

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
DECEMBER 14, 2015**

The December meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:37 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

Carrie Mosley

Tony DiLodovico

Brian McLendon (rep. R. Martin)

Michael Rigolizzo

Sean Moriarity, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

Dr. Ferdows Ali, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Dan Galletta, C/A SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD

Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD

Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD

Sandy Myers, Warren SCD

Paul Schiariti, Mercer SCD

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

Chad Cherefko, USDA-NRCS

David Earl, NJDOT

Todd Wolfram, NJDOT

Shivangi Granatra, NJDOT

Jay Khetani, NJDOT

E. George-Cheniara, NJBA

Jeromie Lange, Maser Consulting

Desiree Dunn, NJACD

Paul Hlubik, FSA

MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2015 MEETING

On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Mr. Rigolizzo, the minutes of the August 10, 2015 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Secretary Fisher applauded the State Committee and sub-committees for their hard work and accomplishments, especially regarding the Policy and Procedures Manual.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **2016 Meeting Calendar-** On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Mr. Rigolizzo, the 2016 SSCC meeting schedule was approved. The meeting dates are as follows: 1/11/16, 3/14/16, 5/9/16, 6/13/16, 9/12/16 and 12/12/16.
2. **SSCC Member Appointments-** At the Annual Conservation Conference Charlie Buscaglia and Joe Lomax were re-appointed to represent the north and south regions on the State Committee.
3. **Correspondence-**
 - Washington Boro (Warren Co.)- Is an exempt municipality. Their performance has been less than satisfactory. Although there is an issue with a specific project, this is indicative of the municipality's overall performance. Washington Boro has been given an opportunity (until the April 2016 Annual Exempt Municipality Review) to demonstrate improvement. If not, further action will be required.
 - The Bergen SCD was requesting guidance. The contractor of a particular project requested the Bergen SCD to sign what amounts to a "hold harmless" agreement or they will be denied access to the property for inspection. SSCC staff has consulted with the D.A.G. Mr. Moriarty has determined that the Application for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Certification form signed by the applicant already grants the SCD access to the property.
4. **Ag Water Registration and Certification-** This report was distributed to Committee members.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Freehold Fee Schedule Modification-** The Freehold District proposed a fee schedule modification to lower fees on small projects that fall under the SFH category. On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Mr. Cywinski, the SSCC approves the Freehold SCD fee modification reducing the fee for projects that exceed 5,000 square feet on an existing residential lot from \$975 to \$330. This will apply to additions to a single family dwelling, or free standing structures associated with the home. Mr. Buscaglia recused.
2. **Warren Fee Schedule Modification-** The Warren District has proposed a fee schedule modification to lower fees on small projects that fall under the SFH category. On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Mr. Buscaglia, the SSCC approves the Warren SCD fee modification incorporating a separate fee category for projects on lots with existing single family dwellings from \$775 to \$350. The Warren SCD is adding an additional fee category for construction of one single family dwelling, \$350. The district is reducing the fees assessed for non-applicability determinations from \$90 to \$45. Ms. Kovacs recused.

10:03 AM- Dr. Ali arrived

3. **Permit Extension Act-** On motion by Mr. Rigolizzo, second by, Mr. DiLodovico, Administrative Bulletin 2015-3.0, *Permit Extension Act- Application Certification*, was approved for distribution. This document provides guidance to recertification of soil erosion and sediment control plans which have been extended by the Act and will expire between December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Mr. Reilly spoke regarding clarification from the SSCC of the length of approval time for a soil erosion and sediment control plan certification.
4. **Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control- Topsoil & Land Grading-** On motion by Mr. McLendon, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the standards as proposed were approved for adoption. Ms. Kovacs opposed the motion on procedural rules. A lengthy discussion ensued.
5. **NJDOT SESC Standards-** Mr. Showler and David Earl (NJDOT) spoke regarding DOT's erosion control standards. DOT promulgates their own erosion control rules which are very similar to our own regulations. In an effort to eliminate duplicity, Mr. Showler and Mr. Earl suggest it would be more efficient to combine and merge both standards into a single document. On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. McLendon, the SSCC directs staff to work with NJDOT discuss and iron out any differences and to merge both documents into one.

10:35 AM- Mr. Galletta arrived

6. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on activities he was involved with during the previous few months. They included but are not exclusive of the following: the detention database project, soil erosion standards, Washington Boro, Dam issue for the Freehold SCD, NJ PlanSmart discussion panel, and the track-out portable reusable tracking pad.
7. **Appreciation-** Secretary Fisher congratulated and acknowledged the 29 years of dedicated service Dr. Ali has provided to the New Jersey agriculture community. Today is Dr. Ali's final day as he is retiring from his position as Water Resource Specialist.

10:49 AM- Mr. Earl, Mr. Wolfram, Mr. Khetani and Ms. Granatra left

8. **NJDEP MS4 Program-** Mr. Showler and Mr. McLendon discussed this NJDEP initiative which involves rewriting regulations which govern the municipal stormwater systems, especially the maintenance of the existing systems.
9. **New Jersey Conservation District Sub-Committee Reports**
 - **Training-** Mr. Galletta reported there were no updates..
 - **Policies & Procedures-** On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Mr. Buscaglia, the Policy and Procedures Manual is approved for distribution with one minor editorial change. A link will be provided for the the Administrative Standards since the document was too large to copy. On motion by, Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Kovacs, the Administrative Standards will be distributed for comments. There will be a 60 day comment period for this document.
 - **Fee/Fiscal-** A discussion centered on Chapter 251 project tracking requirements adopted when the SCD Fee Schedule Manual was approved. A letter will be sent to all districts requesting an update.
 - **Review/Appraisal-** Mr. DiLodovico reported there were no updates

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

- The theme for the 2016 NJ Conservation Poster Contest (open to all students from grades 2 through 12) is “We All Need Trees”. For statewide judging, posters are due in Trenton by April 1st.
- **2016 NJ Envirothon-** will be held May 14th in Somerset County. Planning is ongoing.
- **NJ Flower & Patio Show-**Will be held Feb.12-14. The theme this year is “Garden Parties”.

11:09 AM- Mr. Dougherty arrived and Ms. Cheniara left.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Ms. Lindig introduced Chad Cherefko. Mr. Cherefko is working out of the Somerset State Office and is supervising the District Conservationists and is also in charge of partnership relations. Ms. Lindig also reported that Deal Lake is the final shore line lake to be cleaned in conjunction with of Hurricane Sandy funds. It is estimated this project will be completed in January.

11:14 AM- Ms. Dunn arrived.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

Mr. Hlubik provided an update on FSA programs and activities.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. Cywinski reported on the activities of the NJACD including the following:

- The annual Conservation Conference was held on October 27th at the Eco-Complex. There were over 100 individuals in attendance. It was a very successful conference and training session.
- The 2016 North East NACD meeting is being hosted by NJACD August 15th -17th in Seaview, Atlantic County. The hotel has been booked and planning for this meeting is ongoing.

NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon reviewed the jointly issued Technical Bulletin “Know Where Your Soil is Coming From”. For the time being, Mr. McLendon will remain the liaison between NJDEP and the SSCC

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Van Olden made the Committee aware of an ongoing situation regarding the city of Paterson and a lack of cooperation in enforcing the 251 regulations among other issues. If this continues the HEP SCD may be requesting assistance.

Mr. Kocubinski expressed concern regarding two different gas pipeline issues in Burlington County that have the potential of negatively impacting water quality and agricultural land. This produced a lengthy conversation.

On motion by Mr. Rigolizzo, second by Dr. Murphy, the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held March 14, 2016 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch

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