



State of New Jersey

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

MINUTES OF MEETING September 27, 2023 (Wednesday)

Public meeting notice was certified by communication on September 21, 2023.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by giving written notice of the time, date, 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, Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey; mailed to the Newark Star Ledger; the Camden Courier Post; the Philadelphia Inquirer and filed with the Office of the Secretary of State.

President Holly Sytsema called the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture to order at 1:10 pm. Board members in attendance included President Sytsema; Vice President Barney Hollinger (Teams), Kurt Alstede, Lisa Specca, Bob Blew, David DeFrange, John Hart and Stephen V. Lee, IV. The meeting was held at Riverview Plaza, Trenton, NJ.

Also in attendance were Assistant Secretary Joe Atchison, Dr. Amar Patil, Director, Division of Animal Health; Rose Chamberlain, Director, Division of Food & Nutrition; Nancy Wood, Division of Marketing & Development; Frank Minch, Director, Division of Agricultural & Natural Resources; Susan Payne, Executive Director; Chuck Roohr, Deputy Director, SADC; Joe Zoltowski, Director, Division of Plant Industry; Christina Rasiewicz, Robert Vivian, Jeff Wolfe, Jeff Beach, Chris Laregina, Nathan Schatz, Alyssa Pitt and Isabella Walz, Office of the Secretary. Also in attendance were Peter Furey and Al Murray, NJ Farm Bureau; Dr. Brian Schilling, Rutgers University; Bob Andrzejczak and Sarah Fenwick, Farm Service Agency; Bruce Eklund, National Agricultural Statistics Services and Linda Walker, NJ Department of Agriculture.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

ON the MOTION of Bob Blew, seconded by David DeFrange, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2023, regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Rasweiler, North Slope Farms, provided the Board with a handout regarding cannabis as agriculture. The cultivation proposal is to use traditional agricultural practices, including seasonal

production of artisanal, sun grown, low energy impact, recreational cannabis. He noted that there was an issue with taxation not allowing cannabis cultivators to operate or be located on land which is valued pursuant to the Farmland Assessment Act. He asked that the Board and the Department provide a policy review of this situation. It was noted that he needed to make a presentation to the Zoning Board Adjustment and to let the Board know the outcome of that before the State Board could take action.

REPORT OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Dr. Brian Schilling represented the College and reported on the following topics:

- Provided the Board members with a listing of the new Rutgers Cooperative Extension faculty that was presented at the recent Board of Managers meeting.
- He noted that they are close to making a decision on additional staff; one for the tree-fruit - IPM. In addition, they are moving toward the successful conclusion of a search for a statewide consumer and public horticulture county agent. This position will provide leadership to Master Gardeners. He reported that they are still searching for Ag & Natural Resource agents in Warren, Somerset and Essex County. He noted that there are several additional searches underway.
- The newest class of the Agricultural Leadership Development Program, Class 12, had their first meeting last week and heard that it went well. He noted that there are 16 class members in the program from several different aspects of the industry.
- The industrial hemp program continues, and they have been working with different varieties to see what grows well in New Jersey, initially it was for oil production, CBD, but because the market went up quickly and came down so quickly, they are now studying varieties for fiber. He noted that the Snyder Farm had just harvested and had the best production.
- The Board of Managers meeting was very informative, they presented the results of their county board needs assessment. He stated that this information is extremely useful to present to the Dean, in order to get the approvals that are needed for hiring new staff.
- Finally, he noted that succession planning for the future is key.

REPORT OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

Sarah Fenwick reported the following to the Board:

Milk Loss Program (MLP)

The Milk Loss Program provides assistance to eligible cow dairy operations that dumped milk, without compensation, from the commercial milk market due to a qualifying disaster event during 2020, 2021, and 2022. Eligible disaster events include drought, wildfire, hurricane, flood, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including polar vortex), and smoke exposure in 2020, 2021, and 2022. Tornadoes are also qualifying disaster events in 2022. Signup is open and runs through October 16. Please contact your local FSA County office for more information.

Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARCPLC)

ARCPLC 2022 payments are scheduled to be processed on or around October 6. Final payment rates will not be determined until 2022 NASS Market Year Average prices are released on September 30. However, based on preliminary data:

- PLC - There will be no payments for 2022 in NJ.

- ARC-CO – There will be no wheat, oats or barley payments. Some soybean and corn payments are likely, but in a limited number of counties.

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

The 2023 Organic Certification Cost Share Program is now open, and FSA will be accepting applications through October 31, 2023 for certification expenses paid October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. Organic producers will be reimbursed up to 75% of costs associated with organic certification, up to \$750 per scope (crops, wild crops, processing/handling).

Loss Adjusters

New Jersey Farm Service Agency is seeking Loss Adjusters (LAs) for the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Loss Adjusters are required to have knowledge of field crops and specialty crops, as well as a thorough understanding and execution of crop adjusting guidelines and program provisions, as applicable to FSA programs. If interested, please contact Aly Dyson, NJ FSA Farm Program Disaster Specialist, Alyson.Dyson@usda.gov, with any questions.

Important Dates

September 30: NAP application for coverage deadline for Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Flowers, Sod, small grains, grasses, mixed forage, garlic, other value loss crops not including nursery.

September 30: Acreage reporting deadline for value loss crops, except nursery, for the following crop year.

October 16: MLP signup closes.

October 31: OCCSP sign up closes for 2023.

November 15: Fall planted small grains acreage reporting deadline.

November 20: NAP application for coverage deadline for all fruit trees, cranberries, grapes, blueberries.

Farm Loan Program

Disaster Declarations

The Farm Service Agency has four (4) disaster designations for Emergency Loan programs available to provide assistance when disasters strike due to damages and losses resulting from a natural disaster. A qualifying loss occurs if FSA determines a minimum 30 percent production loss of at least one crop in the disaster county occurred as a result of the disaster. Farmers in the following counties are eligible for Emergency Loans through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA):

- I. **Secretarial Disaster Declaration S5485** was triggered for Farmers in Bergen County who suffered losses due to Freeze and Frost that occurred on May 14, 2023 through May 25, 2023. Applications must be received by April 17, 2024.
- II. **Presidential Major Declaration M4723** was triggered for Farmers in Bergen, Passaic, and Sussex counties who suffered losses due to Severe Storms and Flooding that occurred from July 9, 2023 through July 10, 2023. Applications must be received by March 22, 2024.
- III. **Secretarial Disaster Declaration S5364** was triggered for Farmers in Cumberland and Salem counties who suffered losses due to Drought and Excessive Heat that occurred on August 1, 2022, through November 11, 2022. Applications must be received by October 6, 2023.

- IV. **Secretarial Disaster Declaration S5359** was triggered for Farmers in Sussex and Warren counties who suffered losses due to drought that occurred on July 1, 2022 through September 4, 2022. Applications must be received by October 2, 2023.

REPORT OF NJ FARM BUREAU

Peter Furey represented the Farm Bureau and reported on the following topics:

- Soil Protection – SADC’s proposal has run into nearly universal opposition from nearly every county board of agriculture. He noted that the opposition is primarily centered on the “retroactive” aspect of the rules being applied to pre-existing deeds of easement. Combined with the policy resolutions from both the State Agricultural Convention and the Farm Bureau Convention. He noted that the Public Hearing scheduled for later that evening will provide the industry with an opportunity to make their feelings known.
- Salem County Board of Agriculture is hosting a Candidate Forum for Third District candidates Ed Durr and John Burzichelli at the Elmer Grange in Pole Tavern.
- No movement on Food & Nutrition Division transfer but we do not relent in our opposition. He reported that they had recently sent a two-page letter to Senator Shirley Turner that outlines opposition to the bill. They will also be reaching out to other legislators regarding this bill.
- Lame duck session – things can move very quickly during this time. They are preparing recommendations for bills that they hope will see action after the November 7 elections.
- Convention planning is underway, November 13–14 at the Princeton Westin. Senator Bob Smith, Chair of the Senate Environment Committee will be the banquet speaker.
- Deer hunting – he reported that Fish & Wildlife have a proposal to take out some of the complexity of the deer management zones and permitting to make deer hunting more hunter friendly.

