

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
MINUTES  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY  
JUNE 10, 2013**

The June meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:50 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)

John Kocubinski

Carrie Mosley

Tony DiLodovico

Sean Moriarity, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

Dr. Ferdows Ali, SSSC, NJDA

R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Ines Grimm, Freehold SCD

Bill Brash, Mercer SCD

Bob Dobbs, Camden SCD

Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Dr. Bill Pollock, Ocean SCD

Don Knezick, Burlington SCD

Paul Hlubik, FSA

Jason Dorney, Weaver Express

Wm Hannemann, Aqualete Ind.

James Crech, Aqualete Ind.

Chris Sztenderowicz, MCS

Amy Karpati, PPA

## MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, and second by Mr. Lomax, the minutes of the April 8, 2013 meeting were approved. Mr. Kocubinski abstained.

## 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 4/1/13 to 5/31/13, 25 agricultural water registrations and certifications were approved in the following counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem and Warren.
3. **Animal Waste Management Plans-** To date, 591 plans have been received statewide. Hunterdon, Salem and Warren counties have the most plans.
4. **H & H Database update-** Mr. Showler has met with OIT regarding the migration of the H & H database. This is a lengthy process but it is moving forward. Rutgers is committed to assist in resolving past problems.
5. **Performance Measures-** Mr. Minch emphasized that it is crucial this information be submitted in a timely fashion as it is compiled and reported to the governor's office on a monthly basis.

## SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **2:90 Rules/Standards-** Mr. Minch reported that this project is in the midst of a two tier legal review at the Governor's Office. Staff is addressing comments and the goal is to publish the rules in the July issue of the NJ Register and implement these rules starting in September. Pertaining to the two remaining standards, land grading and top soiling, the work group will be convened to discuss the cost/benefits and alternative approaches.
2. **Hurricane Sandy Emergency Administrative Order-** Staff is awaiting feedback from the Governor's Office. Only substantial change proposed by the administration to date has been a 180 day cap or threshold.

A motion was made by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Mr. Lomax, to authorize Secretary Fisher to issue this Administrative Order subject to non-substantial changes.

3. **Compost Filter Sock** – The filter sock working group met at the Mercer SCD on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Its first task was to develop guiding principles for seven filtration management practices. This task force is drafting a report of findings and recommendations which should be completed for SSCC review and action by the next SSCC meeting.
4. **Engineering Issues-** Mr. Showler reviewed Technical Bulletin 2013-1.0, recognizing the WTS2000 Portable Sediment Tank, manufactured by Aqualete Industries, for use in compliance with the Standard for Dewatering. The device was tested on several sites in New Jersey for sediment removal with results analyzed by Rutgers University labs. Mr. William Hannemann, owner and CEO of Aqualete Industries, gave a brief overview of the system, and requested approval by the SSCC for use in dewatering, in conformance with that Standard and current policy for new product approval (page vii of the 1999 Standards) which states,

“Questions regarding the acceptability of a product or material should be directed to State Soil Conservation Committee for consideration and approval for use in New Jersey. New products may be conditionally approved pending verification by actual Use in erosion control projects in New Jersey”.

Mr. Lomax indicated that it was his understanding that the SSCC would be approving new procedures and technologies but not endorsing particular products. Mr. Minch stated that it is not endorsing a product it is simply stating that the product meets the standard. After much discussion the SSCC decided to review the draft procedure for product testing and take action at the next meeting.

Mr. Showler also reviewed the Policy for Engineering Credits. Authorization from the State Board of Professional Engineers was granted to issue continuing educational credits for technical training as long as certain criteria are maintained.

5. **District Supervisor Appointments-** Mr. Minch provided a summary of the SSCC Supervisor Nomination Review Committee recommendations.

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax, the following supervisors who met performance standards were approved and reappointed to three (3) year terms ending 6/30/16, Geraldine Byrne (Bergen), Donald Knezick (Burlington), Allen Carter, Jr. (Cape-Atlantic), Donald Patterson (Freehold), Mike Visalli and Jeffrey Gellenthin (Gloucester), Matthew Ward (HEP), Michael Matthews and Gregory Manners (Hunterdon), Marc Slaff (Morris), Charlene Costaris and Martha Maxwell-Doyle (Ocean), James Laine and Mark Kirby (Somerset-Union) and Anthony Wyhopen (Warren)

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, Priscilla Hayes (Mercer) was reappointed to a three (3) year term ending 6/30/16. Ms. Hayes abstained from voting and left the room during the voting.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Dr. Murphy, Ms. Rosko (Sussex) was reappointed to a three (3) year term ending 6/30/16. Ms. Rosko abstained from voting and left the room during the vote.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, John Rigolizzo and Louis Parzanese (Camden), David Welch (Morris) and Ronald Peterson (Warren) were approved for a six month provisional appointment ending December 31, 2013. None have fulfilled the four (4) point training requirement.

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Kocubinski, Carl Mecky (Bergen) was approved for a six month provisional appointment ending December 31, 2013. Mr. Mecky has not fulfilled the annual conference requirement. Mr. Cywinski abstained from voting.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Dr. Murphy, Roger Gravatt (Freehold) was approved for a one month extension of his board appointment ending July 31, 2013. Mr. Gravatt has not attained the required 70% mandatory attendance at Freehold District meetings. This extension will enable the SCD to determine the accuracy of this information.

