

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
AUGUST 11, 2014**

The August meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:43 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)

Tony DiLodovico

Carrie Mosley

Joe Lomax

Sean Moriarty, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD

Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD

Sandy Myers, Warren SCD

Kerry Jennings, Ocean SCD

Bob Dobbs, NJACD

Paul Hlubik, USDA/FSA

MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2014 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Dr. Murphy, the minutes of the June 9, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

9:49 AM- Mr. Buscaglia arrives.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Secretary Fisher reported that the Department has received copies of district letters and e-mails that contain editorialized comments. The Secretary stated that any correspondence from SCDs should be factual in nature. It is inappropriate to editorialize or provide conjecture.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. Staff followed up on three animal waste management complaints with a fourth scheduled for later this week.
2. Staff met with DEP and NRCS regarding flood hazard regulations as they apply to agriculture development.
3. Staff is preparing comments regarding the Raritan TMDL public hearing.
4. Staff met with Mr. Lomax and Mr. Buscaglia concerning district audits.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Southway, Sanyston- Sussex SCD- Mr. Minch visited this site and several others involving this particular builder accompanied by Cliff Lundin, District Manager. The site in question is not subject to the Permit Extension Act and the builder was required to file for recertification. The property owner is questioning why other properties were not regulated in a similar manner. Many of the projects sited by Mr. Minch and Mr. Lundin are over 20 years old. Neither the Sussex SCD, nor the municipality has records that old. Mr. Southway has complied with requirements and his plan has been recertified, however he continues to maintain that "projects" are not being regulated by the district.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Supervisor Appointments-** On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Ms. Hayes, Category 4, *New Supervisor Appointments for 3-year term ending June 30, 2017*, the following appointment was made: Robert Fenton, a farmer from Galloway Township who was the preferred choice of the local nominating committee, was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Cape/Atlantic Board replacing retiring supervisor, Art Brown.
2. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on the various items he has been working on over the past several months including the Marina solar facility (Sussex SCD), Central Regional High School solar field erosion, NJ DEP Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, Low Impact Development Work Group, Infiltration basin survey and Detention basin database project.

3. **C/A Letter of Concern-** Staff is in receipt of a letter from the Cape- Atlantic SCD regarding a co-operative process. Recently, a site visit was held in Atlantic County to assess the design of an infiltration basin. Cape- Atlantic SCD staff was unaware of the site visit and has requested better communications between parties and to be notified anytime business is being conducted within the district boundaries. Mr. McLendon indicated that letters sent scheduling this meeting originated from NJDEP. In the future, Mr. McLendon assured the district they will be notified when DEP issues letters scheduling site meetings. The Cape-Atlantic SCD requested a formal policy regarding notification from the SSCC on all site visits held in their jurisdiction. Secretary Fisher felt that a policy was not necessary.
4. **Exempt Municipalities Review-** Washington Boro and Oxford Township in Warren County have been given six months to remedy the deficiencies noted by the district. A meeting is scheduled Thursday afternoon with officials from the city of Newark to address the concerns of HEP District. If the problems with Newark continue, the SSCC will become involved.
5. **NJ Conservation Workgroups- Sub-Committee Reports**
 - Training Sub-committee- Ms. Hayes reported that introductory supervisor training is scheduled for October 20th, to follow the SSCC meeting. All supervisors would be invited and the completed Supervisor Handbook would be distributed.
 - Policy and Procedures Sub-committee- Mr. Lomax reported that the Administrative Policy and Procedures Manual is in draft form. It is anticipated that it will be complete for SSCC consideration in October. The comment period for the 251 Policy and Procedures Manual closed. Comments are being reviewed and the manual should be ready for SSCC consideration for the October meeting.
Single Family Exemption- The sub-committee will review the comments received. If that is accomplished quickly, DAG Moriarty may be able to review same and this document may be ready for consideration at the October SSCC meeting.
 - Fee and Fiscal Sub-committee- On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Dr. Murphy the modification of the fee schedule was approved. The effective date for implementation will be 2 years from the notification letter.
 - 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.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM

1. Extension Requests-

Southland Farm of Ocean County (\$6,750.00) requested a twelve (12) month extension for an irrigation project. This system is under design and review by USDA-NRCS. On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Buscaglia, this 12 month extension request was approved.

Gregory McLaughlin of Mercer County (\$8,129.00) requested a twelve (12) month extension for an irrigation and drainage projects. The well permit was recently granted by DEP. The layout and design of these projects are being completed by USDA-NRCS. On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Mr. Lomax, this 12 month extension request was approved.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

1. **Osprey Banding-** Several members of the MATES Envirothon Team, winners of the 2014 NJ Envirothon, banded ospreys on Sedge Island in Island Beach State Park.
2. **Poster Contest-** The theme for the upcoming contest is “Your Hard wWorking Pollinators”.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ms. Mosley provided an update on NRCS programs and funding including a very productive meeting with NJDEP concerning the interpretive rules of the Clean Water Act interpretive rules.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mr. Hlubik provided an update on FSA programs and various personnel moves and promotions within the agency.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Ms. Hayes provided an update regarding the upcoming Regional NACD Conference and the annual NJ Conservation Partnership conference. In addition, the association continues work on their strategic plan.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon reported that activities regarding Blue Acres and demolition work pertaining to Super Storm Sandy continues. There is no compensation to municipalities for lost rateables. DEP’s anti-dumping campaign, “Don’t Trash Our Open Space”, has been quite successful. There have been many arrests and fines levied. In addition, in some instances, jail time is being served by violators.

NJDEP will be exploring in more depth a Utah program for farmers from the state revolving funds. This has the potential of being a supplemental funding source (low interest loans) for the agriculture community.

11:15 AM- Mr. DiLodovico arrived.

11:25 AM- Secretary Fisher left the meeting.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. The Fall semester begins September 2nd.
2. A new soils course is being offered for the upcoming semester, "Soil and Society". This course is an elective science course being taught by Dr. Murphy.
3. Turf research field days- Was held during the last week of July. It was an extremely successful event with over 800 attendees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Van Olden, HEP District Manager, reported on the successful conclusion to the lawsuit initiated by the HEP SCD against New West Associates for utilizing 10 acres of the old Pabst Blue Ribbon brewery as an unauthorized dumping site. The developers were fined \$95,000 and owe the HEP district \$10,000 in court fees.

On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Mr. Cywinski the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held October 20, 2014 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch

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