**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**MINUTES**

**TELA-CONFERENCE**

**JUNE 8, 2020**

The June meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:32 A.M. 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 front door of the 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**

Secretary Douglas Fisher John Showler, SSCC, NJDA

Joe Lomax Tim Fekete, SSCC, NJDA

Matt Ward D. Dougherty, Camden SCD

Diane Gray, NRCS R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep R. Goodman) Dave Reilly, Cape-Atlantic SCD

Ray Cywinski (conference call) Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD

Sylvia Kovacs Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Tony DiLodovico Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD

Mike Rigolizzo Sandy Myers, Warren SCD

John Kocubinski Nick Saumweber, NRCS

Mike Haberland (rep. B. Schilling)

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

**MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2020 MEETING**

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Rigolizzo, the minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting were approved. Mr. Lomax abstained.

**CHAIRWOMAN’S COMMENTS**

Secretary Fisher thanked the SSCC Board and the conservation partnership for their dedication and hard work. At this time, NJDA is still going about its daily tasks as best it can given the situation.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **Supervisor Appointments-**

**Category 1 Supervisors-** On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Kovacs, the following Category 1 supervisors, “Supervisor Re-nominations that met Supervisor Performance Standards for 3-year term ending June 30, 2023, were re-appointed by the SSCC: Robert Carter, Jr (Camden), Edward Madden (Camden) Joe Lomax **(**Cape**-**Atlantic), Robert Fenton (Cape-Atlantic), Henry DuBois (Cumberland-Salem), Jay Kandle (Gloucester), Graham Russell (HEP), Richard Stothoff (Hunterdon), James Hill (Hunterdon), Gary Mount (Mercer), Lucia Huebner (Mercer), Louise Davis (Morris), Michael Gross (Ocean), Robert Amberg (Somerset-Union).

Mr. Rigolizzo recused from voting on the Camden SCD Supervisor reappointments.

Mr. Lomax recused from voting on the Cape-Atlantic SCD Supervisor reappointments.

Mr. DiLodovico recused from voting on the Ocean SCD Supervisor reappointment.

**Category 2 Supervisors- “Supervisor Re-nominations that did not meet Supervisor Performance Standards”-** Substantial discussion was held on supervisors listed in category 2. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a number of meetings and events were postponed or cancelled, limiting the opportunities for supervisors to participate and acquire credit towards performance measure requirements. On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Rigolizzo, the following Supervisors were reappointed: A waiver for Ron Thomas, (not attending two NJACD meetings) was approved and Mr. Thomas was re-appointed to the Cumberland-Salem SCD Board, a waiver for Wayne Van Hise (not attending an annual conference and not attending two NJACD business meetings) was approved and Mr. Van Hise was re-appointed to the Freehold Board, a waiver for Robert Dryer (not attending two NJACD business meetings and not accumulating six training points) was approved and Mr. Dryer was re-appointed to the Freehold Board, a waiver for John Grasso (not attending two NJACD business meetings and not accumulating six training points) was approved and Mr. Grasso was re-appointed to the Gloucester Board, a waiver for Mario Tridente (not attaining the 75% meeting threshold) ) was approved and Mr. Tridente was re-appointed to the HEP Board. All terms are for 3 years and expire June 30, 2023. Further discussion ensued on the need to form a task force to re-evaluate the current performance measures and policy.

**SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT**

1. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler provided a brief engineering report regarding some of his recent activities including district assistance to the Freehold, Ocean, Somerset Union and Hunterdon SCDs. Mr. Showler presented the Quarterly Report (January to March 2020). 1,259 applications were received, 1,413 certifications, $2,142,852 fees collected, there were 13,244 inspections covering 26,206 staff hours.

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**NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Ms. Gray provided an update on NRCS programs and, also, reported on the following:

1. NRCS New Jersey has received, and is working on, 419 EQIP applications.
2. NRCS is working on a plan to safely bring employees back in the office.

**NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

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

1. The next NJACD meeting will take place next Monday via tela-conference.
2. One scholarship application was received.
3. One technical assistance grant application was received (Ocean SCD).
4. Poster contest judging took place on-line. The winning entries will be forwarded to the national competition.
5. A discussion was held regarding the NJACD budget.

**RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

No report

**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Dr Murphy reported on the following:

1. Jonathan Holloway will become the new University President effective July 1, 2020.
2. Graduation was held virtually on May 31st. Lester Holt was the commencement speaker. 18,067 individuals received diplomas.
3. At this time, it is unknown if the fall semester will be held in person or if it will take place remotely. The situation is extremely fluid.

**PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS**

1. Mr. Lomax requested an update regarding a permanent NJ-DEP representative attending SSCC meetings. Mr. Minch indicated that he has had no update from NJ-DEP on a designee.
2. Mr. Reitmeyer requested the status of the Burlington SCD Supervisor nomination. Mr. Minch indicated the nomination was received Friday and needs to be reviewed by the State Nominating Review Committee. This nomination will be presented to the SSCC at the September meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch

Executive Secretary, SSCC

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