REPORT OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)

Bruce Eklund reported to the Board the following:

- As of September 1, they are forecasting that New Jersey farmers will average 42 bushels per acre of soybeans in 2023. Last year’s yield averaged 28 bushels per acre. Expected acres harvested is 108 thousand acres, unchanged from last year.
- New Jersey 2022 sales for principal vegetables totaled \$242 million from more than 32 thousand harvested acres. Bell peppers led in value of production, followed by tomatoes, and sweet corn. Sweet corn led in harvested acres followed by bell peppers and tomatoes. These vegetable estimates represent crops grown in the open, not those grown under glass or other production.

REPORT OF NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Division Director Frank Minch reported that NRCS staff was on an emergency call due to the possible government shut down but was asked to report the following:

- Site visits are underway for those seeking application to the Equip deadline which is October 20.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Assistant Secretary Joe Atchison made the following comments:

Assistant Secretary Atchison reported that the SADC hearing on Soil Protection Standards would be held later that evening and expects that there will be a good deal of public comment. He reported that on September 14, 2023, a quarantine (KC-23-01) was implemented on a live bird market in Union County due to the detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). The birds at this market were sampled as part of the Division of Animal Health's routine live bird market surveillance on September 13, 2023. In addition, Marketing and Development Division staff are shipping and delivering point-of-purchase materials to retailers, writing articles, and continue to publish and disseminate Jersey Fresh social media updates. Staff also continues to assist commodity councils in marketing support including marketing assistance for the New Jersey Apple Council with its social media and photo contest, and New Jersey Sire Stakes with coordination of advertisements for industry publications. He noted that their year-end awareness survey has been approved and sent out. It is hoped to have some feedback within the next two months. He will be travelling from October 18-22 to Anaheim, CA for the annual IFPA Trade Show.

Susan Payne, Executive Director, SADC commented that everyone is focused on the hearing that is being held later that evening regarding the Soil Protection Standards (SPS), written public comment closes October 6. She noted that all written comments and comments from the hearing will be compiled and forwarded to the Deed of Easement subcommittee for discussion. She noted that there is a link for tonight's meeting on the Department website for those who want to listen in. Finally, she reported that the SADC staff along with IT have just recently completed work in the Board Room and other conference rooms at the Riverview Offices for state-of-the-art electronic equipment for the betterment of having remote access to meetings.

Dr. Amar Patil, Director, Division of Animal Health, reported that on September 14, 2023, a quarantine (KC-23-01) was implemented on a live bird market in Union County due to the detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). The birds at this market were sampled as part of the Division of Animal Health's routine live bird market surveillance on September 13, 2023. No sick or dead birds were identified by the inspector or market staff. A press release was distributed, and surveillance of linked live bird markets is ongoing. One linked market was found to have sick birds on September 18 and samples were collected by the inspector. The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) completed the HPAI testing the same day and reported negative test results. Exposure to wild birds, some sick and dying, is a common thread amongst some identified HPAI-infected premises in New Jersey and numerous other states. Within the live bird marketing system, tracing to determine the supply flocks associated with the Union facility has been completed and these flocks will have follow-up in hopes of identifying the source of infection. He reported that the NJDA DAH worked in collaboration with state and federal partners to coordinate the response and surveillance activities. In addition, he reported that there had been a case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis, a neurologic disease in horses transmitted by mosquitoes. New Jersey is considered endemic which means that this disease is present in New Jersey and especially in the southern part of the state. Finally, he reported that the AHDL and the Animal Feed Chemistry section of the Plant Lab received continued accreditation to the ISO 17025 standard. The accreditation is required by the USDA and FDA to ensure the highest quality and defensible laboratory results for the protection of animal agriculture, food safety, and public health in NJ and the US.

Frank Minch, Director, Division of Agricultural & Natural Resources, reported that he had recently worked with DEP to get pesticide credit for completing the USDA surveys for fruit and vegetable production. He provided the Board with a copy of the recent DEP Compliance Advisory regarding the pesticide product management practices, proper disposal methods and container Recycling options for New Jersey farms. He participated in a meeting with Farm Bureau and DEP's Fish & Wildlife to go over the deer management plans which are good. They have used the data that they have done in tracking harvests to modify the rules and listen to the majority of hunters to help streamline this process. In addition, he mentioned the septic and well issue with the blueberry farmers and the vegetable farmers. DEP has gone through a big reorganization within their enforcement section, and they are now getting back to those operations that still have not responded and try to work with them to come to some resolution.

Rose Chamberlain, Director, Division of Food & Nutrition, reported that Division staff had visited the Newark Public School District earlier this month. Newark is the largest school district in the state of New Jersey and it is also the largest self-operated school district. A spotlight was put on their meal program and the importance of our meals during the school year. She reported on the issue of unpaid meal charges that are a big topic across the state and the nation, noting that many school districts struggle with getting families to pay for those meals. One of the things that we have implemented for this year is the Working Class Families Act, which expands the current federal guidelines and adds an extra state layer of eligibility so those children can receive free meals and that is funded through the State of New Jersey. Continuing, she announced that this week was the 13th Annual Farm to School Week in New Jersey and provided the Board members with a copy of the Farm to School Newsletter. She reported that over the years the program has grown tremendously and there is a great deal of momentum in the program, a lot of activity in the school districts with purchasing local and teaching the kids where fruits and vegetables come from, there are components not only in the cafeteria, but also in the school curriculum. In addition, this is the first year that we are doing Farm to School Week in conjunction with Ag Literacy Week, so Division staff have been working with Department of Education staff. Finally, she announced that we would be hearing from one of our favorite sponsors.

Warren DeShields, Food Service Director from Bridgeton City Public Schools in Cumberland County provided the Board with a power point presentation on the program that they have in their district which serves 6,200 students in 10 schools where 93% of the students receive free & reduced meals. He noted that they have more than 77 members that make up their team. They participate in the breakfast, lunch, At-Risk dinner and snack program, the FFVP (Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program) and the Summer Food Service Program. In addition, he reported on the program and some of the innovative ways they are even incorporating seafood. All the schools have their own salad bar, and they also have their own gardens where they grow some of the things used in the cafeteria.

Board member Bob Blew commented that his wife is a teacher in the district and commended them on the program that they provide to the students and stated his appreciation for the work they are doing in his own community.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Lisa Specca reported that she had not attended the Ocean County Board of Agriculture meeting as September is probably the hardest month of the entire year in their business. She did announce that Ocean County is having a Legislative Dinner Dance at Hemingway's in Seaside Heights, and she has the information if anyone would like to attend. She attended the Class 12 Kick Off Event at Fernbrook Farms for the new Ag Leadership Class and several alumni were in attendance and it looks like a very promising group with a diversity of people in the program so they should be learning a lot from one another. In addition, she reported that the Burlington County Legislative Tour was held last week, and they visited Paul Hlubik's hay and grain operation first, then onto Winner's horse farm where they heard that some of the policies enacted have hurt the horse racing industry rather than helping them, she stated that although it was not the most positive, it was an informative discussion. Following the horse farm, they travelled to her farm where they went on a wagon ride and could see first-hand the pick your own operation and then for the final stop, Recklesstown Distillery, where Stossel Probacso gave a good talk about the challenges they face and noted that they would like to have the same advantages that the wineries and breweries have. She commented that it was well received and feels that it is a great way to talk one on one with legislators and their staff. She commented that there had been a report on Good Morning America the previous day about the pumpkin shortages down South and saying there is a good supply in New Jersey and recommended buying pumpkins in the next two weeks. This was great publicity for the vegetable growers in the state. She commented that even though the summer season is ending, in their operation, this is the time of year that they have a bounty on both ends. In addition, she stated that the summer season is still going strong, not withstanding the weather of the past several days. The fall vegetables are coming in while the demand is still high, and the quality is also high.

