

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
MAY 14, 2012**

The March meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:34 a.m. in the Auditorium the Health-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, 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
Tony DiLodovico
Joe Lomax
Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R Goodman)
Donald Pettit
Charlie Buscaglia
Priscilla E. Hayes
Brian McLendon (rep. B. Martin)
John Kocubinski
Brian McLendon
Jean Reilly, Deputy Attorney General
Frank Minch, Administrative Analyst

Dr. F. Ali, SSSC, NJDA
Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA
Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA
John Showler, SSSC, NJDA
R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD
Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD
Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD
Mario Tridente, HEP SCD
Bill Brash, Mercer SCD
Joe Dunn, Morris SCD
Ines Grimm, Frehold SCD
Paul Hlubik, FSA
Sandra Myers, Warren SCD
Bob Dobbs, Camden SCD
Jason Dorney, MCS Inc.
Chris Sztenderowicz, MCS Inc.
Daniel Kuti, NJ-DEP
Amy Karpati, P.P.A

Minutes of March Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, and second by Ms. Lomax, the minutes of the March 12, 2012 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Secretary Fisher reported that he toured a solar project and a large waterway in Mercer County. He was extremely impressed with both projects.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **Conflict of Interest Form-** This form was mailed to all SSCC members. It must be completed and returned by mid-week.
2. **District Personnel Matter-** There is an issue between a former employee of the HEP SCD and the HEP Board. That individual will be instructed to contact the HEP Board.
3. **Lawn Fertilizer Bulletin-** Administrative Bulletin 2012-1.0 providing clarification and guidance to SCDs regarding enforcement responsibilities under the NJ Turf Fertilizer Law was issued and distributed to districts on May 1, 2012.
4. **Regional Supervisor Meetings-** Ms. Hayes and Mr. Lomax provided an overview of the regional meetings. Much of the discussion at these well attended meetings centered around the restructuring paper.
5. **District Supervisor Appointments-** Mr. Minch provided a summary of the SSCC Supervisor Nomination Review Committee recommendations.

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Lomax, the following supervisors who met performance standards were approved and reappointed to three (3) year terms ending 6/30/15, Ted Zeller and Thomas Budd (Burlington SCD), Dennis Dougherty (Camden), Richard Dovey (Cape-Atlantic), Torrey Reade and Ralph Sickler (Cumberland-Salem), Charles Buscaglia (Freehold), John Furfari (Gloucester), Carl Quazza and John Sarnas (HEP), John Van Nuys (Hunterdon), W. Scott Ellis and Ed DiPolvere (Mercer), Wm. Pollock and Anthony DiLodovico (Ocean), Matthew Loper (Somerset-Union), James Kilduff and Fred Hough (Sussex), Wayne Jarvis (Warren)

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, Mr. DiLodovico (Ocean) was reappointed to a three (3) year term ending 6/30/15. Mr. DiLodovico abstained from voting and left the room during the voting.

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Lomax, Mr. Cywinski (Bergen) was reappointed to a three (3) year term ending 6/30/15. Mr. Cywinski abstained from voting and left the room during the vote.

On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Ms. Hayes, Herman Rohsler (Bergen) was approved for a one (1) year provisional appointment. Due to illness, Mr. Rohsler was not able to fulfill the four (4) point training requirement. Mr. Rohsler accumulated 3.5 points.

Three (3) supervisors are not seeking reappointment, Ray Mueller (Cape-Atlantic), Jeanette Bonin and Margaret Nordstrom (Morris) and there is a vacant supervisor position in the Warren SCD.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, the following individuals , recommended by their respective SCDs, were approved and appointed to three (3) year terms ending 6/30/15, Dan Galletta (Cape-Atlantic), Phillip Roehrich (Morris), Robert McEwan (Morris), Sylvia Kovacs (Warren).

Mr. Minch informed the board that Ken Marsh (Somerset-Union) Supervisor is relocating and has stepped down from his position on the Somerset-Union Board. Mr. Marsh is the northern representative to the SSCC and the NJACD will have to appoint another individual to that position on interim basis until elections at the annual conference

10:05 AM- Mr. Hlubik arrived.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Green Township Ordinance-** Green Township is an exempt municipality in Sussex County. The township has made various modifications to their ordinance.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, the Green Township Ordinance was Approved.

