

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DRAFT MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 13, 2017**

The March meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Asst. Secretary Purcell at 9:38 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

Sylvia Kovacs

Michael Rigolizzo

Brian McLendon (rep. R. Martin)

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Carrie Lindig

Tony DiLodovico

John Kocubinski

Charlie Buscaglia

Sean Moriarty, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Paul Schiariti, Mercer SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Bob Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Sandy Myers, Warren SCD

Jim Hill, Hunterdon SCD

E. George-Cheniara, Esq-NJBA

Jay Khetani, NJDOT

Lois Johann, NJDOT

Dan Kutu, NJDEP

Changi Wu, NJDEP

Jeromie Lange- Maser Consulting

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2016 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Rigolizzo, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the minutes of the December 12, 2016 meeting were approved.

CHARMAN'S COMMENTS

Ms. Purcell reported on the following:

- The NJ Agricultural Convention and Trade Show was held Feb., 8-9, 2017 in Atlantic City, NJ. An overview and highlights were provided.
- The Governor's proposed budget calls for a slight funding cut for the department.
- Cathy Costa/ Don Knezick Resolutions: Long term Burlington SCD Supervisors, Don Knezick (stepping down) and Cathy Costa (not seeking a new term) are retiring. On motion by Dr. Murphy, second by Mr. Kocubinski (Costa resolution) and on motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Kovacs (Knezick resolution), the NJ SSCC authorized both resolutions honoring the dedication and hard work of both of these individuals.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **Supervisor Performance Standards-** The draft update of the Supervisor Performance Standards was reviewed. These standards clarify the SSCC expectation of supervisors for appointment and serve as criteria for reappointment. A lengthy discussion was held regarding many sections of this proposed policy. This draft document will be sent to the districts for comment.
2. **2:90 Rules Expiration-** All four chapters sunset every seven years. The regulations expire in December 2017. Mr. Minch will summarize the proposed updates and changes and send out for comments. It is hoped that action can be taken at the next SSCC meeting since turnaround time is short and the proposed rule changes must be in the Governor's office in July.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **NJDOT Coordination Protocol-** Mr. Minch distributed and reviewed a document which was updated last month and sent to districts detailing the protocol for when an issue or problem arises on road construction projects.
2. **Soil Restoration Rules/Standards-** Mr. Minch reported that the proposed rule is in the Governor's office for review. Another lengthy discussion was held regarding the ability for a larger audience to review the comments.
3. **Stormwater Structure Inspection Procedures (H&H) -** The draft Stormwater Basin Inspection Service Plan was distributed and the elements of the plan were reviewed. This is an opportunity for the districts to earn funds by providing annual maintenance inspections for private and public basin owners who must comply with NJDEP Stormwater and MS4 rule requirements to operate and maintain stormwater management basins. This is designed to be a voluntary program; it isn't mandatory for the districts to participate. SSCC staff would train the SCD staff. On motion by Mr. McLendon, second by Dr. Murphy, the SSCC approved the implementation of this plan.

4. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on some of his work activities over the last several months. They include the following: an update of the Detention Basin Database Project (H&H), Inspection service, Columbia Lake Dam removal (Warren SCD) and Honey Dam rehabilitation (Mercer SCD).
5. **New Jersey Conservation District Sub-Committee Reports**
 - **Training-** Awaiting responses from a follow-up survey.
 - **Policies & Procedures-** No report
 - **Fee/Fiscal-** Mr. Cywinski reported that audit training is being scheduled and guidance is being written for “Capital Improvement Plan”
 - **Review/Appraisal-** No report

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE (FPCS) PROGRAM

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

- **Soil/water cost share program-** NRCS is assisting and hybridizing the cost table on practices and projects specific and important to New Jersey which are not initially covered in their cost table. Once completed, it will be sent to districts for review and approval in accordance with N.J.A.C. 2:90-2.25(b).
- In updating and revising subpart 3 of 2:90, the department is moving toward the NRCS policy, and not pay on actual bills but pay on the cost estimate.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

- **NJ Flower and Patio Show-** The conservation Partnership won six awards. Mr. Belcher thanked the Cape-Atlantic and Freehold districts for their time, effort and hard work. Also, Mercer County College which allowed them space to force bulbs and plants into bloom.
- **2017 NJ Envirothon-** will be hosted by the Morris SCD and will take place Saturday, May 13th at Schooley’s Mountain Park. To date, 32 teams from 14 counties are registered. The theme for the upcoming Envirothon is “Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship”.
- **2017 NJ Conservation Poster Contest-** The theme for the upcoming poster contest is “Healthy Soils are Full of Life”. Posters are due in Trenton by April 3rd. Last year, four posters from NJ were sent to the national competition. All four entries finished either first or second in their respective categories.
- The Conservation Partnership awards ceremony is tentatively scheduled for May 25th at the State House Museum Auditorium.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Ms. Lindig provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings involving NRCS including the soil health initiative, Columbia Lake Dam removal, partnering with NJDA to assist with the technical aspects of conservation practices involving the Farmland Preservation Cost Share program.

11:32 AM- Mr. Hill arrived

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP)

Mr. McLendon provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings involving NJDEP including a study that showed that nutrient levels in streams and waterways throughout New Jersey have either remained constant or are decreasing.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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

- The NJACD meeting will take place following the SSCC meeting.
- Regional supervisor meetings will take place March 27th (central), March 29th (north), April 3rd (south).
- The NJACD is exploring options for funding the Executive Director position.

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 AND AGENCY COMMENTS

Mr. Kuti reported that minor changes were made to the 5G3 Permit. SFH requirements were removed because they are covered under our regulations.

Mr. Minch announced that DAG Moriarty has accepted a position with Green Acres and this will be his last SSCC meeting. Mr. Moriarty was wished well in his new position.

On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Ms. Kovacs, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 PM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held June 12, 2017 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch
Executive Secretary, SSCC