

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
JUNE 9, 2014**

The June meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:42 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.

Call of the Membership Roll indicated the following:

Members Present Associate Members and Others

Douglas Fisher

Barbara Rosko

Priscilla Hayes

Charlie Buscaglia

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Brian McLendon (rep. B. Martin)

John Kocubinski

Carrie Mosley

Tony DiLodovico

Larry Katz

Sean Moriarity, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

Dr. Ferdows Ali, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Stacy Brady, Freehold SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD

Bob Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Kerry Jennings, Ocean SCD

Bob Dobbs, NJACD

Paul Hlubik, USDA/FSA

Cathy Costa, Burlington SCD

Matt Ward, HEP SCD

MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2014 MEETING

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Cywinski, the minutes of the May 12, 2014 meeting were approved as amended. Mr. McLendon indicated that DEP does have the expertise to map, inventory and maintain stormwater basins they just do not have the staff to do so.

9:44 AM- Ms. Mosley arrives.

9:45 AM- Mr. Hlubik arrives.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Penalty Enforcement- Morris SCD- This matter has been resolved between the Morris SCD and the builder. A copy of the settlement will be forwarded to the Committee.
2. Southway, Sanyston- Sussex SCD- Mr. Minch visited this site and several others involving this particular builder. The site in question is not subject to the Permit Extension Act but the builder will be required to file for recertification. The property owner is questioning why other properties were not regulated in a similar manner.
3. Porto Complaint- Bergen SCD- There was a complaint regarding manure being stockpiled in a flood plain area. The landowner has the equivalent of 2 animal units, was extremely cooperative and the matter has been resolved.

9:50 AM- Mr. DiLodovico arrives

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Supervisor Appointments-** On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Ms. Hayes, Category 1, *Supervisor Re-nominations that met Supervisor Performance Standards for 3-year term ending June 30, 2017*, were re-appointed. They include the following district supervisors, Ron Binaghi (Bergen), Cathy Costa (Burlington), Robert Carter, Jr. and Philip Kunkle (Camden), Joe Lomax (Cape-Atlantic), Ron Thomas (Cumberland-Salem), Wayne Van Hise (Freehold), Jay Kandle (Gloucester), Mario Tridente (HEP), Richard Stothoff (Hunterdon), Gary Mount (Mercer). Louise Davis (Morris), Michael Gross (Ocean), Henry Dreyer, Jr. (Somerset-Union), Philip Deacon (Sussex), Nancy Bilyk (Warren). Mr. Cywinski recused himself from voting on the Bergen nomination.

On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Ms. Hayes, Category 2, *Supervisor Re-nominations that did not meet Supervisor Performance Standards* were granted a 6 month provisional appointment so as to obtain the supervisor performance standards. This group includes, Henry Dubois (Cumberland-Salem) and Peggy McNeill (Mercer) who must attend the next annual conference and Robert Dreyer (Freehold) who must attain .5 training points and increase his meeting attendance to 70%.

On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Mr. Cywinski, Category 3, *New Supervisor Appointments for 2-year term ending June 30, 2016*, Michael Rigolizzo, who was the local nominating committee's recommendation to complete a vacant, unexpired term, was appointed to the Camden SCD Board.

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Kocubinski, Category 4, *New Supervisor Appointments for 3-year term ending June 30, 2017*, the following appointments were made: James Hill (Hunterdon) was appointed to fill the vacancy left by the death of Floyd Mencheck and Graham Russell (HEP) was appointed to fill the vacancy of retiring supervisor, Bob Prout.

Category 5, *Supervisor Appointments ending June 30, 2014*, Art Brown is not seeking re-election to the Cape-Atlantic Board. The local nominating committee will convene in search of a replacement.

2. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on the various items he has been working on over the past several months including the Grinell recycling facility (Sussex SCD), Fenimore landfill (Morris SCD), Bergen Tool (Warren SCD), NJ DEP Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, Low Impact Development Work Group, Infiltration basin survey and Detention basin database project.

10:05 AM- Dr. Murphy Arrives

3. **Exempt Municipality Review-** As requested at the May meeting, the report has been modified to include all fully exempt municipalities and those which have a working agreement with a district. A lengthy discussion was held regarding wording on said report. Mr. Showler will attempt to clarify and revise report. A meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday with the engineer for Washington Boro and Oxford Township in Warren County to discuss and remedy the deficiencies noted by the district. The HEP District is concerned about the response from the City of Newark. A meeting may be required to address these concerns.