2. **Warren Fee Schedule-** Mr. Minch reported that the Warren SCD is seeking approval for language change in their fee schedule (no fee change). Specifically, parameters regarding a reimbursement timeframe for denied applications.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, the issues regarding the changes to the Warren SCD fee schedule are open for discussion.

A discussion was held concerning uniformity and consistency in handling this issue statewide.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, the Warren SCD Fee Schedule language modification was tabled until uniform standards are created that address this issue.

3. **Exempt Municipalities Report-** Mr. Showler reported on the 2011 review of the exempt municipalities. Of the sixty-six (66) municipalities reviewed, three (3) municipalities require further follow up, Sayreville Boro (town is using bonds in lieu of requiring stabilization when stabilization is or could be achievable.). Piscataway Township (The municipality is regulating municipal projects in conflict with rules.), Mountain Lakes Boro (Boro has adapted a revised ordinance without SSCC approval. SCD Board is evaluating the ordinance and will make a recommendation to SSCC in the near future.)

Ms. Grimm spoke at length regarding the particulars of the Piscataway Township issue of regulating their own projects. Mr. Showler will meet with the township and report back to the SSCC at the next meeting. Ms. Grimm also requested the SSCC write to Sayreville Boro and encourage the municipality to modify their ordinance or their interpretation of same so as not to rely too heavily on Bonding.

4. **Chapter 251 Quarterly Report-** January to March 2012- During this timeframe, 1,019 applications were processed by the districts on 3,884 acres of land disturbance activities. Approximately 15,084 inspections and 1,132 *Reports of Compliance* were issued during the period to assure compliance. (Report attached).
5. **Engineering Activities Report-** Mr. Showler reported on various projects he was involved with over the last few months. This includes but is not limited to speaking at a FEMA conference about the standards, representing NJDA/SCD's on developing technical guidelines for the use of the DelMarVa unit hydrograph in coastal NJ in predicting peak flood elevations on unguaged streams, advised the site improvement advisory board regarding standards addressing soil compaction restoration, working with Rutgers University which is testing the Filtrexx Silt Soxx product on a geothermal well site, the Detention Database Project is moving forward. A lengthy discussion was held regarding district compensation for entry of new data.
6. **District Violation Notice Issuance-** In an effort to insure uniform interpretation of the regulations, an applicant must be afforded the opportunity to correct deficiencies before a violation notice is issued. This item will be discussed at the next Manager's meeting and staff will report back to the SSCC at the next meeting.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM (FPCSP)

Mr. Fekete reported on the following:

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

PRIORITY I- PERMANENTLY DEED RESTRICTED

County	Name	Purpose	Requested
Salem	G&S Hitchner	Underground Drain	\$14,862.50
Salem	Allen Williams	HUAP	\$58,900.00

*All applications will be forwarded to the SADC with a recommendation for funding approval once funds become 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.

- **Extension Request** - A request from Wayne Beal of Cumberland County (\$30,048) for a twelve (12) month extension for an irrigation project. Mr. Beal has had extremely serious health issues but now feels he is in a position to advance with this cost share project. On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax this extension request was approved.
- **Cost Share Payments Processed** – Since March six (6) payment requests were processed to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) totaling \$39,905.77 representing the State share for completed and functioning practices. They include 3 irrigation projects, 2 animal waste facilities and 1 brush management. The value of these projects exceeds \$86,607.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) *

Mr. Minch reported the following regarding the CREP program.

Conservation Practices	Contracts Approved		Payments Processed	
	This Period	Cumulative	This Period	Cumulative
Filter Strips (acres)	0	313.8	3.5	282.76
Grassed Waterway (acres)	1	126.8	3.1	100.62
Lined Waterway (feet)	1	67,057	10,880	14,408
Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	0	221.9	0	191.1
Number of Contracts	2	162	3	144
Funds Obligated/Expended	\$4,411.80	\$365,839.75	\$5,439.32	\$275,576.18

*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. **2012 NJ Envirothon-** 34 teams participated in this event. The Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science (MATES), team #1, placed first & MATES, team #2, placed second. Wayne High School placed third. MATES Team #1 scored 100% in Aquatics. This is the first time any team has received a perfect score at any station. Holmdel High School received the Horizon Award (highest ranked first time participant). Mr. Belcher thanked the districts, especially Freehold for their support.
2. **2011 Poster Contest-** Award ceremony will be held May 17th at the State museum. A statehouse tour will follow the awards ceremony.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Mr. Pettit reported on the following:

1. **On Going National Initiatives-** Seasonal High Tunnel, Organic & Energy.

2. **Working Lands for Wildlife Partnership-** NRCS has formed a new partnership with the Dept. of Interior's US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) called Working Lands for Wildlife to accelerate wildlife conservation for targeted at risk or listed species. The program has three (3) primary goals, restore populations of declining wildlife species, provide landowners with regulatory certainty and strengthen rural economies. The priority species in NJ is the bog turtle (entire state) and the Golden Winged Warbler (warren, Sussex, Morris and Passaic Counties).
3. **National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)** – It will assist producers to address high priority water resource concerns in small watersheds. Targeted waterbody impairments are nutrients and sediments. Each state may select 1-3 HUC-12 watersheds for FY 2012. Estimated NJ funding is \$316,000. The following watersheds have been selected, Upper Cohansey River, Upper Salem River, Upper Alloway Creek.
4. **Customer Satisfaction Survey-** NRCS will be developing a customer satisfaction survey to be rolled out in May or June. NRCS is seeking feedback from both internal and external customers.
5. **Field Office of the Future-** NRCS, in conjunction with the National Association of Conservation districts are working together on the field office of the future. The agency and partners realize the increased demands on the field offices as budgets shrink each year.
6. This meeting is Mr. Pettit's last as he has accepted the position of State Conservationist in NY.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mr. Hlubik reported on the following:

1. **S.A.F.E. Program-** Increased acreage for the program. There are three (3) project areas Audubon Society (300 acres), Conserve Wildlife (400 acres) and the Raritan Piedmont (300 acres). Instead of bringing in new partners FSA thinks it would be beneficial to increase the acreage of each of these project areas. That is the proposal which will be submitted to Washington.

On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Mr. Lomax, the SSCC will provide a letter of support to be submitted with the package.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. Buscaglia thanked Mr. Belcher for his dedication and hard work to ensure the NJ Envirothon was a success.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon reported on the following:

1. **2nd Barnegat Bay Clean-Up-** This event was held last week. Approximately 700 DEP employees, various other agencies, municipalities and students were involved in this successful endeavor that removed tons of garbage and debris from the watershed. All stormsewers in the watershed are now mapped.

2. **Monmouth County Racetrack-** The racetrack was able to obtain over \$17 million from the state revolving fund to construct a collection system, roof gutters, pumping station, etc., which separated clean stormwater from the waste water. The racetrack is now tied in with the municipality so the waste is disposed of in that manner.
3. A question was raised regarding the Standards. Completion of the Standards is tied to the 251 Regulations. There is a department meeting scheduled for tomorrow to resolve an issue which will then enable the Standards to move forward.
4. Mr. McLendon spoke about the 308 reporting (animal waste facilities). EPA is adopting new regulations and may submit an OPRA request for information pertaining to animal waste operations.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. Rutgers' 246th commencement takes place Sunday, May 13th. There is an estimated 13,465 graduates (8,989 baccalaureates, 3,239 Master's degrees and 1,230 doctorates)
2. Ag Field Day/ Rutgers Day, April 28th, was extremely successful.
3. **Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification and Training-** There are almost 3,00 registered users; nearly 1,400 certified and 717 trained.
4. David Ehrenfeld spoke to a full house at the Executive Dean's Distinguished Lecture held on March 27 at the Cook Campus Center. Dr. Ehrenfeld's presentation was entitled "Reinvigorating the University for the 21st Century".
5. **Grant F. Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis (CRSSA)-** Through the use of high tech mapping and geographic information systems, the NJ Fire Tower Atlas was developed. All twenty-one (21) towers were mapped.
6. **Upcoming Events-** Supermarket Exhibition runs from 5/30 to 8/31.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS

None

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held July 9th at Rutgers

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch, Administrative Analyst

