

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 14, 2013**

The January meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:32 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)

John Kocubinski

Barbara Rosko

Brian McLendon (rep. B Martin)

Carl Quazza

Carrie Mosley

Sean Moriarity, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSCC, NJDA

John Showler, SSCC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSCC, NJDA

Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD

R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

Mario Tridente, HEP SCD

Victor DeVasto, Gloucester SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Stacy Brady, Freehold SCD

Christina LaBianca, Freehold SCD

Don Knezick, Burlington SCD

Paul Hlubik, FSA

Bill Brash, Mercer SCD

Bob Dobbs, Camden SCD

Amy Karpati- PPA

Cathy Costa, Burlington SCD

Sylvia Kovacs, Warren SCD

Janet Rekesius, HEP SCD

Daniel Kuti, HEP SCD

Marie Banasiak, NJFB

Minutes of October and November Meetings

A motion was made by Mr. Lomax, and second by Ms. Rosko, the minutes of the October 15, 2012 and November 13, 2012 meetings were approved with one correction, Dr. Orton's first name is Elvin (page 6, November minutes).

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Secretary Fisher expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the Conservation Partnership Sub-Committees. He is looking forward to periodic updates from each of these workgroups.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **SSCC/SCD Telephone Directory-** It is anticipated that the directory will be completed by the end of the week and distributed to districts and partners.
2. **Action Items-** the list was reviewed and the Committee brought up to date with these action items.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **2:90 Rules/Standards-** There are several key points that require additional work before finalizing and State Committee review and action.
2. **Hurricane Sandy Emergency Clean Up Policy-** Mr. Showler narrated a power point presentation from several tours with district personnel to coastal towns in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. This presentation underscored the devastating effects of this storm. Guidance has been requested from these districts regarding permitting and demolition/cleanup. NJDEP is receiving their guidance from an Executive Order which, in essence, has suspended regulations and put a priority on clean up. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Mr. Minch and Mr. Moriarity would write guidance on this issue and presented to the State Committee for consideration as an Administrative Order.
3. **Piscataway Ordinance –** Piscataway Township in Middlesex County, which is an exempt municipality, wishes to amend their soil erosion and sediment control fees to mimic the fees charged by the Freehold SCD.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Quazza, this issue was tabled and representatives from Piscataway Township will be invited to the next SSCC meet so this issue may be discussed in more depth.

4. **PSE&G Northeast Grid Waiver Request-** In conjunction with the Northeast Grid Reliability Project, PSE&G is seeking an exemption from the SE&SC Act for underground construction work planned on public roadways. PSE&G provided their rationale in a letter to Mr. Minch.

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Quazza, this issue was tabled and representatives from PSE&G will be invited to March SSCC meeting so this issue may be discussed in more depth.

5 **NJ Conservation Workgroups- Sub-Committee Reports**

- Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee- Mr. Lomax provided a brief update and overview of the goals and milestones of this sub-committee.
- District Fee Schedule and Fiscal Sub-committee- Mr. Cywinski provided a brief update and overview of the goals and milestones of this sub-committee.
- Training Sub-Committee- Mr. Brash provided an update and overview of the goals and milestones of this sub-committee.
- District Review Sub-Committee- Mr. DiLodovico provided a brief update and overview of the goals and milestones of this sub-committee.

6 **HEP Fee Schedule-** Mr. Minch indicated that although progress has been made in resolving this issue there are still several areas that require more work. A lengthy discussion ensued.

On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Cywinski, the HEP fee schedule was tabled until documented figures are provided to justify any modification in the fee schedule. Mr. Quazza recused himself from voting on this issue.

7 **Sussex Supervisor Appt.-** The local nominating committee recommended the appointment of Phil Deacon, a former Sussex SCD Board member for 10 years, to fill the vacant position.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Quazza, the nomination of Mr. Deacon was approved and he was appointed to the Sussex SCD Board. Ms. Rosko recused herself from voting on this issue.

8 **Bergen Supervisor Appt.-** Bergen SCD supervisor Herman Rohsler, who previously had received a probationary appointment due to insufficient training points, fulfilled this requirement.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Quazza, Mr. Rohsler appointment was extended to a full three (3) year term. Mr. Cywinski recused himself from the vote.

9 **Engineering Issues-** Mr. Showler reviewed a draft letter addressed to the Board of Professional Engineers in an effort to obtain recognition for SSCC training to receive Continuing Professional Competency (CPC) credits. This designation would provide CPC credits for the licensed professionals who attend these training sessions.

10 **Chapter 251 Quarterly Report-** July to September 2012- During this timeframe, 1,139 applications were processed by the districts on 3,721 acres of land disturbance activities. Nearly 14,615 inspections and 1,503 reports of compliance were issued during the period to assure compliance (report attached).

11 **Quarterly Reimbursement Report-** Mr. Showler distributed and reviewed the quarterly Chapter 251 administrative fee reimbursement report for FY '13, 1st quarter.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM (FPCSP)

Mr. Fekete reported on the following:

1. **Cost Share Payments Processed** – Since November three (3) payment requests were processed to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) totaling \$38,948.33 representing the State share for completed and functioning practices. All were irrigation projects. The value of these projects exceeds \$77,896.66.
2. **Extension Requests-** A request from Southland Farms of Ocean County (\$26,554.23) for a twelve (12) month extension for a permanent open drainage project. Due to various issues such as a delay in design time and weather issues, the cost share project wasn't completed. On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Dr. Murphy this extension request was approved.
 A request from Daniel Czarnak of Atlantic County (\$5,265.62) for a twelve (12) month extension for an irrigation project. Due to economic issues and weather issues, the cost share project wasn't completed. On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Cywinski, this extension request was approved.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) *

Mr. Fekete reported the following regarding the CREP program.

Conservation Practices	Contracts Approved		Payments Processed	
	This Period	Cumulative	This Period	Cumulative
Filter Strips (acres)	0	316.9	0	304.26
Grassed Waterway (acres)	2.2	129.8	1.6	108.43
Lined Waterway (feet)	30,650	97,707	28,800	49,446
Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	0	221.9	0	191.1
Number of Contracts	3	169	3	157
Funds Obligated/Expended	\$17,573.46	\$386,066.08	\$15,398.00	\$305,778.09

*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. **NJ Envirothon-** The 2013 NJ Envirothon will be held May 4th at Camp Kettle Run in Medford. A planning meeting is scheduled for January 24th.
2. **NJ Flower and Patio Show-** This event will take place the second week of February.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ms. Mosley, who was attending her first SSCC meeting, reported that NRCS received an initial allocation of \$500,000 for immediate Hurricane Sandy assistance. To date, four (4) requests for monetary assistance have been received from Monmouth County municipalities.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mr. Hlubik reported on the following:

1. The Federal economic situation has not been resolved. There is a temporary agreement in place which expires March 1st. Anticipated cuts for the agency could amount to over 16% of their operating budget.
2. The Farm Bill has been extended through September 30th. Most programs have been reauthorized for another year.
3. The initial Hurricane Sandy recovery request was \$5,180,000. This request was made under ECP. A portion of that funding has been received.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. Cywinski reported on the following:

1. Supervisor training is scheduled today.
2. The event schedule for 2013 is complete and will be posted on the NJACD website shortly.
3. There are plans to have the NJACD web site updated and enhanced.
4. The Soils Curriculum may need to be revised pending adoption of new science standards by the NJ Dept. of Education.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon reiterated that the districts should be involved in the clean-up efforts from Hurricane Sandy. When money is released rebuilding activities will accelerate. It is anticipated that there will be strict deadline requirements associated with the Sandy efforts.

A meeting is being scheduled regarding the review of agriculture projects as related to 251 projects

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. Rutgers University hosted a symposium and dinner event on December 11th -12th, 2012 in honor of the 60th anniversary of Selman Waksman receiving the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.
2. Rutgers Center for Remote Sensing & Spatial Analysis (CRSSA) assisted in a rapid assessment of impacts to coastal beach, dune, salt marsh and maritime forest habitats.

3. The Rutgers asparagus breeding team was recognized for their contribution to NJ agriculture by the Research & Development Council of NJ, which selected the "NJ953" male asparagus hybrid plant for a 2012 Patent Award.
4. The 22nd Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium was dedicated to the memory of C. Reed Funk.
5. Continuing education program for recertification of professional fertilizer applicators has begun. Training and recertification opportunities are listed on the ProFact website. Currently, there are approximately 3,000 certified and trained applicators.
6. Spring semester begins January 22nd.
7. On January 29th, USEPA Administrator, Judith Enck will deliver a lecture on climate change entitled, "The End of the Beginning of the Environmental Movement".
8. USEPA 'Documerica' Environmental Photo Exhibit will take place January 22nd to February 5th. Photographs depicting environmental conditions of the past and present from this region and across the nation will be highlighted.

Public Comment

1. Mr. Belcher indicated that Lynne Richmond, NJDA Public Information Officer, has been in contact with an individual from the State Council of the Arts who is publicizing the NJ Poster Contest in an effort to increase participation.
2. Ms. Karpati of Pinelands Preservation Alliance spoke about the soil restoration standard being held up in the Governor's office. Ms. Karpati asked if there has been any research regarding the cost/benefit analysis of restoring compacted soils. Mr. Showler commented that calculating the cost versus the benefits of restoring compacted soils would be an extremely difficult, if not impossible, task. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning this topic.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 PM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held March 11, 2013 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch