

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2025
VIRTUAL ONLY**

The special October meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Ed Wengryn at 9:32 AM. Frank 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 200 Riverview Building in Trenton; by emailing media resources for the Courier Post, Trenton Times, and nj.com, and filed with the Secretary of State.

The Flag Salute was recited.

Call of the Membership Roll indicated the following:

Members Present

Ed Wengryn, Chairman
Frank Minch, Executive Secretary
Joe Lomax
Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. L. Lawson)
Mike Rigolizzo
Sylvia Kovacs
Michael Haberland (rep. B. Schilling)
Cormac Morrissey
Ray Cywinski
Dennis Contois, NJDEP
Louise Davis

Others Present

Tim Thomas, Freehold SCD
Paul Califano, Freehold SCD
Freehold SCD
Robert Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD
Ines Zimmerman, NJACD
Janet Rekesius, HEP SCD
Michael DePalma, Hunterdon SCD
Jennifer McCulloch, Morris SCD
609-585-5673
609-868-9326
856-466-1880

Others Present

Sara Mellor, NJDA
Diana Diaz, NJDA
Kelly Doyle, NJDA
John Furfari, Gloucester SCD
Michael Bonham, Cumberland-Salem SCD
Matthew D'Alessandro, Somerset-Union SCD
Michael Kent, DelAtlantic SCD
Valerie Brown, DelAtlantic SCD



MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

A vote was called to accept the draft meeting minutes from the September 8, 2025, meeting. Ray Cywinski made a motion to approve the minutes. Michael Rigolizzo seconded; Louis Davis abstained from, all other Committee members present voted in the affirmative.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Secretary Wengryn waived his comments to expedite the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Frank Minch reported the following:

a. 2:90 Rules Update

- Full update of all four chapters is underway.
- Meetings held with the Attorney General's office and internal counsel.
- Next step: submission to the Governor's Office.
- A summary of proposed changes will be shared with the Committee.

b. Supervisor Appointments

- Freehold SCD: Supervisor stepped down. Nominating Committee recommended Thomas Scott Taylor. Motion to appoint Taylor by Ray Cywinski, seconded by Michael Rigolizzo. Motion carried unanimously.
- Gloucester SCD: Jay Kandel announced resignation effective June 2026. Committee agreed to send a letter of appreciation closer to his departure. District will form a nominating committee for his replacement.

c. District Fee Schedule – DelAtlantic

- Background provided by Cormac Morrissey on the methodology used to develop the new fee schedule following the merger of Camden and Cape Atlantic districts. Emphasis on aligning fees with actual hours worked and cost of services.
- Discussion included:
 - Comparison of hourly rates across the two districts. Benefit changes coming to local government is factoring in as well. Impact of new stormwater rules on workload and review time.
- Staff recommended approval of the new fee schedule.



- Motion by Ray Cywinski (amended to reflect it is a new schedule, not an increase), seconded by Louise Davis. Motion carried with three recusals (Cormac Morrissey, Joe Lomax, and Mike Rigolizzo), one abstention (Sylvia Kovacs)

Public and Agency Comments

- John Fafara raised a question regarding the status of Mike Visceralli. Executive Committee will meet later in the week to discuss and report back.
- Janet Rekesius inquired about guidance on new public notice requirements. Frank Minch responded that guidance will be issued once received from the Attorney General's office.
- Ray Cywinski raised concerns about the upcoming Annual Partnership Meeting and potential impacts NRCS unable to attend due to government shutdown. Committee acknowledged and is working on contingency planning.

A motion was made by Sylvia Kovacs to adjourn and was seconded by Joe Lomax. The meeting ended at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch, Division Director

