

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012**

The September meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:38 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, 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)

Barbara Rosko

Carl Quazza

Priscilla E. Hayes

Brian McLendon (rep. B. Martin)

Maria Collazo

Sean Moriarity, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Administrative Analyst

Dr. F. Ali, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

Victor DeVasto, Gloucester SCD

R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

Mario Tridente, HEP SCD

Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD

Joe Dunn, Morris SCD

David Earl, NJDOT

Ines Grimm, Freehold SCD

Charlie Buscaglia, Freehold SCD

Sandra Myers, Warren SCD

Bob Dobbs, Camden SCD

David Reilly, C/A SCD

Don Knezick, Burlington SCD

Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Amy Karpati, PPA

E. George-Cheniara, NJBA

Paul Hlubik, FSA

Minutes of July Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Cywinski, and second by Ms. Hayes, the minutes of the July 9, 2012 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Secretary Fisher said that by working together; the Partnership will be able to achieve great things.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **2:90 Rule Publication-** There were provisions and language that necessitated additions to the proposal. This will extend the comment period to 10/5/12. Dr. Murphy indicated that the calculations for the addition of organic matter are incorrect. Mr. Minch indicated that minor modifications may be made at a later date and more substantive comments will require further consideration as it may affect rule adoption. It was recommended that Rutgers provide formal written comment.
2. **Animal Waste Management Plans-** Currently 562 plans have been submitted. The majority of the plans have been submitted from Hunterdon (131), Salem (100) and Warren (80) County.
3. **Annual Conservation Conference-** The conference is scheduled for November 19, 2012 in the Hightstown area. Additional information is forthcoming.
4. **Action Items-** Staff will be compiling an "Action Item" list after each SSCC meeting. This list outlines actions taken during the SSCC meeting and their progress. Mr. Minch reviewed the list and brought the State Committee up to date with these action items (copy attached).

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **NJ Conservation District Workshop- "Road Map for Effective Change"**- Mr. Buscaglia distributed the document the workgroup completed, "Road Map for Effective Change". Mr. Brash provided an overview of the document.

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Lomax, a special SSCC meeting will be scheduled in October to review the document "Road Map for Effective Change" in more depth.

2. **Somerset/Union Supervisor Nomination-** Due to the resignation of Ken Marsh, a vacancy exists on the Somerset/Union Board. Of the two (2) candidates to replace Mr. Marsh, Steven Needle (builder) and Margaret Noon (farmer and businesswoman), the district has expressed a preference for Mr. Needle.

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Hayes, Mr. Needle was approved to serve on the Somerset/ Union Board to complete Mr. Marsh's term.

3. **Single Family Dwelling Determination-** An effort is being made to clarify the issue of single family lots so the interpretation is uniformly implemented throughout the state. A discussion ensued regarding the vast number of scenarios which may occur. The Statutes and Regulations will be examined more closely by the committee next meeting as well as some of the more common scenarios encountered by the districts. Mr. Lundin volunteered to compile these most likely scenarios.
4. **Engineering Issues-** Mr. Showler provided an overview regarding several projects he has been involved with over the past two (2) months including, Stormwater Rule Review for Metro Farms, Stormwater Basin Data Analysis, Ramapo River Bank Stabilization, park Ridge Dam Spillway construction, and Sussex and Warren SCD engineering training.
5. **HEP Schedule Modification-** Mr. Minch reported that he met with Mr. Quazza and Mr. Van Olden to review the HEP fee schedule modification submission. The HEP SCD is moving closer to resolving the issues in question. Mr. Quazza read a statement from the HEP Board to the SSCC regarding the modification of their schedule. Mr. Quazza suggested there be a more uniform process for fee schedule review and approval.

Another issue discussed involved a mobile home park in the Cape/Atlantic SCD jurisdiction. The municipality is requesting inspections for each unit. C/A does not want to modify its fee schedule for monetary purposes but to clarify and include these types of projects with their single family home category

Mr. Lomax introduced Dave Reilly, the new district manager for the Cape/ Atlantic SCD. Dave is replacing Nick Cassetta who recently retired.