Kurt Alstede reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the Essex County Board of Agriculture and it was well attended. The Highlands Council has a new agricultural expert on staff. He noted that there had been localized hail a couple of weeks ago that was really damaging to some fruit producers that lost much of their apple crop. He hosted the new Ag Leadership Class at their farm for dinner and talked about entry level farming and some of the challenges and benefits of farming. He looks forward to seeing their group progress. He noted that the recent bad weather weekends are huge losses during the short season. In addition, he reported that initial labor costs for H2A and H2B are high as there is a wage increase and the minimum wage has also increased.

Dave DeFrance reported that there is some pullback at some of the county boards that he has attended with concerns about interest rates resulting in some operations not making some of the improvements that had been planned. He attended the Warren County Legislative dinner, it was well attended and there were discussions about issues that they have been dealing with, especially weather-related events. He reported they did talk about the SPS rules. He reported that Hunterdon County Board of Ag was holding their Resolutions dinner later that evening and noted that they would be listening to the SPS Hearing that was being held at the same time. He noted that the nursery industry was thankful for the rain because they have been digging trees and they have been dry, some down 18-24 inches, so the rain was well needed. He commented that the Legislative tours have really given us a chance to have a dialogue with the legislators and the staff is so important for us to bring everyone together. The last-minute hearing on pesticides had some concerned.

Bob Blew reported that Cumberland County had resumed their meetings but was unable to attend. He reported that the local tomato guys were scrambling to get everything up before the recent rain. He reported that the retail industry for nursery growers had been slow, and landscape has been good. The Legislative Tours are very informative and an excellent opportunity to speak one on one with the Legislators and staff members but need to be planned out further in advance.

John Hart reported that he had attended the Burlington County tour and was surprised to see all the customers that Specca's have there for pick your own which saves a lot of costs on labor. The Mercer County Board of Agriculture held their annual Legislative Breakfast meeting with a few senators in attendance that members of the County Board were able to talk to them about what was happening locally. On his farm, it's been too wet to get the malted barley in and if we don't get it in soon, it will be too late.

Stephen Lee thanked the Department staff for putting together the Orientation program earlier that day. He said that it was eye opening to listen to the Division Directors and hear some of the details about what they do. He reported that Atlantic County Board of Agriculture had been meeting virtually but would be meeting in-person in the beginning of October. They have been focused on putting together their Legislative Dinner. He reported that Burlington County recently met, and they are focused on their upcoming Legislative Tour on October 19 which is starting at the Philip Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research and will also visit Pine Island Cranberries to see the cranberry harvest. He noted that the tour of the Research Station is a great opportunity for participants to see the serious revenue from the work that is being done there. He encouraged anyone that was available to attend. He commented that he felt that it would be great if the industry could work together to put on the Legislative Tours for the Legislators and their staff as well as the Ag Assembly Committee, who we need to reach. If we could have a unified approach to the tours, we could really get the most bang for our buck. He mentioned that the presentation that they had earlier from the Bridgeton City Public Schools is exactly what we need to be showing the legislators.

Vice President Hollinger attended the Cape May County Board of Ag meeting where they discussed the success of the recent County Fair and Chicken Dinner.

