was read:

*"The Board adopts a resolution to enter executive session pursuant to NJSA 10:4-12(b)(7) pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than in subsection b.(4) herein in which the public body is, or may become, a party, or matters falling within the attorney-client privilege.*

*The Board will not disclose those issues covered by attorney client privilege."*

ON the MOTION of Barney Hollinger, seconded by Lisa Specca, the Board voted to go back into the public section of the meeting.

#### **MEETINGS**

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Agriculture will be held on Wednesday, June 26 at the Norz Hill Farm in Hillsborough.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

ON the MOTION of Bob Blew, seconded by Lisa Specca, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 4:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joe Atchison III  
Assistant Secretary of Agriculture