

STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Department of Agriculture
Market and Warren Streets, 1st Floor Auditorium
Trenton, NJ 08625

REGULAR MEETING

January 24, 2019

Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. The flag salute was conducted.

Ms. Payne read the notice indicating the meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll call indicated the following:

Members Present

Chairman Douglas Fisher
Cecile Murphy (REP. NJDEP Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe)
Brian Schilling (rep. Executive Dean Robert M. Goodman)
Denis Germano
Pete Johnson
James Waltman
Scott Ellis

Members Absent

Alan Danser
Thomas Stanuikynas
Ralph Siegel
Jane Brodecker

Susan E. Payne, Executive Director
Jason Stypinski, Esq., Deputy Attorney General

Others present as recorded on the attendance sheet: Donna Rue, Public; Brian Wilson, Burlington County Agriculture Development Board (CADB); Emily Blackman, Mercer CADB; and John Kluthe, Kluthe Environmental Solutions.

Minutes

A. SADC Regular Meeting of December 6, 2018 (Open and Closed Sessions)

It was moved by Mr. Germano and seconded by Ms. Murphy to approve the Open and Closed Session minutes of the SADC regular meeting of December 6, 2018. The motion was unanimously approved.

Report of the Chairman

There was no report from the Chairman.

Report of the Executive Director

Ms. Payne stated that the appropriation bills for the FY2019 round are still awaiting the Governor's signature. The bill is currently before the Senate Environment Committee. Staff is waiting to see what the full markup looks like, but anticipates no change to the allocations to the programs nor reduction in farmland funds.

Ms. Payne reviewed the SADC Outreach and Training Summary Report of the municipal outreach meetings with the Committee. She noted that the first land access training in October was a success and that the report identifies who attended the meetings, the experiences they had, and what kind of farming they are interested in. Ms. Payne noted that most of the attendees were under 44 years old which hits the target audience and helps staff to determine if the meetings were effective. The second training will be held in the Health and Agriculture building in Trenton on February 28, 2019 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will focus on leasing and buying land. It will introduce people to farm leases and purchase options.

Communications

Ms. Payne stated that there was nothing to note but requested that the Committee take the news articles with them.

Public Comment

John Kluthe, a private consultant from Kluthe Environmental Solutions, introduced himself to the Committee. He specializes in conservation planning services, and as a private consultant, he looks forward to addressing conservation planning issues.

New Business

A. Term Farmland Preservation Program- Enrollments, Renewals, Terminations, Withdrawals

1. Renewal
 - a. Delli Santi- Washington Township, Morris County

Ms. Payne stated that Dellis Santi is an 8-year farmland preservation easement being brought before the Committee for information purposes only. Ms. Murphy asked Ms. Payne what she thinks is the reason these farms haven't been permanently preserved. Ms. Payne stated that the answer depends on the circumstances of the particular farm.

B. Resolutions of Final Approval: County PIG

Ms. Miller, Ms. Mazella, and Ms. Mandelbaum referred the Committee to six requests for final approval under the County PIG Program. They reviewed the specifics of the applications with the Committee and stated that staff recommendation is to grant final approval.

It was moved by Mr. Germano and seconded by Ms. Murphy to approve Resolutions FY2019R1(1) through FY2019R1(6), granting final approval to the following applications under the County PIG Program, as presented, subject to any conditions of said resolution:

1. Steven and Joseph Haydu and Diana Potter, SADC ID #21-0609-PG, Resolution FY2019R1(1), Block 21, Lots 34.01, 34.03, 34.04, 34.05, 34.06,

34.07, and 34.08, and Block 11.01, Lot 1, Harmony Township, Warren County, 42.5 Net Acres.