6. **Application Form Addendum-** Freehold SCD has received recommendations from their legal counsel to update language on the Chapter 251 addendum, to further disclose the ownership interest in a project. This form will be reviewed by SSCC staff and presented in more depth at the next SSCC meeting.
7. **Records Disposal-** Updated information was presented to the committee regarding completion of the Request for Records Disposal form. There is no change in retention period; the only change is that different retention schedules be submitted on separate forms. District Managers have been informed of this at the liaison meeting.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM (FPCSP)

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

- **Cost Share Payments Processed** – Since July five (5) payment requests were processed to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) totaling \$24,685.20 representing the State share for completed and functioning practices. They include 3 irrigation projects, 1 livestock watering facility and 1 land grading project. The value of these projects exceeds \$49,370.

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)	1	316.9	18.4	301.16
Grassed Waterway (acres)	3	127.6	2.1	105.63
Lined Waterway (feet)	0	67,057	0	20,646
Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	0	221.9	0	191.1
Number of Contracts	4	166	5	152
Funds Obligated/Expended	\$1,634.07	\$368,492.62	\$3,944.44	\$287,533.59

*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. **Canon Envirothon-** The Canon Envirothon was held July 27 & 28 at Susquehanna University. The MATES team placed 19th out of 54 teams at the event. Mr. Belcher thanked the NJACD for funding his trip to the competition.
2. **2013 Poster Contest-** The theme is “Where Does Your Water Shed”. This contest is open to all students in grades 2-12.
3. **NJ Flower and Patio Show-** this event will be held February 14-17, 2013. The theme is “Mardi Gras Around the World”.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Ms. Collazo reported on the following:

1. **Office of the Future-** NRCS has completed its plan for the “office of the future”. NRCS surveyed partners, stakeholders and customers regarding this initiative.
2. **Barnegat Bay Soil Survey-** This undertaking has been initiated and it is anticipated that it will take three (3) years to complete. Recently a tour of the Barnegat Bay area was conducted. Congressman Jon Runyon was in attendance.
3. **Training-** on October 18th a training session will be held regarding cover crops for soil health in the coastal plains. This training will be held at the Plant Materials Center in Cape May County and will be hosted by NRCS, Rutgers and the Cape-Atlantic SCD.
4. **Funding Summary-** To date, \$4.5 million has been obligated in NJ for conservation practices. This covers approximately 11,000 acres in the state.

5. **State Conservationist-** A new State Conservationist has been selected for New Jersey but is awaiting approval by the congressional delegation.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mr. Hlubik reported on the following:

6. There are 20 days remaining on the present Farm Bill. There is little likelihood that a new Farm Bill will be enacted before September 30th.
7. **Emergency Forest Restoration-** Several applications in Burlington County have received funding but, to date, there is no technical service provider. The US Forest Service delegated the work to the NJ Forest Service but FSA is still awaiting a reply from the state forest service.
8. Emergency Forest Restoration Program applications (due to Southern Pine leaf Borer damage) are being accepted by the Cumberland/Cape May/Atlantic FSA field office.
9. **Drought Designation-** 2,222 counties in the US have received drought designations and are eligible for disaster emergency loans.
10. Emergency loan rates have decreased to 2.125% from 3.75%
11. Emergency Hay and Grazing loans are available in all 21 NJ counties.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. Buscaglia reported on the following:

1. The yearly tasks NJACD proposed to complete back in January have now been completed.
2. **Annual Conservation Conference-** Registration and agenda will be discussed at the association meeting today.
3. Five of six association officers, in addition to several district managers, attended the NE Regional NACD meeting in Corning, NY
4. A copy of the workgroup's "Natural Resource Assessment Final Report" was presented to Secretary Fisher.
5. Ms. Grimm reported on the highlights of the NE Regional NACD conference.
6. The soils curriculum project K-6 is complete. The soils curriculum project for middle and high school will be completed by the end of the year.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon reported on DEPs efforts to implement the Governor's 10 Point Plan to clean up the Barnegat Bay. DEP acknowledges it can do a better job of reaching out to other agencies and organizations involved in this effort. Mr. McLendon indicated that the Barnegat Bay efforts will be used as a model for working on other high priority watersheds in the state in an effort to leverage resources and better coordinate activities.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. Rutgers new President, Robert Barchi, started in September.
2. Classes started in September.
3. Two (2) successful turf days were held in August.
4. The “Great Tomato Tasting” event held at the Snyder Research Farm was another very successful function.
5. The soil restoration research funded through the Ocean SCD has been initiated and is in the planning stages.

Public Comment

Ms. Karpati of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance read comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. She also indicated PPA would be submitting written comments before the October deadline.

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Dr. Murphy, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held November 13th in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Minch". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a vertical line that separates it from the typed name below.

Frank Minch, Administrative Analyst