10:24 AM- Dr. Ali arrives.

4. **NJ Conservation Workgroups- Sub-Committee Reports**

- Training Sub-committee- There have been some glitches regarding the corrections to the Supervisor's Training Manual. Once this is rectified, the manual will be completed and distributed.
- Policy and Procedures Sub-committee- On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the draft Single Family Exemption Administrative Bulletin was approved for comment. The comment Period will be 30 days. Comments will be submitted through Mr. Minch to the Sub-committee and presented to SSCC for final approval at the August meeting.
On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Cywinski, the draft of the Policy and Procedures Manual was approved for comment. The comment period will be 60 days. Comments will be submitted through Mr. Minch to the sub-committee and presented to the SSCC for final approval at the October meeting.
The sub-committee is working on several other items including Supervisor Performance Standards and the Administrative Standards.
- Fee and Fiscal Sub-committee- The Fee Schedule Manual has been distributed for comment. To date, very few comments have been received. There is still approximately a week left in the comment period.
- Review/ Appraisal Sub-committee- Mr. Minch reported that this sub-committee is working on self-assessment documents but essentially waiting for final products from other sub-committees to incorporate into their work.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

1. **2014 Poster Contest-** Awards ceremony for statewide winners took place at the state museum auditorium on May 22nd. In addition to the poster winners, the NJ Envirothon winners and the scholarship winners were also honored. A tour of the statehouse was held after the awards ceremony.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ms. Mosley provided an update on NRCS programs. In addition, she spoke regarding draft interpretive rules which were published in the Federal Register concerning the definition of Waters of the U.S. and exemptions to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and dredging and filling material that affects the waters of the U.S.. Normal farming operations are exempt from obtaining a 404 permit but, in the past, that definition of a normal farming operation was broad and ambiguous. Now, the definition has been clarified. In addition, 56 NRCS conservation practices are exempt from obtaining a 404 permit. The State of New Jersey is one of only two, Michigan being the other, which has regulatory responsibility of the Clean Water Act. Ms. Mosley met with NJDEP and was told that DEP would continue to require 404 permits. Ms. Mosley was seeking the support of the Committee and Department before she meets with DEP again to see if there is any latitude regarding their decision.

A new program was introduced in the recently passed Farm Bill, the Conservation Partnership Program. This program provides funding for outside entities, NGOs, state agencies, etc. Pre-proposals are due into Washington by July 14th. Those entities with successful proposals funded must provide matching funds.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon reported that DEP has implemented an anti-dumping campaign and cameras have been installed in many state parks to combat this activity. To date this endeavor has been extremely successful. Large fines have been levied against illegal dumpers.

In the ongoing Hurricane Sandy efforts, 36 properties out of approximately 200 targeted in the Sayreville area have been purchased by the Department of Treasury & transferred to DEP. These efforts are on-going.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. On May 12th and 13th a conference was held regarding farmland preservation. This conference was organized by Brian Schilling. 28 State have some type of farmland preservation program. A total of 2.2 million acres has been preserved nationwide. One third of those preserved acres are located in Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware.
2. The 6th Annual Sustainable Raritan River Conference will be held Friday at the Cook Campus Center.

3. On May 17th there was a yard, garden and native plant fair at Jake's Branch Park in Ocean County. There are test plots regarding best management practices on heavily compacted sandy soil after construction. To date, the results have been very encouraging.
4. The Soils Testing Lab has received many inquiries regarding substitutes for limestone to add to the soil. There are several products on the market which claim to be more effective than limestone. The department is conduct tests regarding these claims.
5. Research has shown that earthworms degrade the natural progression of forest ecology.

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Dr. Katz reported on the following:

1. 2014 marks the 150th anniversary of the Land Grant System and the 100th anniversary of Cooperative extension. Many commemorative events are planned.
2. Duke Farms has agreed to a public demonstration project highlighting soil conservation.
3. An update regarding personnel and vacancies was provided.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mr. Hlubik provided an update on FSA programs including that today is the first day the CRP program is open for sign up under the new Farm Bill. Sign up for this program is continuous. Under the Hurricane Sandy programs, 40 producers have been paid through the ACP program. Due to the hail storm last week, paperwork has been submitted in an effort to have an emergency declaration in Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Ms. Hayes reported on the following:

1. The NJACD is preparing a strategic plan.
2. Planning for the Annual Conservation Conference is ongoing. The conference will take place in the Morris County area November 23rd and 24th.

On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Mr. Kocubinski the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held August 11, 2014 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch

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