2. Timothy & Katherine Martin, SADC ID #10-0422-PG, Resolution FY2019R1(2), Block 45, Lot 3, Delaware Township and Block 1, Lot 1 East Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, 34.5 Net Acres.
3. Donald, Douglas, Dorothy & Marie Williams, SADC ID #14-0129-PG, Resolution FY2019R1(3), Block 5002, Lot 10, Mt. Olive Township, Morris County, 38.82 Net Acres.
4. John J. & Lori A. Moore, SADC ID #17-0194-PG, Resolution FY2019R1(4), Block 3, Lot 9, Mannington Township, Salem County, 64.4 Net Acres.
5. Richard H. Melchert, SADC ID #17-0195, Resolution FY2019R1(5), Block 76, Lot 4 and 4.02, Upper Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, 77.3 Gross Acres.
6. Howard Grant & Elizabeth Harris, SADC ID #17-0186-PG, Resolution FY2019R1(6), Block 25, Lot 1.09, Pilesgrove Township, Salem County, 80.5 Net Acres.

The motion was unanimously approved. A copy of Resolutions FY2019R1(1) through FY2019R1(6) is attached to and is a part of these minutes.

C. Resolutions of Final Approval: Municipal PIG

Ms. Miller referred the Committee to one request for final approval under the Municipal PIG Program. She reviewed the specifics of the application with the Committee and stated that staff recommendation is to grant final approval.

It was moved by Mr. Schilling and seconded by Mr. Germano to approve Resolution FY2019R1(7), granting final approval to the following application under the Municipal PIG Program, as presented, subject to any conditions of said resolution:

1. Barbara Rolph, SADC ID #10-0411-PG, Resolution FY2019R1(7), Block 17, Lot 19, Holland Township, Hunterdon County, 106 Gross Acres.

The motion was unanimously approved. A copy of Resolution FY2019R1(7) is attached to and is a part of these minutes.

D. Resolutions of Final Approval: Direct Easement Purchase

Ms. Miller, Ms. Mazella, and Ms. Roberts referred the Committee to five requests for final approval under the Direct Easement Purchase Program. They reviewed the specifics of the applications with the Committee and stated that staff recommendation is to grant final approval.

It was moved by Mr. Germano and seconded by Mr. Schilling to approve Resolutions FY2019R1(8) through FY2019R1(12), granting final approval to the following applications under the Direct Easement Purchase Program, as presented, subject to any conditions of said resolution:

1. John and Elizabeth Barry, SADC ID #06-0002-DE, Resolution FY2019R1(8), Block 55, Lots 31 & 36, Dennis Township, Cape May County, 64.8 Net Acres.
2. Judith and Pasquale Garoppo, SADC ID #08-0041-DE, Resolution FY2019R1(9), Block 7101, Lot 45, Franklin Township, Gloucester County, 114.4 Net Acres.

Note: Chairman Fisher left the room during this discussion at 9:53 a.m.

3. John Walter, SADC ID #17-0329-DE, Resolution FY2019R1(10), Block 15, Lot 4 & 23, Mannington Township, Salem County and Block 10, Lot 10, Alloway Township, Salem County, 88.5 Net Acres.
4. Dennis Sr. & Dennis Jr. Kelly, SADC ID #17-00317-DE, Resolution FY2019R1(11), Block 22, Lots 1, 3, and 4, Oldmans Township, Salem County, 212.5 Net Acres.
5. Mary Lou & Lucas Haring, SADC ID #10-0256-DE, Resolution FY2019R1(12), Block 12, Lot 33.01, Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County, 57.1 Net Acres.

Note: Chairman Fisher returned to the room at 10 a.m. during this discussion.

The motion was unanimously approved. A copy of Resolutions FY2019R1(8) through FY2019R1(12) is attached to and is a part of these minutes.

Discussion: Ms. Miller showed a YouTube video that the Haring family made which they submitted with their application. The video depicts what the Haring family does daily to maintain their farm and how important farming is to them. Ms. Payne stated that it's a huge benefit to more directly connect the Committee with staff's work in order to get a better idea of what is being accomplished, and to share some of the stories associated with individual farms. Mr. Ellis stated that staff should start hosting farm tours again so that the Committee can see how land is treated and how farmers make a living. Ms. Payne stated that that was a great suggestion.

E. Stewardship

1. 2018 Annual Monitoring Report

Mr. Roohr stated that every year the SADC compiles the monitoring reports of farms inspected by the CADBs, nonprofits and SADC during the preceding fiscal year. There was a total of 2,380 reports submitted, with a submission rate of more than 90% from preservation partners.

Mr. Roohr stated that soil conservation is the most highly reported concern. The most frequently report problem is minor erosion, which is reported as a concern but is not necessarily considered a violation. Other conservation concerns include invasive species, abandoned fields, dumping of trash, and the storage of non-agricultural vehicles and junk cars. There has also been a number of unapproved solar panel projects. Staff will continue to notify farmers of the proper procedures for approval to install solar panels on preserved farms.

Mr. Roohr showed the Committee pictures of farm erosion as examples of what is encountered in the field. Mr. Roohr stated that Dr. Jon Jones is working on an outreach program for those areas of the state that have the highest reported conservation violations and will help put together a plan to try to reduce soil conservation problems.

Mr. Roohr stated that there were nine (9) requests brought to the Committee in 2018 that were approved for solar panel projects, agriculture labor housing and division of premises. Of the 2,380 submissions to the SADC, 0.13% were brought to the Committee as significant violations that staff needed the Committee's assistance to address. Chairman Fisher asked what would happen in a case where a farm is no longer being farmed. What would staff do? Mr. Roohr stated that the way the deed of easement words it, a farm does not have to be actively farmed, however, it must be actively maintained or mowed to be farmable. The only exception in this case would be an act of nature where a farm is not able to be used because it is under water due to rising sea levels or lots of rain. Chairman Fisher stated that a report would probably be needed in the future to monitor these situations.

It was moved by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Germano to adopt the 2018 Monitoring Report as presented by staff to be submitted to the N.J. Department of Treasury for distribution. The motion was unanimously approved.

F. Soil and Water Conservation Project Cost Sharing

Mr. Clapp referred the Committee to two requests for approval under the Soil and Water Conservation Cost Share Grant. He reviewed the specifics of the applications with the Committee and stated that staff recommendation is to grant approval.

It was moved by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve Resolutions FY2019R1(13) through FY2019R1(14), granting approval to the following applications under the Soil and Water Conservation Cost Share Grant, as presented, subject to any conditions of said resolution:

1. Resolutions of Approval

- a. Hallock's U-Pick Farm LLC, SADC ID #15-0017-EP, Resolution FY2019R1(13), Block 75, Lot 4.01, Plumstead Township, Ocean County, 152.678 Acres.
- b. Dion Snyder, SADC ID #08-0083-PG, Resolution FY2019R1(14) Block 48, Lot 1 and Block 51, Lot 3, Harrison Township, Gloucester County, and Block 56, Lot 6 and Block 59, Lot 11, Woolwich Township, Gloucester County, 84.114 Acres.

The motion was unanimously approved. A copy of Resolutions FY2019R1(13) and FY2019R1(14) is attached to and is a part of these minutes.

Discussion: Chairman Fisher noted that he earlier demurred on a Chairman's report due to the late start time of the meeting, but wanted to share that the Department of Agriculture has conducted two summits within the last month to bring together animal livestock operators who are looking for ways to process their products. There were many farmers who attended the summits and shared their knowledge and success stories surrounding mobile and central processing and how to increase production rates. Chairman Fisher asked Mr. Johnson to comment on his findings at the summit meeting. Mr. Johnson stated that most beef must be approved and inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and most of the smaller shops in New Jersey that needed USDA inspections have

gone out of business because of the cost involved. Other farmers are hauling their cattle out of state to find a slaughter house that is USDA inspected. The need for such a trip discourages individuals from getting into the livestock industry.

