The March meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:39 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
Sylvia Kovacs
John Kocubinski
Charlie Buscaglia
Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)
Ray Cywinski
Joe Lomax
Tony Dilodovico
Dave Lamm (rep. C. Mosley)
Michael Rigolizzo
Sean Moriarty, Deputy Attorney General
Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSCC, NJDA
John Showler, SSCC, NJDA
Tim Fekete, SSCC, NJDA
Bob Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD
Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD
Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD
Dave Reilly, C/A SCD
Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD
Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD
Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD
Bob Dobbs, NJACD
Ryan Rebozo, PPA
Paul Hlubik, USDA, FSA
MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2015 MEETING
On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the minutes of the January 12, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
Secretary Fisher mentioned that there is a “floated idea” regarding the issue of soil disturbance on preserved farms. It is based on a Rutgers study & six years of SADC Committee work. It is an extremely contentious issue within the agriculture community. If, and when, it becomes a proposed rule, it will be discussed more thoroughly at the SSCC.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT

1. **Audit Manual**- The Cape/Atlantic SCD had provided a request for extension of the comment period. On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Kovacs, the comment period for the Audit Manual has been extended 30 days to allow SCD auditors the chance to review and comment on the manual.

9:47 AM- Mr. Buscaglia arrived.

2. **Supervisor Appointments**- letters have been sent to supervisors whose terms are expiring. SCDs have been advised to activate their Supervisor Nominating Committees.

3. **Regional Supervisors Dinner**- Letters have been sent from the NJACD to all members regarding these meetings. They are scheduled as follows: North (March 18th), Central (March 24th) and South (March 26th). A notice was sent from the Association to all members.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Soil Restoration Standard**- Mr. Minch reported that the cost/benefit analysis for soil restoration is being examined by the soil restoration subcommittee.

2. **Engineering Report**- Mr. Showler reviewed a report of his activities for the first quarter of 2015 including FEMA Dam Safety Seminar, Detention Basin Database Project, Golden Orchard Age Restricted Community (Bergen) and Great Adventure 90 Acre Solar Array (Ocean), among other things.

3. **Penalty Schedules** – Mr. Minch provided a brief update regarding an inquiry from a builder in Morris County who was assessed a penalty for failure to obtain a SESC certification. This inquiry was referred to the Morris SCD and the builder’s funds have since been returned. Mr. Minch reiterated the program authorities with respect to penalty assessment.

4. **New Jersey Conservation District Sub-Committee Reports**
   - **Training**- Mr. Minch indicated this sub-committee must appoint a chair to replace the co-chairs who have stepped down.
Policies & Procedures- Mr. Lomax provided an update regarding the activities of this sub-committee. The single family dwelling interpretation with frequently asked questions has been completed and circulated for comment. The 251 Policy and Procedures Manual with appendices has been completed. The Administrative Operations manual in in draft form and should be completed for the May meeting. The Supervisor Performance Standards is the next task for this sub-committee.

Fee/Fiscal- Mr. Cywinski provided an update regarding the activities of this sub-committee. The comment period for the audit manual was extended for an additional 30 days.

Review/Appraisal- Mr. DiLodovico provided an update regarding the activities of the sub-committee.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM
Mr. Belcher reported on the following activities:

- **Flower and Patio show**- The theme of the show was “Great American Novels” and the conservation partnership’s display was Conservation with Huck Finn. This project won two first place awards and two second place awards.

- **NJ Envirothon**- To date, 33 teams from 16 counties are registered. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. Team registration has been extended to March 16th.

- **Poster Contest**- All district winning posters are due by April 1st for statewide judging. Nationally, NJ had a first place winner in the 4th to 6th grade category. The poster was submitted from the Freehold SCD.

- **Awards Ceremony**- The date to schedule this event will be discussed at the NJACD meeting later today.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Dr. Murphy provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings involving the University and co-operative Extension.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
Mr. Lamm provided an update on the activities of the NRCS specifically the temporary closing of two of the service centers, one (Hackettstown) due to heavy snow twisting roof beams and the second (Woodstown) due to frozen water pipes which burst.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Mr. Hlubik provided an update on the programs and activities of FSA.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
Mr. Cywinski reported on the activities of the NJACD including planning for the annual conference & the 2016 Northeast Regional NACD meeting which will be hosted by New Jersey.
Mr. Cywinski thanked Rich Belcher and the staff of Freehold and Cape-Atlantic SCDs for all their efforts and hard work involving the Flower Show.
Mr. Lomax spoke at length regarding the NACD annual conference in New Orleans and various highlights of this well attended conference. Over 900 individuals attended this meeting. The 2015 Northeast Regional NACD meeting will be held August 2nd and 3rd in West Virginia. The next annual NACD will be held in Reno, Nevada January 31st to February 3rd

PUBLIC COMMENTS
A discussion was held regarding SCD diversification of duties and tasks to attract additional operational funding.

On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Mr. Lomax, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held May 11, 2015 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch