

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
MAY 11, 2015**

The May 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

Brian McLendon (rep. R. Martin)

Michael Rigolizzo

Mark Collier, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

Dr. Ferdows Ali, SSSC, NJDA

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD

Kerry Jennings, Ocean SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Jay Kandle, Gloucester SCD

Dan Galletta, C/A SCD

Desiree Dunn, NJACD

E. George-Cheniara, Builders Assn.

MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2015 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the minutes of the March 9, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Secretary Fisher reported on the H & H Database Project which has a deadline of June 30, 2015. Some districts have completed this task, others are close to completion while several districts still have a fair amount of work to complete this undertaking.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

- 1. DCA Conference-** Recently, Mr. Minch spoke about soil erosion and sediment control at the NJ Department of Community Affairs conference in Atlantic City, NJ. It was an excellent outreach opportunity
- 2. Records Disposal-** The state is converting from paper records disposal requests to electronic effective May 30th.
- 3. PSE&G Remediation Project-** Starting in September, approximately 500 parking spots in the Area 3 Parking Lot will be lost for about 18 months due to remediation for a manufactured gas plant which occupied the site during the 1800's. Due to limited parking, it may be prudent to schedule future meetings at an alternate location.
- 4.** A copy of the NJ Policy Prohibiting Discrimination in the Workplace has been sent to all districts with instructions to distribute to all supervisors. Additional training will be held in the near future.
- 5. OPRA/3rd Party Review-** A trend is emerging in which a third party submits an OPRA request to review and comment on site plans submitted to districts. There is no provision in the statute or regulations which allows participation of third parties in the application or review stages of the approval/certification process.
- 6. Appeal-** On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Kovacs, a motion was made to allow DAG Moriarty to write an Administrative Bulletin reinforcing or clarifying the lack of appeal rights to third party individuals regarding certification of plans.
- 7. Supervisor Appointment- Gloucester SCD-** Due to the resignation of Jeffrey Gellenthin the Gloucester SCD has a vacancy to fill on their board. The Gloucester Supervisor Nominating Committee has recommended the appointment of John Grasso, a turf and irrigation supply manager to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Gellenthin (6/30/16). On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Mr. Lomax, Mr. Grasso was appointed to the Gloucester SCD Board.

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. A lengthy discussion ensued.

10:19 AM- Jay Kandle arrives

2. **Exempt Municipality Report-** Mr. Showler reviewed the report of the municipalities which administer their own 251 program. All are performing satisfactorily with the exception of two municipalities in Warren County, Oxford Township (unsatisfactory) and Washington Boro (conditionally satisfactory). After a lengthy discussion regarding Oxford Township, a motion was made by Mr. DiLodovico, second by Mr. Lomax to rescind the exempt status of Oxford Township due to habitual yearly unsatisfactory reviews regarding how they administer the 251 program. Ms. Kovacs recused herself from the vote.
3. **251 Quarterly Report** – This report covered January to March 2015. During that timeframe 1,151 applications, 1,105 certifications, 12,713 inspections and \$1,894,820 in fees have been collected.
4. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on his activities for the months of March and April which included an update of the Detention Basin Database Project, Golden Orchards Age Restricted Community (Bergen SCD), Great Adventure Solar Array (Ocean SCD), Neptune Estates (Freehold), Augusta Solar (Sussex SCD) and Willow Grove Dam Rehabilitation (Cumberland/Salem SCD)
5. **New Jersey Conservation District Sub-Committee Reports**
 - **Training-** Mr. Minch indicated that Christina LaBianca has become Co-Chair of this committee but the search continues for another individual who will accept the Co-Chair responsibility.
 - **Policies & Procedures-** Mr. Lomax provided an update regarding the activities of this sub-committee. The appendices for the 251 Policy and Procedures Manual are in draft form and ready to be sent to the districts for comment. On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Mr. Buscaglia, the SSCC approved distribution of said appendices for a 60 day comment period.. There is a meeting scheduled towards the end of the month to finish the administrative policy component. Ms. Zimmerman spoke regarding an issue pertaining to smaller disturbances and if a smaller fee is warranted. The Policy and Procedure Sub-Committee will review this issue with the DAG.
 - **Fee/Fiscal-** Mr. Cywinski provided an update regarding the activities of this sub-committee. The sub-committee is scheduled to meet this Friday to review the comments received on the draft Audit Manual.
 - **Review/Appraisal-** Mr. DiLodovico provided an update regarding the activities of the sub-committee. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Mr. Belcher reported on the following activities:

- **NJ Envirothon-** 33 teams participated in the 2015 NJ Envirothon. 25 teams camped over Friday night for this event which took place Saturday, May 2nd. The Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) placed first in the competition. This is the sixth straight year MATES has won the NJ Envirothon. Mr. Belcher thanked all the volunteers for their time and assistance, especially the Cape-Atlantic SCD. Secretary Fisher thanked Mr. Belcher for his hard work and dedication to ensuring the success of the NJ Envirothon.
- **Poster Contest-** The 2015 Conservation Poster Contest NJ State Grand Champion is Taylor Copko (Warren SCD). Her winning entry has been made into a folder which Mr. Belcher distributed to State Committee members.
- **Awards Ceremony-** The awards ceremony recognizing the 2015 poster winners and NJ Envirothon winners will take place May 19th at the State House Museum.

NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon provided an update on the activities of the department including the following:

- “Barnegat Bay Blitz”, an annual event, will take place Wednesday, June 3rd.
- DEP is still heavily engaged in clean-up from super storm Sandy.
- Blue Acres is down to acquiring the last few hundred properties. To date, approximately 300 properties have been acquired and restored to their natural state.
- Resiliency plans are in the works to prepare the state for future storm events.
- A discussion was held regarding composting facilities and erosion control plans.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings involving the University and co-operative Extension.

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. Additional training has been deferred to the annual meeting in anticipation of better attendance. Mr. Cywinski introduced the new Executive Director of NJACD, Desiree Dunn. Ms. Dunn started May 1st. She provided a brief introduction and biography.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Lomax provided an update regarding the NACD.

On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Mr. Lomax, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held June 8, 2015 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch