



State of New Jersey

**BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**April 27, 2026**

**(Monday)**

Public meeting notice was certified by communication on April 24, 2026.

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 Trenton Times; the Philadelphia Inquirer and filed with the Office of the Secretary of State.

President Bob Blew called the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture to order at 11:00 am. Board members in attendance included President Bob Blew; Vice President Stephen V. Lee, IV, David DeFrango, John Hart, Joel Viereck, Rick Gardner, Hillary Barile and Holly Sytsema. The meeting was held on TEAMS, Trenton, NJ.

Also in attendance were Secretary Wengryn; Assistant Secretary Joe Atchison; Tim Idland; Ashley Kerr, NJ Farm Bureau and Linda Walker, NJ Department of Agriculture.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board adopts a resolution to enter into executive session pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(8), to evaluate the performance of an employee. The Board will evaluate the employees' performance in implementing strategic outreach to stakeholders and in reviewing and implementing hiring practices in the Department.

The Board will disclose the contents of the closed session as soon as we are able to do so. Minutes will be approved at a future Board meeting.

ON the MOTION of Stephen Lee, seconded by Rick Gardner, the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session.

ON the MOTION of Stephen Lee, seconded by Rick Gardner, the Board voted unanimously to go back into the public session of the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

ON the MOTION of Stephen Lee, Chair of the Personnel Committee reported that they would like to reclassify the position of Chief of Staff, currently held by Tameko Webster, to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Chief Operating Officer, that would be consistent with those salary provisions for that new classification.

Rick Gardner seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote, all members approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

ON the MOTION of Stephen Lee, seconded by Rick Gardner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the special meeting at 1: 05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward D. Wengryn