

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
JUNE 11, 2018**

The June meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:37 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
Brian McLendon (rep. C. McCabe)
Cristin Mustillo, Deputy Attorney General
Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA
Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA
R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD
Joe Dunn, Morris SCD
Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD
Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD
James Hill, Hunterdon SCD
C. Raabe, Ocean SCD
Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD
E. George-Cheniara- NJBA

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2017 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Cywinski, the minutes of the September 17, 2017 closed session meeting were approved.

MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2018 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax, the minutes of the March 12, 2018 meeting were approved.

CHARMAN'S COMMENTS

Secretary Fisher commented that with the excessive amount of rainfall New Jersey has experienced over the past few months and the changing weather patterns, the job of the district supervisors and state committee members is extremely crucial.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

- 1. District Supervisor appointments-** On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Mr. Lomax, the following Category 1 supervisors, "Supervisor Re-nominations that met Supervisor Performance Standards for 3-year term ending June 30, 2021", were re-appointed by the SSCC: Ray Cywinski (Bergen), Thomas Budd (Burlington), Dennis Dougherty (Camden), Rick Dovey and Dan Galletta (Cape-Atlantic), Maury Sheets (Cumberland-Salem), Charles Buscaglia (Freehold), John Furfari (Gloucester), John Sarnas and Geraldine Flach (HEP), John Van Nuys (Hunterdon), Ed DiPolvere and W. Scott Ellis (Mercer), Phillip Roehrich (Morris), Wm. Pollock and Tony DiLodovico (Ocean), Matthew Loper (Somerset-Union), Richard Vohden Jr. and Natalie Burger (Sussex), Wayne Jarvis and Sylvia Kovacs (Warren). Mr. Cywinski recused from voting on his re-appointment. Mr. Buscaglia recused from voting on his re-appointment. Ms. Kovacs recused from voting on the Warren SCD re-appointments. Concerning Category 2, "Supervisor Re-nominations that did not meet Supervisor Performance Standards", on motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Buscaglia, the waiver for Ralph Sickler (no annual conference attendance) was approved and Mr. Sicker was re-appointed to the Cumberland- Salem SCD Board for a three-year term which expires June 30, 2021. The waiver for Robert McEwan (lack of training points and no annual conference attendance) was approved by roll call vote (Cywinski- abstain, Buscaglia- no, McLendon- yes, Lomax- yes, Kocubinski- yes, Kovacs- abstain, DiLodovico- yes). Mr. McEwan was re-appointed to the Morris SCD Board for a three-year term which expires June 30, 2021. On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax, Edward Dec (Somerset-Union) was appointed by the SSCC to a three-year term which expires June 30, 2021. Mr. Dec is replacing Steven Needle who is not seeking re-appointment. The following appointments were approved in Category 4, "New Supervisor Appointments for 1-year term ending June 30, 2019. On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Ms. Kovacs, Audrey Winzinger was appointed to the Burlington SCD Board to replace Don Knezick who is retiring. Mr. Lomax suggested that a letter of thanks be drafted and sent to Mr. Knezick for his many years of service. On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax, Marilyn Miller Heath was appointed to the vacant position on the Warren SCD Board. Ms. Kovacs abstained. Mr. Cywinski reported that the Bergen District Manager did not submit the paperwork to re-appoint Herman Rohsler because Mr. Rohsler has not met the supervisor criteria in several categories. Mr. Cywinski indicated the Bergen SCD is canvassing to find a replacement for Mr. Rohsler and another supervisor vacancy in the district. This led to a discussion regarding quorums.

- 2. Sussex SCD Update-** Due to the retirement of the Sussex SCD Manager, Cliff Lundin, the Sussex SCD has entered into a shared services agreement with the Warren SCD. Sandy Myers, Warren SCD Manager, is going to Sussex several days a week to provide oversight. Two other Sussex SCD employees have resigned/retired which has complicated matters for the District. One priority for the Sussex District is to implement a tracking system for funds submitted to the District. Ms. Kovacs thanked Mr. Minch for the vast amount of time he has committed to providing assistance to the Sussex SCD. Also, Ms. Kovacs thanked the Morris SCD for their tracking system which will help the Sussex SCD immensely. Several of the Sussex District Supervisors are new and inexperienced. Secretary Fisher suggested a one-day training session for new/inexperienced supervisors or, supervisors who would like a refresher course.

9:50 AM- Mr. DiLodovico arrived.

9:51 AM- Ms. George-Cheniara arrived.

