

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
MINUTES  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY  
JUNE 10, 2019**

The June meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:49 A.M. at the Health and Agriculture Building in 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

Joe Lomax

Matt Ward

John Kocubinski

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Carrie Lindig

Tony DiLodovico

Sylvia Kovacs

Cristin Mustillo, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Jean Baluski, Ocean SCD

Matt D'Alessandro, HEP SCD

Christina LaBianca, Freehold SCD

Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD

Paul Schiariti, Mercer SCD

Theodora Wang, Mercer SCD

Grant Lucking. NJBA

## MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2019 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Cywinski, the minutes of the March 11, 2019 meeting were approved.

Secretary Fisher mentioned, that, in the near future the Department will be moving from the Health and Agriculture Building to 200 Riverview Plaza (3<sup>rd</sup> floor).

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **Sussex Update-** Consolidation and merger have been discussed by both the Sussex and Warren SCD Boards. To date, the Sussex SCD has relocated to the Warren SCD office to allow for better oversight.
2. **Supervisor Appointments-**

**Category 1 Supervisors-** On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the following Category 1 supervisors, "Supervisor Re-nominations that met Supervisor Performance Standards for 3-year term ending June 30, 2022, were re-appointed by the SSCC: Carl Mecky (Bergen), Geraldine Byrne (Bergen), Gina Berg (Burlington), Audrey Winzinger (Burlington), Michael Rigolizzo (Camden), Thomas Tedesco (Cumberland-Salem), Greg Manners (Hunterdon), Michael Mathews (Hunterdon), Marc Slaff (Morris), Charlene Costaris (Ocean), Martha Maxwell-Doyle (Ocean), Mark Kirby (Somerset-Union), James Laine (Somerset-Union) and Marilyn Miller Heath (Warren).

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax, Matt Ward (HEP) was re-appointed for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2022. Mr. Ward abstained from voting.

**Category 2 Supervisors- "Supervisor Re-nominations that did not meet Supervisor Performance Standards"-** An extremely lengthy discussion was held regarding the merits of, and conditions for, granting waivers. In the end, each nomination was determined individually. On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Kovacs, the waiver for Allen Carter (attending only one business meeting) was approved by roll call vote (Lomax- recuse, Cywinski- yes, Ward- yes, Kocubiski- yes, Kovacs- yes, Murphy- yes, DiLodovico- yes) and Mr. Carter was re-appointed to the Cape-Atlantic SCD Board for a three-year term which expires June 30, 2022. On motion by Mr. Ward, second by Mr. Lomax, the waiver for Donald Patterson (not attaining 70% meeting percentage and attending only one business meeting) was approved by a roll call vote (Lomax- yes, Cywinski- yes, Ward- yes, Kocubiski- yes, Kovacs- yes, Murphy- yes, DiLodovico- yes) and Mr. Patterson was re-appointed to the Freehold SCD Board for a three-year term which expires June 30, 2022. On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the waiver for Roger Gravatt (attending only one business meeting) was approved by roll call vote (Lomax- yes, Cywinski- yes, Ward- yes, Kocubiski- yes, Kovacs- yes, Murphy- yes, DiLodovico- yes) and Mr. Gravatt was re-appointed to the Freehold SCD Board for a three-year term which expires June 30, 2022. On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the waiver for Jess Everett (not attending any business meetings) who was on sabbatical from teaching at Rowan University was approved by roll call vote (Lomax- yes, Cywinski- yes, Ward- yes for one time for sabbatical, Kocubiski- yes, Kovacs- yes, Murphy- yes, DiLodovico- yes) and Mr. Everett was re-appointed to the Gloucester SCD Board for a three-year term which expires June 30, 2022.

The nomination for Mike Visalli (Gloucester) was tabled while information regarding Mr. Visalli's meeting attendance is obtained. On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the waiver for Theodora Wang (attending only one business meeting) was approved by roll call vote (Lomax- yes, Cywinski- yes, Ward- yes, Kocubiski- yes, Kovacs- yes, Murphy- yes, DiLodovico- yes) and Ms. Wang was re-appointed to the Mercer SCD Board for a three-year term which expires June 30, 2022. On motion by Dr. Murphy, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the waiver for Matthew Fox (attending only one business meeting) was approved by roll call vote (Lomax- yes, Cywinski- yes, Ward- yes, Kocubiski- yes, Kovacs- abstain, Murphy- yes, DiLodovico- yes) and Mr. Fox was re-appointed to the Sussex SCD Board for a three-year term which expires June 30, 2022. . On motion by Mr. Ward, second by Mr. Lomax, the waiver for George Ulmer (not attending any business meetings) was approved by roll call vote (Lomax- yes, Cywinski- yes, Ward- yes, Kocubiski- yes, Kovacs- recuse, Murphy- yes, DiLodovico- yes) and Mr. Ulmer was re-appointed to the Warren SCD Board for a three-year term which expires June 30, 2022.

**Category 3.- New Supervisor Appointments for 3-year term ending June 30, 2002**

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Kovacs, Robert Danowski (Morris) was appointed by the SSCC to a three-year term which expires June 30, 2022. Mr. Danowski is replacing Nicholas Platt on the Morris SCD Board. Mr. Platt was not seeking re-appointment.

**Category 4.- New Supervisor Appointments for 2-year term ending June 30, 2021**

On motion by Mr. Ward, second by Dr. Murphy, Cormac Morrissey was appointed to the Cape-Atlantic SCD Board to replace Dan Galletta who is retiring. Mr. Lomax recused.

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax, Elizabeth Hite Vollavanh was appointed to the H.E.P. SCD Board to replace John Sarnas who is retiring. Mr. Ward recused.

