

July 24, 2008 SADC Meeting Highlights

Secretary's Report

Secretary Kuperus noted the recent event celebrating the preservation of Sussex County's 100th farm. About 12,500 acres of farmland have been preserved in the county.

Recent news reports highlight the benefits of food produced close to where people live. Economics is one factor, with the cost to bring a trailer of produce from the West Coast at one time at \$3,700 and currently at \$8,000, with the expectation the cost will increase to \$10,000.

Executive Director's Report

The equine rules will be published in the August 4th New Jersey Register. SADC staff will reach out to the counties to offer to conduct outreach presentations to explain the rules.

Amended Rule: Special Permit for the Installation of Personal Wireless Service Facility on Preserved Farmland

The SADC proposed to amend this rule to delete a provision requiring that an applicant demonstrate there is no other apparent feasible alternative to place the personal wireless facility off the premises. After a review of public comments submitted in response to the original proposal, the SADC determined that this is tantamount to a prohibition on installing a personal wireless facility, which was not the Legislature's intent.

Standards for Determining Eligible Farms Under the County Planning Incentive Grant Program, and Priority and Alternate Farms Under the State Acquisition Program

As annually required, the SADC adopted standards for determining an "eligible farm" under the county planning incentive grant program, and average quality scores and average acres for each county for the purposes of determining a "priority" farm and "alternate" farm under the state acquisition program. The standards under both programs are unchanged from last year.

FY09 Appropriation Request – Easement Enforcement Costs

The SADC approved seeking a \$200,000 appropriation of Garden State Preservation Trust funds for purposes of enforcing SADC easements in light of increased costs for legal and other technical services associated with active and potential enforcement actions. The approval is subject to final authorization from the Attorney General's office, the Office of Legislative Services and the Department of Treasury.