

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
NOVEMBER 13, 2012**

The November meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Monique Purcell at 9:51 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, 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

Monique Purcell

Ray Cywinski

Tony DiLodovico

Joe Lomax

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R Goodman)

John Kocubinski

Priscilla E. Hayes

Brian McLendon (rep. B Martin)

Sean Moriarity, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch

Dr. F. Ali, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

Mario Tridente, HEP SCD

Victor DeVasto, Gloucester SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Douglas Widman- Att., FSCD

Ines Grimm, Freehold SCD

Charlie Buscaglia, Freehold SCD

Paul Hlubik, FSA

Bill Brash, Mercer SCD

E. George-Cheniara- NJBA

Amy Karpati- PPA

Minutes of September Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. DiLodovico, and second by Mr. Lomax, the minutes of the September 10, 2012 meeting were approved. Mr. Kocubinski abstained.

Minutes of October Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Lomax, and second by Mr. DiLodovico, to table approval of the October SSCC meeting minutes so as to incorporate more details into the final version.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Ms. Purcell is filling in for Secretary Fisher who is attending the Farm Bureau Convention in Princeton.

It is anticipated that the State Planning Commission is set to adopt the revised State Plan.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **2:90 Rule Publication-** Due to the number of comments received, and the detail of these comments, the sub-committees are still in the comment review process. It is hoped that this will be completed by the January meeting.
2. **Annual Conservation Conference-** The conference is scheduled for November 19, 2012 at the National Conference Center in E. Windsor. To date, 87 individuals are registered. Ms. George- Chenaria thanked the committee for the invitation to the conference. She requested an agenda for the meeting.
3. **2013 SSCC Meeting Schedule-** On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. DiLodovico, the 2013 SSCC meeting schedule was approved. Two (2) additional meeting dates are being scheduled, bringing the total to eight (8) for the year.
4. **Action Items-** Mr. Minch reviewed the list and brought the Committee up to date with these action items (copy attached). Mr. Lomax requested a tracking system for administrative bulletins. A lengthy discussion ensued.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **NJ Conservation District Workgroups-** Mr. Minch reviewed Resolution 2012-2 Conservation Partnership Subcommittees and Attachment A, which detailed membership.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, Resolution 2012-2 and attachment A were adopted with the addition of Dr. Murphy on the training committee.

There will be a uniform "kick off" meeting being held at the Freehold office Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 9 AM. All sub-committees will meet at the same time and location.

2. **Permit Extension Act-** The Permit Extension Act of 2008 became effective September 6, 2008. On September 21, 2012, Gov. Christie signed an amendment to the Permit Extension Act which provides for an additional extension until December 31, 2014.

A letter was sent to all district managers and chairpersons outlining this extension.

3. **Gloucester SCD Supervisor Appt.** – Dale Ledden, a long time district supervisor has retired. The nominating review committee reviewed the nominations of two (2) eminently qualified candidates to replace Mr. Ledden, Jeffrey Gellenthin and John Grasso. The nominating committee recommended Mr. Gelenthin, a former district supervisor to complete Mr. Ledden’s term which runs through June 30, 2013. It is noted that Mr. Gellenthin, a land surveyor, serves on the district nominating committee. The Nominating Committee minutes reflect that he abstained from the voting and left the room for both discussion and voting.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, Mr. Gellenthin was approved to serve on the Gloucester Board to complete Mr. Ledden’s term.

Mr. Lomax indicated it would only be right and appropriate that the SSCC have a resolution for next meeting commending Mr. Ledden’s many years of dedicated service and contributions to the conservation movement.

4. **Cape/Atlantic Fee Schedule Modification-** SSCC staff recommends the wording regarding clarification of mobile or manufactured housing being included in with “Single Family Lots” category. There are no fee changes

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Dr. Murphy, mobile and/or manufactured housing was moved from “Site Plans” to “Single Family Lots”

5. **HEP Schedule Modification-** Mr. Minch reported there a several outstanding items which are still being addressed regarding the completion of the updating of the HEP fee schedule. It is anticipated that this will be completed shortly and ready for presentation to the Committee for the January meeting.

6. **Application Form Addendum-** Freehold SCD legal counsel, Doug Widman, spoke regarding updated language on the Chapter 251 addendum to further disclose the ownership interest in a project. This form will be reviewed by DAG Moriarity, especially the penalty section, and it is anticipated it will be completed for action for the next SSCC meeting.