Chairman Fisher also stated that there are 6,000 milking cows in NJ and the hope is that the state can start to brand some of the dairy from the cows and find a niche market for people who want local milk.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

SADC Regular Meeting: 9 a.m., Thursday February 28, 2018

Health/Agriculture Building Auditorium

CLOSED SESSION

At 10:45 a.m. Ms. Payne read the following resolution to go into Closed Session:

“In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-13, it is hereby resolved that the SADC shall now go into executive session to discuss certain matters including the certification of values for property acquisitions under the Farmland Preservation Program, personnel matters, any pending or anticipated litigation, and/or any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege. The minutes of such meeting shall remain confidential until the Committee determines that the need for confidentiality no longer exists.”

It was moved by Mr. Germano and seconded by Ms. Murphy to approve the resolution to go into closed session. The motion was unanimously approved.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION

A. Real Estate Matters – Certification of Values

It was moved by Mr. Germano and seconded by Mr. Ellis to approve the Certification of Values for the following applications as discussed in closed session:

1. County Planning Incentive Grant Program
 - a. Route 57 Partnership, SADC ID #21-0613-PG
Block 1, Lot 6, Franklin Township, Warren County, 69.1 Net Acres.
 - b. Charles Datz, SADC ID #08-0208-PG
Block 265, Lot 11, Mantua Township, Gloucester County, and Block 28, Lot 2,
Harrison Township, Gloucester County, 57.4 Net Acres.
 - c. Lynda Juall Carpenito, SADC ID #08-0209-PG
Block 1107, Lot 6, East Greenwich Township, Gloucester County, 21 Net Acres.
 - d. Mary Louise Morda, SADC ID #17-0207-PG
Block 21, Lot 6, Pilesgrove Township, Salem County, 87.4 Net Acres.
2. Municipal Planning Incentive Grant Program
 - a. Mark Kitchen, SADC ID #21-0363-PG
Block 47, Lot 7, Knowlton Township, Warren County, 28.1 Net Acres.
 - b. William and Diane Kappus, SADC ID#10-0426-PG
Block 18, Lot 9.02, Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County, 30.4 Acres
 - c. William and Virginia Hurst, SADC ID #17-0198-PG
Block 27, Lot 13, and Block 27, Lot 13.02, Upper Pittsgrove Township, Salem
County, 19.40 Net Acres.
 - d. Joanne Rodriguez, SADC ID #17-0200-PG, Block 801, Lot 40.03, Pittsgrove
Township, Salem County, 40.32 Net Acres.
 - e. Diane Carol and Paul Charles Duffy, SADC ID #17-0203-PG
Block 40, Lot 16.03, Mannington Township, Salem County, 24.80 Acres.
3. NonProfit Easement Purchase
 - a. The Gang, Walter & Linda (TLC-NJ) Farm, SADC ID #21-0041-NP, Block
1301, Lot 23.01, Frelinghuysen Township, Warren County, 14.36 Net Acres.

- b. The Gibb, Jeffrey & Michelle (TLC-NJ) Farm, SADC ID #21-0040-NP, Block 48, Lot 72, Washington Township, Warren County, 26.35 Net Acres.
 - c. The Jones-Chubb (Lamington Conservancy) Farm, SADC ID #18-0006-NP, Block 37, Lot 4, Bedminster Township, Somerset County, 51.3 Net Acres.
4. Direct Easement Purchase
- a. Joseph Ayars, SADC ID #17-0327-DE, Block 28, Lot 30, Block 29, Lots 4 and 7 and Block 31, Lot 30, Elsinboro Township, Salem County, 102.7 Net Acres.

The motion was unanimously approved. Copies of the Certification of Value Reports are attached to and are a part of the Closed Session minutes.

B. Attorney/Client Matters

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan E. Payne, Executive Director
State Agriculture Development Committee