

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DRAFT MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
DECEMBER 11, 2017**

The December meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Monique Purcell at 9:39 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 and a moment of silence was observed.
Call of the Membership Roll indicated the following:

Members Present Associate Members and Others

Monique Purcell

Joe Lomax

Charlie Buscaglia

Brian McLendon (rep. R. Martin)

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Christine Hall

Tony DiLodovico

Sylvia Kovacs

Michael Rigolizzo

Cristin Mustillo, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSCC, NJDA

John Showler, SSCC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSCC, NJDA

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Paul Schiariti, Mercer SCD

Theodora Wang, Mercer SCD

E. George-Cheniara, NJBA

Joe Dunn, Morris SCD

Jim Hill, Hunterdon SCD

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2017 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Cywinski, the minutes of the November 2, 2017 meeting were approved with the correction of deleting Ms. Kovacs once from the members present list (she was listed twice).

9:41 AM- Mr. DiLodovico arrived.

CHARMAN'S COMMENTS

Ms. Purcell reported on the following:

- The lame duck legislative session has a full schedule before the break.
- The new administration will be sworn in next month.
- Ms. Purcell and Secretary Fisher met with the new FSA Director, Barry Calogero.
- The N.J. State Board of Agriculture is scheduled to meet December 20th.
- The Rutgers Board of Managers is scheduled to meet tomorrow.
- Kelly Steimle has been hired as a conservation planner by NJDA.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **2:90 Rules Adoption-** Due to the sunseting of these regulations and the change of administrations, these regulations were readopted without changes. This can always be revisited at a later date and revised.
2. On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Dr. Murphy, the 2018 SSCC meeting schedule was approved (meeting dates- 3/12, 6/11, 9/10 & 12/10).
3. The phone directory has been updated and will be issued shortly.
4. To date, several FY 2017 district audits have not been received.

9:50 AM- Elizabeth George-Cheniara arrived.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Quarterly Report-** Mr. Showler reviewed the FY 2017 (7/1/16 to 6/30/17) summary of the SE&SC program statistics. The summary is as follows: 5,329 applications were received, \$8,728,161 in fees were collected. There were 6,672 reports of compliance issued and 57,824 inspections covering 95,147 staff hours. First quarter FY 2018 (7/1/17 to 9/30/17) statistics are as follows: There were 1,387 applications received, \$2,008,255 in fees collected, 1,819 reports of compliance issued and 13,992 inspections covering over 24,350 staff hours.
2. **Exempt Municipality Sayreville-** The Freehold SCD has made a formal request to revoke the ordinance and exempt status of the Township of Sayreville. Mr. Minch reported that he and DAG Mustillo are reviewing the administrative procedures involved in revoking Sayreville's exempt status.
3. **Soil Restoration Technical Bulletin -** Mr. Showler reviewed Administrative Bulletin 2017-4.0 which provides guidance relative to Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Certification and inspection in conjunction with the Standards for Topsoiling and Land Grading to ensure adequate decompaction of subsoil where necessary and proper topsoil depth prior to the issuance of a Report of Compliance.

10:15 AM- Joe Dunn arrived.

4. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on some of his work activities over the last several months. They include the following: A summary of and feedback regarding the Standards Training (November 8th and 29th in the Freehold SCD Office). In addition, Technical Bulletin 2017-1 “Approval of SiltShield Sediment Barrier” (a reusable, extruded sediment filter fence designed to capture sheet and rill erosion and retain sediment while allowing surface water to drain through the fence. It is intended to function as a sediment barrier.) On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Mr. Rigolizzo, this product was approved for use. Ms. George-Cheniara thanked Mr. Minch and Mr. Showler for holding the training session on the Standards.

10:30 AM- Mr. Hill arrived.

10:45 AM- Mr. McLendon left

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher provided the following update:

- **2018 Poster Contest-** The theme for the upcoming poster contest is “Watersheds, our water, our home”.
- **2018 NJ Envirothon-** Will take place on May5th at Camp Brice in Salem County.
- **2018 NJ Flower & Patio Show-** The theme for the show is “Magical moments (Disney theme)”. Mr. Reilly indicated the Conservation Partnership display will be based on the Disney movie Wall-e.

CONSERVATION COST SHARE

Mr. Fekete provided a summary overview of CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) which, to date, has approved 199 contracts totaling \$448,236.48. This represents 348.61 acres of filter strips, 159.08 acres of grassed waterways, 253.10 acres of riparian forest buffers and 141,191 feet of lined waterways and sub-surface drainage.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Ms. Hall reported that Carrie Lindig, NJ State Conservationist, is still on detail to headquarters in Washington DC but will be back sometime in January. Ms. Hall also reported that NRCS was able to fill vacancies in Columbus and in Hackettstown. Because of the feedback from the local workgroup meetings last summer, two all day symposiums will be held in March regarding deer and deer management.

In addition, Ms. Hall also provided an update regarding funding, various programs and personnel.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. DiLodovico reported on the activities of the NJACD including the Annual Conservation Conference held at the Rutgers Eco-Complex in Columbus, last month. NJACD elections were held and Mr. DiLodovico remains President, Dennis Dougherty is 1st Vice President, Robert Carter, Jr. is Secretary and James Hill is Treasurer. There is a vacancy for 2nd Vice President.

The NJACD Board will meet after the SSCC meeting today. Topics of discussion will include funding for the Executive Director position and the NACD meeting at the end of January in Tennessee. Mr. Minch mentioned that ethics training for supervisors will be rescheduled, possibly at the Regional Supervisor meetings in March. Also, two of the three supervisors with provisional requirements to attend the annual conference last month attended. The other did not and therefore, does not meet their provisional requirement.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP)

No report.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings and the quarterly calendar of events involving the University and Co-Operative Extension. The winter blackout period for lawn fertilizer application continues until March 1st. Dr. Murphy also announced that Mr. Dan Kluchinski passed away on October 16th. Mr. Kluchinski was Associate Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Chair of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS

Mr. Dunn spoke regarding licensed tree care operators and safety issues in this field. In addition, a brief discussion was held regarding forest stewardship issues and federal guidelines and the upcoming regulations.

11:27 AM- Mr. Schiariti left.

Ms. Kovacs and Mr. Minch will meet with the new Sussex SCD board members before the next meeting as part of an ongoing effort to meet with all new district supervisors.

Mr. Lomax will reach out to Dr. Katz in an effort to stress the importance of attending SSCC meetings.

On a motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Rigolizzo, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 A.M. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held March 12, 2018 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch
Executive Secretary, SSCC