

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 12, 2018**

The March meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:28 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

Douglas Fisher

Joe Lomax

Charlie Buscaglia

John Kocubinski

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Carrie Lindig

Tony DiLodovico

Sylvia Kovacs

Michael Rigolizzo

Cristin Mustillo, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Scott Ellis, Mercer SCD

Theodora Wang, Mercer SCD

C. Raabe, Ocean SCD

Wayne Jarvis, Warren SCD

Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD

Matt Ward, HEP SCD

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2017 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax, the minutes of the December 11, 2017 meeting were approved with Mr. Kocubinski abstaining

9:36 AM- Ms. Raabe arrived.

CHARMAN'S COMMENTS

Secretary Fisher reported that with a new administration there may be new policies, emphasis and agenda. More will be known after the Governor's budget address.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **2018 Meeting Calendar-** In addition to the regularly scheduled quarterly meetings, situations may arise which dictate additional meetings. Mr. Minch will coordinate when needed.
2. **Audit Review-** A spreadsheet was distributed consolidating district information regarding revenue and expenses to ascertain the financial health of each District. The spreadsheet will be sent to the Districts for their review.
3. **Program Assessment-** Cliff Lundin, the Sussex SCD Manager, recently retired. Since there are only 2 other employees in the office, the District supervisors and SSCC staff are evaluating options regarding the future of the Sussex SCD. Districts which have not formulated a long-range district plan should initiate the process.

9:50 AM- Mr. DiLodovico arrived.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Exempt Municipality Review-** Mr. Van Olden and Mr. Ward of the HEP SCD met with officials from Wayne Township to discuss issues pertaining to compliance. The HEP district will monitor the situation and hopes to report improvement by the June SSCC meeting. Mr. Minch reported that he and DAG Mustillo are working to ensure all administrative actions taken in revoking Sayreville's exempt status are lawfully done.
2. **Soil Restoration** – Several training sessions have been held regarding the implementation of this standard. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the issue of the verification form. Many aspects of the guidance document, 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, are still under discussion.
On motion by Mr. Rigolizzo, second by Mr. Kocubinski, procedure was clarified to state an applicant has a choice to request a specific sub-soil inspection (which may be subject to an additional fee) to certify that compaction guidelines have been met. If not, and the final inspection determines compaction guidelines have not been met, soil compaction mitigation will be required.
Additional discussion was held regarding the penetrometer guidance document issued by Rutgers. Mr. Showler will send comments to Rutgers.
- 3 **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on some of his work activities over the last several months. They include the 25th Annual FEMA Dam Safety Seminar in Emmitsburg, Md, which Mr. Showler attended. In addition, Mr. Showler reviewed Ch. 251 statistics by quarter from 2005 to the second quarter 2018. These graphs demonstrated various trends such as the number and size of projects has steadily decreased. Also, the number of applications are rebounding from the low point of 2011.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher provided the following update:

- **National Poster Contest-** NJ had 2 national winners and 2 honorable mentions.
- **2018 NJ Envirothon-** Will take place on May 5th at Camp Grice in Elmer, Salem County. To date, 32 teams are registered.
- **2018 NJ Flower & Patio Show-** The theme for the show was “Magical moments (Disney theme)”. The Conservation Partnership display was based on the Disney movie the Adventures of Wall-e. This display was awarded first place in 4 categories and second place in 3 categories. In addition to placing third in the overall judging.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Ms. Lindig, provided an update regarding funding, various programs and personnel, including hiring to fill two vacancies in Frenchtown and hiring two college students for the summer, one in Freehold, one in Vineland. There will be three local workgroup meeting held this month, including one tonight in Gloucester County. The Federal Government is under a continuing resolution which expires in two weeks.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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

- A recap of the annual NACD meeting held in Tennessee in January.
- Several NJ Districts received NACD technical assistance grants, including \$65,000 for the Morris SCD and \$61,000 for the Cape/Atlantic SCD.
- The NJACD Board will meet after the SSCC meeting today. Topics of discussion will include funding and resolutions.

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 calendar of events involving the University and Co-Operative Extension. The school is on spring break this week. The link the penetrometer bulletin is on the Ocean County Cooperative Extension website. Don Knezick was awarded the G.H. Cook Distinguished Alumni award. Several NOFA conferences were held on campus in January. A grant proposal is being developed and will be submitted to USDA regarding the study of turf grass soil microbes.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS

- Mr. Ward thanked the NJACD leadership for voicing concern at the annual NACD meeting for environmental issues and keeping this issue in the forefront.
- Ms. Raabe suggested the Training Committee look into the possibility of scheduling penetrometer training.
- Mr. Minch distributed a letter from Dan Galletta, Co-Chair of the Training Subcommittee. For personal reasons Mr. Galletta is resigning from his position as co-chair. This vacancy will be filled in the near future.
- SSCC staff was informed that we can no longer e-mail parking passes for meetings. Parking hang tags will need to be physically mailed for each SSCC meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Mr. DiLodovico, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held June 11, 2018 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch
Executive Secretary, SSCC