President Sytsema reported that the recent Burlington County Legislative Tour was a great success and she thanked former Board President Paul Hlubik and Board member Lisa Specca for hosting stops on the tour. She stated that with our next tour scheduled for October 23 in Cumberland County, she would like to visit one of the schools that we heard about today. She attended a meeting at the Farm Bureau to listen to a hearing on the roll-out of the new deer regulations. In addition, she attended the Farm Trial Days in Warren County, it was a good opportunity to try to find solutions to the problems they are having. She noted that Bergen County Board of Ag met and discussed the success of the Twilight Deer Management Program Meeting that they had, there was good attendance and they also addressed concerns about continued problems with the Spotted Lanternfly. At the Sussex County Board of Ag meeting, they discussed participation in the Bear Damage Survey, the survey has been sent out but if you know someone who would like to participate, they're trying to get as much participation as possible to document the damage that they have. The link for the survey is available through the Farm Bureau. The New Jersey State Fair fundraiser for the Board of Ag was successful and did want to note that four students from the 4-H programs in different counties did receive national honors and they will be

attending the World Dairy Expo next week in Madison, WI representing the Dairy Judging Team. She noted that this is a very big achievement and a great event for them to participate in. She reported that delegates for the Farm Bureau Convention were selected. Finally, she reported that things are very late in Sussex County due to the wet weather conditions but that yields seem to be good. She also announced that the Sussex County Annual Dinner would be held on October 23 at 7:00 pm.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee

Chairman David DeFrange reported that the Committee had met and had discussions about how to proceed and making sure that ample time is given for review of information so that the Board can make an informed decision. The Committee will be meeting the week prior to the Board meeting so that there is ample time to digest the information and that everyone is prepared for it. The Department is currently following 786 pieces of legislation that are of concern. Specifically, he mentioned the Food & Nutrition legislation. In addition, he stated that the Committee had discussed Senate Bill 3279 and Assembly Bill 4729, bills that would bring much-needed updates to determining the value of farmland, and the development easements on that farmland, to be acquired for Farmland Preservation purposes.

ON the MOTION of John Hart, seconded by Lisa Specca, the Board voted unanimously to send a letter in support of its passage.

Grants Committee

Chairman Stephen Lee reported that the Grants Committee had met regarding the FY 24 Gleaning Grant, which has been funded annually by the State Food Purchase Program since 2007. There were three applicants this year. All were eligible and submitted completed applications. The Committee reviewed and voted, and is recommending the following Grantees and amounts, totaling \$300,000.

New Jersey Agricultural Society, Farmers Against Hunger	\$194,280
Foodshed Alliance	59,010
Bushels of Blessings	46,710

ON the MOTION of Bob Blew, seconded by David DeFrange, the Board voted unanimously to approve Grantees and amounts, totaling \$300,000 as presented.

Nominations Committee

Chairman Stephen Lee reported that the Nominations Committee had met to discuss the vacancies on the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC). There will be communication with the County Boards and CADB's regarding the search for interested candidates and the information will be posted on the Department website. In addition, there was discussion regarding someone nominated for the Fish and Game Council farmer position that has not yet been approved by the Governor's Office.

Board member Kurt Alstede asked if it might be beneficial to have a member of the State Board attend the North & South Jersey Caucus meetings, informally, just to answer any questions that may arise.

ON the MOTION of Stephen Lee, seconded by John Hart, the Board voted unanimously that David DeFrange would represent the State Board at the North Jersey Caucus meeting and that Robert Blew would represent the State Board at the South Jersey Caucus.

Livestock Committee

Chairman John Hart reported that the Livestock Committee meeting had met a few times and some lively discussions regarding the Humane Standards and the changes that need to be made.

Personnel Committee

Chair Holly Sytsema reported that the deadline for the Secretary Application would be September 29. The Personnel Committee will be meeting following today's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Board member Kurt Alstede reported that following up on our request to RMA for Grape Coverage, we received a response thanking us for our support of the Federal Crop Insurance program. "We also appreciate the work Rutgers University has done to help quantify the value of the grape industry in Hunterdon County, and we will expand the grape program to Hunterdon County as quickly as possible. Unfortunately we are not able to expand the Grape crop insurance program for the 2024 crop year. The contract change date for our 2024 Grape insurance policy was August 31, 2023. This means that grape insurance offers must be published by that date and cannot be altered after that date." He did note that coverage for grapes is currently available in Hunterdon County via written agreement. Noting that they understand there is some concern about whether vertically integrated grape producers will have the records to qualify for written agreements and over the past couple of years, RMA has updated our rules to make the written agreement process work better for producers who are vertically integrated or sell to direct markets.

Board member Kurt Alstede commented that there has been so much said about the SPS and made the following motion:

Board member Kurt Alstede made a motion, seconded by John Hart, that the Board send a letter to the SADC Members and staff a copy of Resolution #7 stating to please take note of the Resolution passed by the delegates of the 2023 State Agricultural Convention.

Board member David DeFrange commented that the Board's Subcommittee met with SADC regarding this issue, had many discussions about the intent of the Resolution and tried to mitigate through the process to come up with some resolutions to partner with the SADC. They truly did their best and that the SADC is aware of what this is all about. He noted that he was interested in how the hearing tonight plays out.

Vice President Hollinger commented that several of the Board members have preserved farms could that be a conflict and feels that a letter is not needed.

Legal Specialist Chris LaRegina reported that there is no conflict.

Board member Kurt Alstede commented that the concern since the release of the maps has increased dramatically once people saw the changes that would be imposed standards as well as the changes to the Deeds of Easement.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion died.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve the Readoption of N.J.A.C. 2:31 (Charity Racing Day Fund Distribution) without changes by Notice (without public comment period)

ON the MOTION of Bob Blew, seconded by David DeFrange, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Readoption of N.J.A.C. 2:31 (Charity Racing Day Fund Distribution) without changes by Notice (without public comment period), N.J.A.C. 2:31 is presently scheduled to expire on March 22, 2024 pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.

Approve the Readoption of N.J.A.C. 2:33 (Agricultural Fairs) without changes by Notice (without a public comment period)

ON the MOTION of Lisa Specca, seconded by Bob Blew, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Readoption of N.J.A.C. 2:33 (Agricultural Fairs) without changes by Notice (without a public comment period). N.J.A.C. 2:33 is presently scheduled to expire on April 17, 2024 pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.

Approve the Readoption of N.J.A.C. 2:34 (Equine Advisory Board) with a technical change by Notice (without a public comment period)

ON the MOTION of John Hart, seconded by Lisa Specca, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Readoption of N.J.A.C. 2:34 (Equine Advisory Board) with a technical change by Notice (without a public comment period). N.J.A.C. 2:34 is presently scheduled to expire on March 22, 2024 pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.

Final Approval/Adoption of Proposed Rulemaking – New Rule for N.J.A.C. 2:2 (Disease Control Program) and Amendments to N.J.A.C. 2:3 (Livestock and Poultry Importation)

ON the MOTION of Kurt Alstede, seconded by Bob Blew, the Board voted unanimously to approve the final Approval/Adoption of Proposed Rulemaking – New Rule for N.J.A.C. 2:2 (Disease Control Program) and Amendments to N.J.A.C. 2:3 (Livestock and Poultry Importation) pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Butch, Monmouth County, was on the Teams meeting and thanked the State Board members for the job that they do and all the time and effort that they put into doing this job that the agricultural community has put them here to do. She asked that the members of the State Board to listen tonight to the comments that are made by all of their constituents, take in what they hear and also commented on

Resolution #7 Soil Protection on Farmland from the State Agricultural Convention, starting at line 53 “we strongly urge the SADC to abandon the approach of making the new soil protection rules retroactive to farms that are already the subject of farmland preservation Deeds of Easement as those farmer did not believe that they would be subjected to regulations that limit their agricultural practices and opportunities when they signed the Deed of Easement Contract.” It was unanimously passed at the Convention.

MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Agriculture will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at the Riverview Plaza.

ADJOURNMENT

ON the MOTION of Kurt Alstede, seconded by David DeFrange, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Assistant Secretary of Agriculture