**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

 **MINUTES**

**TELE-CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 14, 2022**

The March meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Doug Fisher at 9:35 A.M. 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 front door of the 200 Riverview 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** John Showler, SSCC, NJDA

Douglas Fisher Tim Fekete, SSCC, NJDA

Joe Lomax Matt D’Alessandro, S/U SCD

Edwin Munoz NRCS (rep J. Hawkins) Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep L. Lawson) Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Ray Cywinski R Reitmeyer, Burl. SCD

Louise Davis Lily Mehl, NJACD

Mike Haberland Tony DiLodovico

Vince Mazzei

Dennis Dougherty

Sylvia Kovacs

Mike Rigolizzo

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

 **MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2021 MEETING**

On motion by Mr. Lomax second by Dr. Murphy, the minutes of the December 14, 2021 meeting were approved.

**CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS**

 A discussion was held regarding hybrid meetings vs. virtual meetings. Secretary Fisher indicated that, at present, the Department doesn’t have the capability for hybrid meetings. SADC is working toward this for the first floor conference room.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT**

1. **Supervisor Sabbatical (Camden)-** In accordance with the Supervisor Policy regarding Sabbaticals, on motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Dr. Murphy, Camden SCD Supervisor Ed Madden was approved for a sabbatical through June. Mr. Dougherty and Mr. Rigolizzo recused.
2. **Supervisor Reappointment letters-** In approximately one or two weeks letters will be sent to SCD Supervisors whose terms will be expiring at the end of June.

 **SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT**

1. **Vernon Township Ordinance**- The town has voluntarily relinquished control of soil erosion and sediment control responsibilities to the Upper Delaware SCD. On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Davis, with a roll call vote, Cywinski, Davis, Lomax, Murphy, Haberland, Mazzei and Dougherty voted yes. Ms. Kovacs recused.
2. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler provided a brief overview regarding some of his recent activities including plan reviews, district assistance, training and field visits. This included assisting the Bergen SCD with a review of a repair to the outlet structure of Flamms Pond which was damaged during Hurricane Ida. In addition, Mr. Showler is preparing updates to several standards including Stability and Sediment Basin Design, as well as researching other ideas related to solar array construction and construction sequencing.

Technical Bulletin 2022- [01], Uploading drainage reports to Basin Summary Database in lieu of certain data entry requirements, was presented to the State Soil Conservation Committee. The purpose of this bulletin is to modify certain data entry procedures for collecting stormwater management basin design information submitted to Districts as part of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program.

Mr. Showler reported that the forms for the Exempt Municipality Report will be sent to the proper Districts shortly.

 **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE**

1. NRCS is in the process of packing. In September they will be moving from their current location (Somerset) and will be co-locating with USDA-FSA (Hamilton).
2. All NRCS offices are open to the public.
3. The first meeting of the new Urban Agriculture Committee will be held at the beginning of April .
4. Nick Saumweber has been detailed to Texas for several months.
5. The Omnibus Funding Bill has passed and signed into law. USDA-NRCS will have funding through the end of the year.

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**NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Ms. Davis and Mr. Cywinski reported on the activities of the NJACD and NACD including the following:

1. The Partnership meeting is scheduled for March 28th at the Freehold SCD office. To date, 60 individuals are registered to attend in person and 30 virtually.
2. The NJ Envirothon will be held virtually this year. The National Envirothon will be held in person.
3. Legislative outreach will be discussed at the NJACD meeting.
4. The NACD Annual Conference was held in Orlando, Florida. There were approximately 700 individuals in attendance (down from approximately 1,100).

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Mr. Mazzei reported on the following:

1. Updates on partnering for staff training.
2. Increased precipitation has caused increased run-off, which, in turn, has caused increased flooding.

**RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Mr. Haberland reported on the following:

1. NJAES- Working to Strengthen partnership with SCDs, NRCS and NJDA.
2. A meeting was held regarding Soil Health which has been deemed a priority.
3. The search for a Cape May Extension agent is coming to a conclusion.
4. Several agents will be retiring in the near future.

**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. The students are on spring break.
2. A symposium “Soil Health Connections” is being held tomorrow.
3. The Rutgers turfgrass meeting will be held Thursday.
4. The Turfgrass Center reported that there are 953,000 acres of turfgrass in NJ and turfgrass adds $4.9 million to the NJ economy.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch, Division Director

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