

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DRAFT MINUTES
LIBERTY STATE PARK
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY
JULY 12, 2010**

The July meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairperson Douglas Fisher at 10:48 a.m. Central Railroad Terminal, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ

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, 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

Douglas Fisher
Barry Chalofsky (rep. Mark Mauriello)
Louise Davis
Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R Goodman)
Tom Drewes, NRCS
Don Knezick
Barbara Rosko
Ken Marsh
Joe Lomax
Frank Minch, Administrative Analyst

Associate Members and Others

Brian McLendon, NJDEP
Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD
Rich Belcher, SSSC
Ferdows Ali, SSSC
Tim Fekete, SSSC
Rob Vivian, NJDA
Maria Collazo, USDA-NRCS
Raymond Cywinski, Bergen SCD
Urszula Surgal, USDA-NRCS
David Friedman, Ocean SCD
Robert Dobbs, Camden SCD
Ines Grimm, Freehold SCD
Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD
Bob Prout, HEP SCD
John Sarnas, HEP SCD
Mario Tridente, HEP SCD
John Furfari, Gloucester SCD
Paul Berte, SEH
Jason Sprague, SHE
Elyse Catenia, SEH

Mr. Minch noted that, for the time being, Mr. Chalofsky will be Commissioner Martin's designee from DEP. In addition, Amy Donlon will no longer be working for Law & Public Safety. Mr. Minch is working to secure another DAG who will represent the NJDA-SSCC and work on the Committees' behalf. Secretary Fisher publicly expressed his gratitude to Ms. Donlon for the service and guidance she has provided to the committee.

Minutes of April 12, 2010 Meeting

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Davis, the Minutes of April 12, 2010 were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Secretary Fisher reported that with the approval of the state budget and cutting of \$9 million statewide, government continues to consolidate and streamline. Also, there are many legislative bills being considered that would directly impact districts. When representatives of the Conservation Partnership are commenting on pending legislation, it is extremely important to speak with one voice to ensure these bills are written and enacted with not only an eye on conservation of natural resources but also practicality of implementation.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch introduced Bob Prout, HEP SCD Supervisor who welcomed the SSCC to the district and spoke about the importance and diversity of the HEP district. He encouraged everyone to, time permitting, explore Liberty State Park and Liberty Science Center. In turn, Mr. Prout introduced Michael Timpanaro, Liberty Park Historian, who provided an overview of the fascinating history and restoration of Liberty State Park.

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

- **SSCC Meeting Schedule** – There was discussion regarding the existing 2010 SSCC meeting schedule and the possibility of modifying same.
On motion by Ms. Rosko, second by Mr. Lomax, the 2010 SSCC meeting schedule has been modified to allow for meeting every other month.
The schedule for the balance of the year is as follows: Sept. 13, and Nov. 8.
- **NRCS/SCD All Employees Meeting** – A joint SCD-NRCS employees meeting will be held August 24th at Rosedale Park in Hopewell Township from 8:30 AM – 3:00PM.
- **Annual Conservation Conference** – The conference is scheduled for Sept. 20 and 21st in Ocean City, NJ. The planning committee is in the process of finalizing the agenda.
- **Agricultural Water Report** – This report was included in the agenda packet.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

- **Permitrack**- Jason Spague and Paul Berte of Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) provided a power point presentation demonstrating a web based erosion/sediment control permit tracking application, Permitrack. A lengthy discussion was held after the presentation. While the application appears to have some utility, it is fairly cost prohibitive at this time. Several districts may engage in a pilot program to assess the feasibility of the Permitrack program.

- **Supervisor Appointments –**
Ocean SCD- Charlene Costaris and Martha Maxwell-Doyle were appointed to one (1) year provisionary terms last meeting but since then it has come to light that there was a miscalculation by Ocean SCD regarding meeting attendance and in reality, Ms. Costaris (78%) and Ms. Maxwell-Doyle (94%) both exceeded the minimum attendance level of 70%.

On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Lomax, Ms. Costaris & Ms Maxwell-Doyle were approved for a full three (3) year term ending June 30, 2013.

Sussex SCD- The local nominating committee met and recommended James Kilduff be appointed to serve on the Sussex SCD Board of Supervisors.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Davis, Mr. Kilduff was appointed to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Phil Deacon. Mr. Kilduff's term expires June 30, 2012.