7. **Engineering Issues-** Mr. Showler provided an overview regarding numerous projects he has been involved with during the last several months including, stormwater rule review for Metro Farms, Closter, NJ, stormwater basin database status, erosion control standards and assistance to the Cumberland/Salem and Bergen SCDs.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM (FPCSP)

Mr. Fekete reported on the following:

- **New Applications** - On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, 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>
Gloucester	Sorbello, Wheeler	Irrigation	\$20,000.00
Gloucester	Brown Bros	Irrigation	\$27,257.88
Monmouth	J&J Jannuzzelli	Livestock Water Fac	\$10,548.12
Ocean	Hallock U Pick	Irrigation	\$6,750.00

*All applications will be forwarded to the SADC once funding is available. 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.

- **Cost Share Payments Processed** – Since September three (3) payment requests were processed to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) totaling \$22,936.50 representing the State share for completed and functioning practices. They include 2 irrigation projects and 1 underground drainage project. The value of these projects exceeds \$47,680.
- **Extension Requests-** A request from Steve & Audrey Gambino of Warren County (\$7,200) for a twelve (12) month extension for an irrigation well. Due to various issues such as weather, time and money the cost share project wasn't completed. On motion by Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax this extension request was approved. A request from Samuel Musumeci of Salem County (\$10,000) for a twelve (12) month extension for a water impoundment reservoir project. Due to various issues such as weather, illness, and DEP approval the cost share project wasn't completed. On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski this extension request was approved.

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	316.9	3.1	304.26
Grassed Waterway (acres)	0	127.6	1.2	106.83
Lined Waterway (feet)	0	67,057	0	20,646
Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	0	221.9	0	191.1
Number of Contracts	0	166	2	154
Funds Obligated/Expended	\$0	\$368,492.62	\$2,846.50	\$290,380.09

*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 on the following:

1. **NJ Envirothon-** The 2013 NJ Envirothon will be held May 4th at Camp Kettle Run in Medford.
2. **Canon Envirothon-** Will now be known as the North American Envirothon. Canon is cutting funding to this function.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mr. Hlubik reported on the following:

1. There is no budget or Farm Bill, Congress is working on a continuing resolution.
2. **NJ State Conservationist-** Carrie Mosley assumed the position of NJ State Conservationist last week. She will be attending the Annual Conservation Conference next week.
3. **Emergency Watershed Protection Program-** Potential for emergency funds for municipalities and public entities.
4. **Aquaculture Industry-** The aquaculture industry has been devastated because of Hurricane Sandy. There is \$15.5 in the ECP program under the Stafford Act for repairs, this is a 75/25 cost share.
5. **High Tunnel Greenhouses-** Many high tunnel greenhouses were destroyed in the hurricane and replacement of same is not eligible for cost share funding. A request has been sent to Washington in an effort to change that policy.
6. The interest rate for the Emergency Conservation Loan program is 2.125%
7. Any livestock loss due to the hurricane should have third party documentation (vet, extension agent, rendering receipt).

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

No report

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon reported that DEP has been extremely busy in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. Some department staff is working 12 – 16 hour days coordinating the department's efforts. Because of sewer plant shutdowns, much effort has gone into securing alternate disposal of sludge, both within and outside of the state. Clean up will be a monumental task. Recovery is taking precedence. There is a general understanding that all permits related to clean up are suspended until this emergency is abated. A discussion was held regarding guidance to SCDs so demolition and clean-up is handled uniformly.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. State Climatologist indicates Hurricane Sandy is the fourth 100 year storm since 1991.
2. Much data has been collected regarding the storm in an effort to increase forecasting accuracy in the future.
3. Dr. Owen Orton was inducted into the NJ Inventors Hall of Fame. Dr. Orton breeds woody ornamentals such as dogwood and Holly. He holds over 15 plant patents.
4. The Center For Urban Restoration and Ecology is conducting research in an effort to reestablish the American Chestnut, Chinese Chestnut and hybrid tree in forests.
5. Dr. Reed Funk passed away recently. He was known for his breeding efforts in the turf grasses and nut trees.
6. There has been a greater effort towards incorporating soil science into 4-H.

Public Comment

None

- Mr. Minch reiterated the importance of the districts timely reporting in regards to monthly inspection numbers and performance measures. The Christie Administration is placing tremendous emphasis on this information. Budgets are being based on these performance measures.
- Mr. Lomax has revised and updated the "Roles and Responsibilities" and "Partnership Guides and Principles" and is presenting them for review and consideration by the SSCC.
- Early registration for the NACD meeting in San Antonio, TX ends 10/30.
- The vegetative dunes on the barrier islands of Cape May County helped to minimize the damage of Hurricane Sandy in those communities. It has become known that the Cape May Plant Materials center is in danger of being shut down. The success of these dunes is a further compelling reason to keep the center open. It provides technical assistance and plant materials from Cape Cod to the Outer Banks.

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 AM.
All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held January 14, 2013 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch