

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013**

The September meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairperson Monique Purcell at 9:40 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

Monique Purcell

Ray Cywinski

Priscilla Hayes

Joe Lomax

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R Goodman)

Carl Quazza

Brian McLendon (rep. B Martin)

John Kocubinski

Carrie Mosley

Tony DiLodovico

Larry Katz

Kristen Heinzerling, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Dr. Ferdows Ali, SSSC, NJDA

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Ines Grimm, Freehold SCD

Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD

Frank Calo, Somerset-Union SCD

Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Mario Tridente, HEP SCD

Charles Buscaglia, Freehold SCD

Paul Hlubik, FSA

E. George-Cheniara, NJBA

Wm Hannemann, Aqualete Ind.

Amy Karpati, PPA

Jason Dorney, Weaver Express

Chris Sztenderowicz, MCS

MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the minutes of the June 10, 2013 meeting were approved. Mr. Quazza abstained.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Purcell reported on the following:

1. NJDA FY 2014 funding remains flat. The total overall budget has been reduced by several hundred thousand dollars.
2. Former NJDA employee Colleen Stemme's daughter was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident.
3. John Wyckoff of Warren County was selected to provide the White House Christmas tree for the upcoming season. The tree, an 8 ft. blue spruce, will be presented to the first family. This is the first time a New Jersey Christmas tree farm has been selected for this honor.
4. Gov. Christie signed legislation authorizing creation of a standard breed Development Fund (SDF). The SDF program will be open to all NJ sire horses, as well as horses whose dam resided in NJ for a minimum of 150 days and foaled in NJ regardless of where the sire may reside.
5. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Al Murray is a 2013 recipient of an honorary American FFA degree.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. Floyd Menchek, longtime Hunterdon SCD Supervisor, passed away recently. A resolution honoring Mr. Menchek is being completed.
2. **Agricultural Water Registration and certification-** during the timeframe of 7/1/13 to 8/31/13, 57 agricultural water registrations and certifications were approved in the following counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Cumberland, Hunterdon, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem.
3. **Animal Waste Management Plans-** To date, 600 plans have been received statewide. Hunterdon, Salem and Warren counties have the most plans.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **2:90 Rules/Standards-** Mr. Minch reported that the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) determined that several proposed changes were substantive and must be posted for comments. The comment period ends October 1, 2013.
A lengthy conversation ensued regarding the soil restoration standard, the cost/benefits, alternative approaches and legal defensibility of same.
2. **Hurricane Sandy Emergency Administrative Order-** Is still under review by the Governor's Office. Staff recommends SCDs proceed as normal in regards to erosion control application submission and activities
3. **Compost Filter Sock –** Mr. Lomax reported that the task force has checked nationwide and found this management practice is being successfully utilized in other areas of the country. Mr. Lomax is drafting a document and will present this report to the SSCC for review for the next committee meeting.

4. **Engineering Issues-** Mr. Showler reported on various items he has been working on over the last several months including a solar farm in Wantage Township, Sussex County, a proposed multi-family residential site with issues in Mt. Laurel, Burlington County, a drainage issue in the expansion of an athletic field at Bernards High School and a complaint of flooding and erosion on a Toll Brothers site in Hunterdon County.

A discussion was held regarding the procedure for new erosion control products and the technical bulletin addressing the WTS 2000 Portable Sediment Tank, manufactured by Aqualate Industries, for use consistent with the Standard for Dewatering.

A motion was made by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, to table the draft procedure for product testing until further review with possible action at the next SSCC meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Cywinski, to approve issuance of Technical Bulletin 2013-1.0 as amended stating that WTS 2000, Portable Sediment Tank, manufactured by Aqualate Industries, meets the Standard for Dewatering.

Mr. Engisch presented the districts position on the matter involving the Toll Bros. construction site in Hunterdon County. NJDA staff will meet with the Hunterdon staff to discuss further.

Mr. Showler briefly reviewed the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program FY 2013 statistics summary.

5. **Infiltration Basin Summary Sheet Information-** Mr. Minch reported that in early August DEP sent a request to the districts for Basin Summary Sheets for Infiltration Basins from 9/09 to present. This was intended to be a short survey concerning newer basins and to identify the number and location of these basins. Once the location of said basins is determined, they will be evaluated to see if the basins are operating effectively. Several District Managers spoke regarding this request, they felt the reason for the request was not clearly stated, it was a short turn-around time and the request should have come from SSCC. It was determined to re-draft this request, address these issues, request a 30 day turnaround time in providing information and if the SCDs finds that timeframe too restrictive, provide a date as to when this task will be accomplished.
6. **District Supervisor Appointments-** Mr. Minch provided a summary of the SSCC Supervisor Nomination Review Committee recommendations.

The Burlington SCD nominating committee carefully examined the two candidates, Joseph Donnelly (Burlington County Freeholder Director) and Daniel Caldwell (business owner) for the vacancy left by the retirement of supervisor, Vince Farias. The nominating committee indicated both candidates were well qualified but expressed that Mr. Donnelly would be most advantageous for the Burlington County SCD Board.

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Cywinski, Burlington County Freehold Director Donnelly was appointed to a three (3) year term ending 6/30/16.

The Camden SCD nominating committee carefully examined the two proposed candidates, Robert Carter (Environmental Scientist) and Jacob Gangluff (retired banker) for the supervisor vacancy on the Camden board. The nominating committee indicated both candidates were well qualified but after deliberation, recommended a preference that Mr. Carter be appointed to the Camden County SCD Board.

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Quazza, Mr. Carter was appointed to a one (1) year term ending 6/30/14.

Roger Gravatt, Freehold SCD Supervisor was approved for a one month extension at the last meeting to allow the Freehold SCD the opportunity to review its records and determine the accuracy of Mr. Gravatt's 59% meeting attendance record. The figure, though accurate, has increased to 66.6% because Mr. Gravatt has attended both the July and August Freehold SCD meetings. A discussion was held and it was determined that if Mr. Gravatt attends all meetings through December he will have increased his attendance to the required 70%.

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Lomax, Roger Gravatt was approved for a provisional appointment ending December 31, 2013.

7. **District Surplus Property Disposal Policy & District Computer/Internet Policy-** Mr. Minch & Ms. Grimm presented and reviewed each of these proposed Administrative Bulletins. A lengthy discussion was held in regards to review and comments and final approval of these and subsequent updated policies.

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

- Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee- Mr. Lomax provided a brief update regarding the progress of this sub-committee.
- District Fee Schedule and Fiscal Sub-committee- Mr. Cywinski provided a brief update regarding the progress of this sub-committee.
- Training Sub-Committee- Ms. Hayes provided an update and overview regarding the progress of this sub-committee.
- District Review Sub-Committee- Mr. DiLodovico provided a brief update regarding the progress of this sub-committee.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM (FPCSP)

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

- **New Applications** - On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Mr. Lomax, the following Priority I applications were approved, pending the funding approval of State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)*.

PRIORITY I- PERMANENTLY DEED RESTRICTED

<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Requested</u>
Cumb.	D & M Mehaffey	Irrigation	\$20,813.74

1. **Extension Requests-** Mr. Minch reviewed a letter from SADC requesting clear, concise justification in support of all extension requests. Melick’s Town Farm of Hunterdon County (\$24,481.00) requested a twelve (12) month extension for an underground drainage project. This project was dependent on concurrent NRCS contracts for companion practices. NRCS items have been addressed and state cost share items can now be installed around NRCS conservation practices. On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Kocubinski, this 12 month extension request was approved.
2. **Cost Share Update-** Since June one payment request was processed to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) totaling \$19,550.50 representing the State share for completed and functioning practices. The value of this project exceeds \$51,000.00.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

1. **North American Envirothon-** The 2013 North American Envirothon was held in Bozeman, Montana. The MATES (Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science) Team #2 (NJ Envirothon winner) placed 35 out of 57 teams. Next year’s event will be held in Georgia. Mr. Belcher expressed his gratitude to the NJACD for funding his expenses related to traveling to the national event.
2. Ms. Hayes reported on tentative plans for a conservation summit geared toward NJ youth to educate them regarding the value of soils and soil health. A draft agenda was reviewed and assistance was requested from partner agencies in this worthwhile endeavor.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ms. Mosley reported on the following:

1. There is a national effort by NRCS to promote soil health. On November 20th there will be a training meeting at Rutgers in regards to this endeavor.
2. The end of the Federal fiscal year is September 30th. Federal agencies are working to complete distribution of funds and close out books.
3. Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts are continuing.
4. NRCS is entering into an agreement with NJACD to jointly fund an Executive Director position for NJACD. This will be a 12 month agreement.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mr. Hlubik provided an update on the various FSA programs and funding of same.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Ms. Hayes reported on the following:

1. The NJACD Executive Director is in training in Phoenix, Az.
2. The annual Conservation Conference will take place Sunday, October 26 through Monday, October 27th. The agenda will be discussed and completed at the NJACD meeting, which will take place after the SSCC meeting.
3. The draft for Project Soils is being finalized.
4. A committee is being formed to explore fund raising opportunities for NJACD.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon reported on the clean-up efforts from Hurricane Sandy and the personnel changes taking place at NJ-DEP.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. Classes began last week.
2. Academic seminars have also re-commenced.
3. An academic seminar regarding earthworms was conducted recently.
4. Construction of the Institute of Food Nutrition is well underway.

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Dr. Katz reported that in July Rutgers acquired all the assets of the University of Medicine and Dentistry and it is now known as the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held October 22, 2013 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch

SSCC MINUTES – September 9, 2013 – PAGE 7

L:\SSCC\STATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS\2013 MEETINGS\Draft September Minutes