- **Fee Schedule Modification–** Both the Camden and Ocean SCDs requested modification to their Chapter 251 Fee schedules. Operating costs have increased in both counties. In the case of the Ocean SCD the hourly rate has increased from \$135 per hour to \$145 per hour. Mr. Minch discussed his evaluation of the fiscal documentation compiled by both staffs that utilized the software program for computing hourly costs and includes a cost of living adjustment. He stated that both districts have demonstrated a reasonable relationship between fees and costs for providing services. A motion was made by Ms. Rosko, second by Mr. Knezick, to approve the Camden and Ocean District fee schedule modifications. A lengthy discussion was held regarding streamlining and reducing district overall expenses and increasing reserves.
- **Fertilizer Bill –** Mr. Minch reported that there is a stakeholder meeting in the NJ State House this Thursday, June 15th. This bill would regulate the commercial and residential application of fertilizer. There is an agricultural exemption in the bill. This bill is far reaching and would change the formulation of fertilizer being sold as well as establish a monitoring program to ensure compliance. This bill, as is several others which impact SCDs, is presently in legislative committee.

During the discussion, Rob Vivian, the new Legislative Liaison for NJDA arrived (12:08 PM). Mr. Minch introduced Mr. Vivian to the SSCC. Mr. Vivian provided a brief biography and then spoke regarding the fertilizer bill.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding this and various other, related proposed legislation. Although it is universally agreed that the Conservation Partnership embraces the concept of soil health, protecting and enhancing same, it does not support all details within these bills (A2290, S1815, S1856 & S1411). There is resistance to addressing a particular local issue with standards that are to be implemented on a statewide basis. Education is preferred over regulation. A suggestion was made to encourage and establish pilot projects throughout the state to examine the issues addressed by these bills.

On motion by Mr. Knezick, second by Mr. Lomax, it was determined that a sub-committee would be formed to examine the proposed legislation, A2290, S1815, S1856 & S1411 and prepare a policy statement regarding same. The purpose of this policy statement is to present a uniform view and voice on these bills. This subcommittee will present its findings to the SSCC at the next meeting in September. Once established, this will become a permanent sub-committee to address future legislation.

- **Hudson County Soil Survey** – Debbie Surabian, USDA Soil Scientist, provided an overview regarding the work USDA-NRCS has done to complete the Hudson County Soil Survey. Also included in this power point presentation was a section devoted to the mapping of Liberty State Park. In addition, Ms. Surabian(?) explained some of the tools utilized by soil scientists.
- **2:90 Rules and Standards-** The regulations regarding Chapter 251 and also the state cost share program sunset in 2011. Work is being done to revise and update both.

On motion by Ms. Rosko, second by Ms. Davis, the SSCC voted to re-adopted both rules “as is” to avoid missing the sunset deadline. Any updates, changes or amendments will be proposed in the near future.

- **Engineering Assistance** – Mr. Showler’s report was submitted to the State Committee. A lengthy discussion was held regarding solar panels, impervious cover and offsite stability.
- **Contractor Training** – A lengthy discussion was held regarding the monetary aspect and payment for the development of a contractor training program. Paul Evans of the Burlington SCD has spent a good deal of time working on this project. It was felt that a portion of the fee charged for this training should go to the Burlington SCD to reimburse the district for the cost incurred in developing the program.

Secretary Fisher left (12:30) to return to Trenton; Joe Lomax is designated as Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

STORMWATER DISCHARGE PROGRAM

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

The RFA 4th quarter reimbursement is pending. SSCC staff is working with DEP staff to provide relevant documentation to SCDs. Upon receipt of payment, Districts will be invoiced to provide reimbursement to the SSCC in accordance with the January Resolution. This Resolution modified the distribution to 70% District, 30% SSCC.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM (FPCSP)

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

- **New Applications** - On motion by Louise Davis, second by Don Knezick, the following 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>
Atlantic	Columbia Fruit Farm	Irrigation	\$23,520.00
Burlington	Dah Wah Farm	Irrigation	\$33,042.00
Burlington	E. Kirkbride	Perm open Drain	\$42,350.00
Cumberland	Sikking Farms	Sod Waterway	\$8,748.00
Gloucester	H. Wagner, agent D. Duffield	Irrigation	\$16,590.00
Hunterdon	Melick Clinton	Irrigation	\$37,087.50
Ocean	South Land Farms	Perm Open Drain	\$26,554.23
Salem	R. Yetneck agent, Maugeri Farms	Irrigation	\$35,640.00
Salem	Wm. Brooks	Irrigation	\$30,808.23

PRIORITY II-EIGHT YEAR PROGRAM

<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Requested</u>
Burlington	Estate of P Kalhoun	Irrigation	\$2,400.00
Burlington	Peter Brower	Irrigation	\$11,250.00
Gloucester	J. Finocchiaro	Water Imp Res	\$17,370.00

*All applications will be forwarded to the SADC with a recommendation for funding approval. Copies of all applications will be maintained as part of the minutes of this meeting and kept on file at the Office of the Executive Secretary.

- **Extension Requests** – A request from R. Peck of Mercer County for \$27,502.97 twelve (12) month extension for an irrigation project was approved on motion by Barbara Rosko, second by Ken Marsh. The Turnpike widening project has halted implementation of this project.
- **Cost Share Payments Processed** – Since April eleven (11) payment requests were processed to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) totaling \$158,331.79 representing the state share for completed and functioning practices. These practices include nine (9) irrigation projects, one (1) underground drainage project and one (1) water impoundment reservoir. The total value of these conservation projects exceeds \$337,800.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) *

Mr. Minch reported the following regarding the CREP program:

Conservation Practices	Contracts Approved		Payments Processed	
	This Period	Cumulative	This Period	Cumulative
Filter Strips (acres)	2.7	279.2	0	258.56
Grassed Waterway (acres)	6.8	106.2	1.4	69.32
Lined Waterway (feet)	9,840	48,866	0	3,311
Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	2.1	220	5.6	165
Number of Contracts	5	157	3	106
Funds Obligated/Expended	\$20,862.78	\$308,413.25	\$3,786.38	\$182,672

*On February 3, 2004 at the N.J. Agricultural Convention the CREP Program Agreement was signed by the Governor and USDA Farm Services Agency Administrator to establish 30,000 acres of vegetative filter strips with 10-15 year contracts on ag land to protect water quality.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Minch reported the following:

Fred Shoenagel, NRCS held a training session for the MATES Envirothon team in preparation for the Canon National Envirothon scheduled for August.

Work continues on updating the soils curriculum. The NJACD has hired a coordinator to assist in completion of this project.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Mr. Drewes reported on the following:

Reminded all members of the joint SCD-NRCS employees meeting in Hopewell Township and encouraged attendance.

NRCS does not have enough data on the impacts of expansive solar installations on stormwater runoff to provide technical guidance at this time.

As requested at a prior Committee meeting by Don Knezick, a meeting between NRCS, Rutgers and SSCC staff was held to discuss soil remediation as outlined in proposed legislation. The group had a lively discussion and will plan future meetings as the proposal moves through the legislature.

The results National Resource Inventory (NRI) for Non-Federal Lands is now available. The inventory indicates that New Jersey's conservation efforts are having an effect. "The NRI report showed that total cropland erosion (sheet and rill) declined in New Jersey by about 59 percent, from more than 5.6 tons per acre per year in 1982 to about 3.3 tons per acre per year in 2007."

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

No Report

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Louise Davis expanded on the earlier discussion of the Annual Conference in Ocean City and encouraged all districts and partners to participate.

NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Barry Chalofsky deferred his report for the sake of time.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

- The last matriculated class of Cook College received their diplomas and awards on May 18, 2010. Mark Robson delivered the convocation speech to this final graduating class.
- Ag Field Day was held April 28th as part of Rutgers Day.
- The first Investment Forum for Food Waste Recycling was held June 16th to show how institutions, municipalities and other governmental bodies can support food waste recycling initiatives in NJ.
- On July 31st, the 45th annual open house festival and wine tasting will be held at the Donald P. Lacey Display Garden.
- The Cook Campus Center and Hort Farm 3 will host the 2010 Rutgers Hazelnut Field Day, to highlight Rutgers' hazelnut breeding program.

On motion by Mr. Don Knezick second by Ken Marsh, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch
Administrative Analyst