## **SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT**

1. **Exempt Municipality Report-** Mr. Showler presented the Exempt Municipality Review Report to the Committee members. Newark City (HEP SCD) received a conditionally satisfactory rating. Wayne Township (HEP SCD) and Sayerville Boro (Freehold SCD) both received an unsatisfactory rating. Mr. Minch and Mr. D'Alessandro, Assistant Manager of the HEP SCD, spoke to the Committee members regarding Wayne Township and Newark City. The issues with Newark are more administrative and the District is working with the city to correct the deficiencies. Due to training and education it appears Wayne Township has made improvements.

Ms. Zimmerman spoke regarding the unsatisfactory rating for Sayerville Boro. This is not the first unsatisfactory rating for the municipality. The Freehold SCD has met with and trained the Sayerville Boro employees responsible for enforcing the program. Unfortunately, the program continues to be administered unsatisfactorily. Due to both administrative and procedural deficiencies, the Freehold District is requesting Sayerville's exempt status be revoked. A very lengthy discussion was held regarding this matter. Due to the failure of Sayerville Boro to effectively meet their statutory obligation to administer the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program, which causes a public, health and safety issue, a motion was made by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Ward, to revoke the exempt status of Sayerville Boro. At 11:02 AM a motion was made by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Kovacs, voted on and approved to go into executive session to discuss matters pertaining to Sayerville's exempt status. At 11:15 AM the meeting was re-convened and a roll call vote was taken (Lomax- yes, Cywinski- yes, Ward- yes, Kocubiski- yes, Kovacs- yes, Murphy- yes, DiLodovico- recused). The SSCC Board has approved revoking the exempt status of Sayerville Boro.

2. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on some of his work activities over the last several months, including training and assistance, Basin Inspection Program, NJ Stormwater Utility Subcommittee and agriculture compliance with NJDEP Stormwater Rules.
3. **Plan Certification/Distribution-** Mr. Minch requested a formal clarification from Ms. Mustillo regarding the administrative procedures governing soil erosion and sediment control plan “certification” and what is meant by “District” with respect to plan approval authorities.
4. **Soil Restoration Notification-** Department of Community Affairs (DCA) code officials approached Mr. Minch and requested, if possible, that when the districts issue a certification letter that a sentence be added stating, “The project is subject to soil restoration standards.”

### **CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Mr. Belcher provided the following update:

- **2019 NJ Envirothon-** was hosted by the Camden SCD on May 11<sup>th</sup> in Waterford Township. 25 teams competed, 11 camped overnight. M.A.T.E.S. Team #1 placed first (last year they were second). Mr. Belcher thanked the 87 volunteers who worked the Envirothon. Secretary Fisher thanked Mr. Belcher for his hard work and dedication as coordinator of the NJ Envirothon for the 26<sup>th</sup> year.
- **Poster Awards ceremony-** Was held on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the State Museum. Over 70 individuals attended this event.

### **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

Ms. Lindig reported on the following:

- Cassie Wang, perennial Grand Champion of the NJ poster contest, was a volunteer at NJ-NRCS last year.
- NRCS participated in an NACD webinar regarding the H&H database which featured a presentation by Joe Lomax and John Showler .
- The State Technical Committee meeting will be held on June 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a tour of urban farms highlighting urban conservation in the Newark area.
- Chad Cherefko has accepted a position with NRCS Hawaii. Barb Phillips announced her retirement effective at the end of July.
- In the new Farm Bill 10% of the funds are to be spent on addressing source water protection.

### **NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Mr. Dougherty reported on the activities of the NJACD including the following:

- The regional supervisor meetings were well attended.
- The annual NACD meeting with legislators and/or their staff went well. NJACD is attempting to set up tour sites throughout New Jersey w legislators and staff to highlight the important conservation work being done in the state.
- The NJACD memorial scholarship winner, Dana Rafter, interned in the Cape-Atlantic District.
- Mr. Lomax spoke about activities related to NACD. He indicated that he and Mr. Cywinski are sharing overlapping duties because Mr. Cywinski will eventually be taking over those duties when Mr. Lomax moves on to other responsibilities. Bonnie Watson-Coleman is on the Congressional Appropriations Committee and it will be important for NJACD to establish and maintain a relationship with the congresswoman. Mr. Lomax thanked Mr. Showler for his participation in the H&H webinar. Mr. Lomax has been invited to Rhode Island to participate in a resiliency program.

### **SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Dr. Murphy provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings and the calendar of events involving the University and Co-Operative Extension. In addition, Dr. Murphy mentioned the following:

- Soil testing has experienced a drop off for the summer, which is typical for this time of year.
- Acid producing soils are an extremely important issue.
- Bulletin E338- Soils and Stormwater Management.

After obtaining further background information, the Board was prepared to take action on the Supervisor Re-nomination of Mike Visalli (Gloucester). Due to the lengthy illness of Mr. Visalli's brother, Mr. Visalli missed a significant amount of meetings over the last two years. Mr. Visalli also did not attend any business meetings. On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Kovacs, a waiver was approved by roll call vote (Lomax- yes, Cywinski- yes, Ward- yes, but only once, Kocubiski- yes, Kovacs- yes, Murphy- yes, DiLodovico- yes) and Mr. Visalli was re-appointed to the Gloucester SCD Board for a 3-year term which expires June 30, 2022.

Secretary Fisher suggested that, in the future, meetings and conferences be scheduled far in advance so district supervisors have as much advance notice as possible so they can better plan.

### **PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS**

Due to the impending NJDA office relocation, Ms. Zimmerman offered temporary storage space at the Freehold SCD.

Secretary Fisher adjourned the meeting at 12:17 PM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting is TBD, both date and location.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch  
Executive Secretary, SSCC