Three (3) supervisors are not seeking reappointment, Walter Ricker (Sussex), Vince Farias (Burlington) and Frank Lanning (Cumb./ Salem).

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the following individual, Matthew Fox, the Sussex Nominating Committee preference was approved and appointed to three (3) year term ending 6/30/16. Mr. Fox is a civil engineer and surveyor. Ms. Rosko abstained from voting.

Traditionally the Burlington SCD has a Freeholder representative on their board. Since Mr. Farias is retiring the district proposed to fill Mr. Farias' position with another Freeholder. It is SSCC policy that a district submit two nominees when filling a vacant position. The Burlington SCD Nominating Committee is in the process of obtaining a second nominee.

The Cumberland/Salem SCD is seeking two qualified candidates.

A discussion was held regarding training credits for agricultural district sponsored tours and volunteering for various sub-committees.

6. **Exempt Municipalities Report-** Mr. Showler presented the Fiscal Year 2012 Exempt Municipality Review to the SSCC. Of the 22 Exempt Municipalities, 19 received satisfactory ratings and 3 (Sayreville Boro, Mountian Lakes Boro and Newark City) received conditional satisfactory ratings.

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Hayes, the 2012 Exempt Municipalities report was approved.

7. **District Services-** A discussion was held regarding opportunities and other avenues of additional revenue for districts. Mr. DiLodovico reported on a DEP meeting which he attended regarding enforcement, compliance, inspections and more uniform ways of operating. Overlapping functions, partnering and leveraging may be beneficial for both DEP and the districts. In addition, watershed grants and/or 319 grants may be an opportunity for the districts to obtain additional revenue. A synopsis of the various prospects will be compiled by Mr. DiLodovico and presented at the next meeting.
8. **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. DiLodovico provided a brief update regarding the progress of this sub-committee.
- Secretary Fisher requested draft reports from all sub-committees within 90 days.

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM (FPCSP)**

Mr. Fekete reported on the following:

- **New Applications** - On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, the following Priority I applications were approved, pending the funding approval of State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)\*.

**PRIORITY I- PERMANENTLY DEED RESTRICTED**

<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Requested</u>
Glouc.	Sorbello & Wheeler Agent for R Wheeler & R Catalano	Irrigation	\$22,400.00
Salem	M & C Foote	Water Impoundment Res	\$17,550.00

1. **Extension Requests-** A request from Ralph & John Formisano of Atlantic County (\$28,750.00) for a twelve (12) month extension for an irrigation project. The Formisano family was experiencing financial difficulties but is now in a position to complete this project. On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Mr. Cywinski, this 12 month extension request was approved.
2. A request from JSM Blueberries, LLC of Atlantic County (\$34,400.00) for a twelve (12) month extension for an irrigation project. JSM Blueberries, LLC was experiencing financial difficulties but is now in a position to complete this project. On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Mr. Cywinski, this 12 month extension request was approved.

## **CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

1. **NJ Envirothon-** The 2013 NJ Envirothon was held May 4<sup>th</sup> at Camp Kettle Run in Medford. The MATES (Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science) Team #2 placed first. The 2014 Envirothon will be held at the School of Conservation in Sussex County. Mr. Belcher thanked the Burlington SCD and all of the many volunteers who made this event such a success. Secretary Fisher expressed his appreciation to Mr. Belcher for his dedication and hard work over the past 20 years of working on the NJ Envirothon.
2. **Poster Awards Ceremony-** This event took place at the State Museum auditorium on May 23rd. The 2013 state poster winners & Envirothon winners were honored.
3. **Folders-** NJACD funded production of 4,000 folders with copies of the 2012 and 2013 NJ Grand Champion poster winner. These folders will be distributed to the districts and utilized as promotional material.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Ms. Mosley reported that the Emergency Watershed program has completed 13 municipal agreements and obligated \$2.7 million to date to assist in cleanup after Hurricane Sandy. Money not utilized in this effort will be rolled over and utilized for flood plain easements. NRCS is hoping to leverage funds with NJDEP and the Blue Acres program. NRCS is closely watching Congress debate the proposed Farm Bill. In addition, NJ-NRCS is obligating the balance of funds from the present Farm Bill. This must be accomplished by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The State Technical meeting is scheduled for next week and will be held at Duke Farms. Soil sampling of the Barnegat Bay has resumed.

## **FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

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

## **NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Ms. Hayes reported that the Association has been busy with co-sponsoring regional meetings, NJ Envirothon and the Poster Contest. The Association would like to explore the possibility of funding from NJDA to assist in funding the recently held regional meetings and the joint conservation conference which will be held in October.

## **NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Mr. McLendon reported on the clean-up efforts from Hurricane Sandy and the personnel changes taking place at NJ-DEP.

**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. University wide commencement was held Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The number of graduates was in excess of 14,000.
2. Plant Pest Advisory is now free of charge.
3. A calendar of upcoming events, meetings and conferences was reviewed.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 PM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held September 9, 2013 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch