

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

The September meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman John Kocubinski 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**

John Kocubinski

Joe Lomax

Charlie Buscaglia

Brian McLendon (rep. R. Martin)

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Christine Hall

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

Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Bob Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Paul Schiariti, Mercer SCD

Linda Sandusky, Mercer SCD

Mike DePalma, Hunterdon SCD

Chad Cherefko, USDA-NRCS

E. George-Cheniara, NJBA

Lucia Huebner, Mercer SCD

Jim Hill, Hunterdon SCD

## MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2017 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax, the minutes of the June 12, 2017 meeting were approved. Ms. Kovacs abstained. Dr. Murphy requested that the meeting minutes be more detailed.

## CHARMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Kocubinski reported on the following:

- Secretary Fisher is attending a NASDA (National Association of State Departments of Agriculture) conference.

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **2:90 Rules Expiration-** All four chapters of the 2:90 rules are due to sunset December 8, 2017. A letter has gone out to the districts requesting a meeting to review updates and potential changes to the rules, especially the agriculture sections which have not been updated in many years. As funding has been restored for the soil and water program, rule updates are needed. A brief SSCC meeting may be necessary at the Annual Conservation Conference to review these potential changes. Procedural steps will be taken so these rule amendments will be submitted for review by the administration.

## SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Soil Restoration Rules-** Mr. Showler reviewed the "NJDA-SSCC Draft Policy for the Implementation of the Soil Restoration Measures contained in the revised Topsoil and Land Grading Standards". These draft policy recommendations affecting district plan review and inspection procedures were developed by a volunteer subcommittee composed of district staff and NJDA staff. Due to cost concerns and district manpower shortage, the most desirable and feasible option would be for the developer to submit a "self-certifying" form that the work meets requirements. Mr. Showler reviewed this form with the SSCC. If there is restoration failure or other issues, the district would rely on the self-certifying form and examine and review further. The SSCC members will review the draft policy and provide direction at the next meeting.

10:17 AM- Mr. Hill arrived

2. **Exempt Municipality Review-** The Freehold SCD has made a formal request to revoke the ordinance and exempt status of the Township of Sayerville. On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Kovacs, the SSCC will notify the Township of Sayerville that the Freehold SCD has recommended the ordinance and exempt status of Sayerville be revoked and this request is under consideration. Mr. Buscaglia recused himself from the discussion and voting on this matter.
3. **H&H-** Mr. Showler provided an update on the H&H program. The database is up and running. Any district which would like to initiate an inspection service for fee may do so.
4. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on some of his work activities over the last several months. They include the following: an update of the Detention Basin Database Project (H&H), new product review (Silt Shield sediment barrier. The HEP District is conducting on-site field evaluations of the product), Soil Restoration Standards, Standards Training (scheduled for November 8th and 29<sup>th</sup> in the Freehold SCD Office. This training

will cover all of the Standards). In addition, Technical Bulletin 2017-1 “Policy For The Acceptance Of Electronically Signed And Sealed Documents Created By NJ Licensed Professional Engineers”, was discussed. DAG Mustillo will look into this policy.

#### 5. **New Jersey Conservation District Sub-Committee Reports**

- **Training-** N/A
- **Policies & Procedures-** Mr. Lomax reported that, to date, no comments have been received regarding the Policy and Procedure Management Guidelines. The next step is to team with the Educational sub-committee and discuss training.
- **Fee/Fiscal-** A sub-committee meeting was held in August to discuss consistency in the categories of reserve funds and a maximum timeframe that said funds may be kept. The sub-committee is awaiting a review of FY’ 17 audits.
- **Review/Appraisal-** Mr. DiLodovico reported that a sub-committee meeting will be scheduled shortly.

#### **CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Mr. Belcher provided the following update:

- **2017 National Envirothon-** The NJ team finished in the top 20 of the national competition. The 2018 National Envirothon theme will be Range Management.
- **2018 NJ Envirothon-** A host district is needed for 2018, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NJ Envirothon. A planning meeting is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Eco-Complex in Columbus, NJ.

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

Ms. Hall reported that Carrie Lindig, NJ State Conservationist, has been detailed to headquarters in Washington DC and is Acting Chief of Legislative Affairs. Ms. Hall also reported that NRCS recently hosted four Local Workgroup Meetings throughout the state to receive feedback on what producers thought the major agricultural needs were in their community. This information was then used to develop a new ranking system which incorporated these identified needs. Not surprisingly, a major resource concern throughout the state is wildlife damage to crops.

Ms. Hall also provided an update regarding funding, various programs and personnel. Ms. Hall was asked a question regarding the possibility of holding an Introduction to Conservation Planning class for district employees, similar to one which will be conducted by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. Ms. Hall indicated she will look into the possibility of having a similar class offered.

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

Mr. DiLodovico reported on the activities of the NJACD including the upcoming Annual Conservation Conference which is being held at the Rutgers Eco-Complex in Columbus, November 2nd.

The agenda for this conference will be finalized at the NJACD meeting which will follow the SSCC meeting. The NJACD finalized a two year agreement w NRCS for cost sharing an Executive Director position for the association. In addition, an agreement was executed to fund a civil engineer position. When hired, this individual will be housed in the NRCS office in Columbus.

## **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 including the 13<sup>th</sup> International Turf Grass Research Conference held in New Brunswick, NJ, the annual Turf Grass Research Field Day and the symposium for resilient landscapes. Rutgers University is conducting an environmental steward training in various counties throughout the state. Union County Co-Operative Extension will be conducting a Master Tree Steward Training Program.

## **PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS**

Ms. George-Cheniara emphasized that the NJ Builders Association & SSCC staff are working collaboratively regarding the Soil Restoration Standards and looks forward to continued coordination.

Mr. Lomax reported on the following:

- The annual NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts) meeting will be held January 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> in Nashville, Tennessee.
- NACD formed a committee regarding invasive species (both plant and animal). Mr. Lomax is the north east regional representative on this committee.
- NACD wrote a letter to the administration against the consolidation of administrative services for the various agencies. Several other options are being explored.
- Representatives of NRCS and NJACD met with local state legislative officials in an effort to obtain a working agreement to ensure the Plant Materials Center in Cape May County may remain open and free of charge.

Mr. Minch read a resolution outlining the need to go into closed session to discuss legal matters with DAG Mustillo.

On motion by Dr. Murphy, second by Mr. Cywinski, the meeting was adjourned to closed session at 11:57 A.M.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 1:10 P.M.

On a motion by Mr. DiLodovico, second by Ms. Kovacs, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 P.M. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held December 11, 2017 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch  
Executive Secretary, SSCC