10:04 AM- Ms. Raabe arrived.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

- 1. Morris SCD Fee Schedule-** The Morris SCD has proposed a modification to their fee schedule. The district is proposing to increase the non-compliance fees associated with the failure of an applicant to provide written notification prior to the commencement of construction from \$85/hour to a \$170 flat fee. In addition, the district has proposed that the certification fee on 1-3 lot subdivisions be increased by \$100 (to \$650) and the inspection fee be increased by \$150 (to \$300). Also, the certification fee for a proposed project less than 5,000 square feet is to be increased by \$200 (to \$500) and inspection fee increased by \$75/acre (to \$200). SSCC staff has reviewed the Morris SCD fee schedule revision and determined that the revision demonstrates a reasonable relationship between the proposed fees and the cost for providing services. Staff recommends that this revised fee schedule be adopted as proposed. On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Mr. Lomax, the revised Morris SCD fee schedule was adopted.
- 2. Exempt municipality- Sayreville; Wayne –** Mr. Van Olden reported that after meeting with Wayne officials, the HEP District staff has seen marked improvement in the township's performance. A lengthy discussion was held regarding Sayreville's exempt status. Ms. Zimmerman indicated there are many deficiencies in the way Sayreville is administering their program. Because of repeated failed annual reviews, Ms. Zimmerman feels Sayreville's exempt status should be revoked. She indicated that several years ago Sayreville almost had their exempt status revoked and there has been no improvement. Currently, the township is not aware that their last several annual performance reviews have been unsatisfactory. There was some discussion regarding who's responsible to inform the town that their performance is lacking. On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski the revocation of Sayreville's exempt status was tabled. The Freehold SCD will provide the SSCC with specifics regarding Sayreville's shortcomings and a letter will be drafted on department letterhead detailing the deficiencies and sent to the administration and township engineer. Mr. Buscaglia abstained.
- 3. Engineering Report-** Mr. Minch reported on some of Mr. Showler's work activities over the last several months, including issues with the Apple Ridge project (Bergen SCD). Also reviewed was a revised bulletin regarding the use of a penetrometer to assess soil compaction.

11:00 AM- Mr. Reitmeyer left.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher provided the following update:

- **2018 NJ Envirothon-** This year was the 25th anniversary of the NJ Envirothon. West Windsor Plainsboro High School won the 2018 NJ Envirothon with MATES Team #1 coming in second and MAST Team #1 taking third place. Several students from the West Windsor Plainsboro Team #1 can not make the National Envirothon in Pocatello, Idaho in July so the MATES Team #1 will be representing New Jersey at the national competition. Planning is underway for the 2019 NJ Envirothon.
- **Poster Contest Ceremony-** The poster contest awards ceremony was held May 21st at the State Museum.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Ms. Lindig, reported that NRCS is approaching the 4th quarter of their fiscal year. Also, Ms. Lindig reported about the 2-day conference in Tarrytown, NY which was held for the conservation partners in the northeast to come up with a strategic plan for this area of the country. Mr. Lomax, Mr. Cywinski, Mr. Minch and Craig McGee of the Camden SCD attended the conference. Last spring NRCS held several local workgroup meetings to determine what the agriculture community felt were their important issues. The results of these meetings will shape NRCS' 2019 programs. NACD has provided funding to hire and train conservation planners which will be housed in NRCS service centers.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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

- The Annual Conservation Conference will be a topic of conversation at the NJACD meeting which will take place after the SSCC meeting.
- The Association is awaiting feedback from a survey which was sent to all District Supervisors regarding the content and format of the upcoming conference.
- Discussion and finalization of the Executive Director position will be discussed at the NJACD meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP)

Mr. McLendon reported on the following:

- Acting Commissioner Catherine McCabe was confirmed on Thursday.
- Michelle Putman was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Water Resource Management.
- The 9th Annual Barnegat Bay Blitz was held last Friday. The results of the clean-up are unknown at the present time.
- Legislation has been introduced regarding stormwater utilities. This legislation, if enacted, will address infrastructure issues and oversight management and maintenance issues on stormwater infrastructure.

11:58 AM- Ms. George- Cheniara left.

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. In addition, Dr. Murphy mentioned the following:

- There is acid producing soil on a Federal project in Sayreville.
- The Rutgers weather website is www.njweather.org
- Summer season crops are estimated to be two weeks behind schedule.
- High tide flooding is happening at twice the rate it did 30 years ago.
- Dr. Larry Katz is stepping down as the Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension at the end of June. Dr. Brian Schilling will be the new Director.
- Rutgers received a \$24.477 million grant from a Greek organization to rejuvenate Greek agriculture and create new jobs for youth.
- Lyme disease is soaring in New Jersey. The counties with the most cases are Morris, Hunterdon and Monmouth.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS

- Mr. Dunn mentioned that at the July Morris SCD meeting each year there is a standing resolution regarding how to deal with a lack of quorum.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held September 10, 2018 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch
Executive Secretary, SSCC