

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
OCTOBER 20, 2014**

The October meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:36 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

Douglas Fisher

Barbara Rosko

Priscilla Hayes

Charlie Buscaglia

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Brian McLendon (rep. B. Martin)

Tony DiLodovico

Carrie Mosley

Joe Lomax

Sean Moriarty, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

Dr. Ferdows Ali, SSSC, NJDA

Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD

Bill Brash, Mercer SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD

Sandy Myers, Warren SCD

Kerry Jennings, Ocean SCD

Bob Dobbs, NJACD

Paul Hlubik, USDA/FSA

Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD

Bob Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Cathy Costa, Burlington SCD

Allen Carter, Cape-Atlantic SCD

Robert Fenton, Cape-Atlantic SCD

Rick Dovey, Cape-Atlantic SCD

John Sarnas, HEP SCD

Mario Tridente, HEP SCD

Gray Russell, HEP SCD

Charlene Costaris, Ocean SCD

Matthew Fox, Sussex SCD

John Furfari, Gloucester SCD

Michael Rigolizzo, Camden SCD

MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2014 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Dr. Murphy, the minutes of the August 11, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Secretary Fisher reported that Ms. Hayes is resigning from her position on the State Soil Conservation Committee effective December 31, 2014. Ms. Hayes will still continue in her role as Chair of the Mercer County SCD. Secretary Fisher applauded Ms. Hayes leadership, service and vision during her tenure on the State Committee and as President of the NJACD.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. Staff, in conjunction with NRCS and the districts, followed up on several animal waste management complaints.
2. Staff, in conjunction with the Freehold SCD, is working to resolve a complaint from the Department of Community Affairs involving the community of Union Beach.
3. Staff has prepared comments regarding the proposed rule changes to the Clean Water Act.
4. During the timeframe August 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014 there have been a total of 16 agricultural water registrations and certifications in the following counties: Atlantic Burlington, Gloucester, Middlesex, Monmouth, Salem and Warren.
5. To date, a total of 615 animal waste plans have been submitted. The majority of these plans are from Hunterdon, Salem and Warren Counties. Mr. Minch reviewed the certification procedure.
6. Dr. Ali provided an overview and update regarding drought conditions which have plagued many areas of the country, especially in California and the entire Southwest.

9:49 AM- Mr. Cywinski arrived.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Permit Extension Act-** Assembly Bill # 3815 extends for two years the expiration date of certain permits pursuant to the "Permit Extension Act of 2008". There are no other changes in this version. To date there is no Senate companion bill.
2. **Permanent Stabilization-** Assembly Bill # 1305 is a revised bill which requires, with some exceptions, that any state entity planting vegetation to use only vegetation native to the area being planted. When purchasing said vegetation, to purchase, to the maximum extent possible, only from NJ businesses.
3. **HEP Building Status-** Mr. Van Olden provided an update regarding the HEP building status. The property was purchased on June 21, 2014. Tax exemption status was approved by the township. Initial bids for renovation were rejected due to excessive cost. The project was re-bid and the closing date for bids is November 4, 2014.
On motion by Mr. Cywinski, second by Mr. Lomax, the fee schedule approval period has been extended for an additional three months.
4. **Exempt Municipality Review- Newark-** Mr. Minch and Mr. Van Olden provided an update concerning the City of Newark and implementing their erosion control program. Newark has hired additional staff. This staff is in the process of being trained.. It is hoped that an improved procedure, communication and co-ordination between various city departments will result in a better program and better reporting.

5. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on the various items he has been working on over the past several months including the Roes Island Wetland Mitigation- Great Meadows, Warren SCD and the Rain Garden/ Farmland Protection, Gloucester SCD, Infiltration basin survey and Detention basin database project.

10:05 AM- Mr. DiLodovico arrived.

6. **NJ Conservation Workgroups- Sub-Committee Reports**

District Work Group- Ms. Hayes reported that a meeting would be held at the Freehold SCD on December 9, 2014 to review the various charges of the four Sub-Committees and formulate a plan of action moving forward.

- Training Sub-committee- Mr. Brash reported a survey is being taken to gauge interest in CPESC training.

- Policy and Procedures Sub-committee- Mr. Lomax reported that the Administrative Policy and Procedures Manual is in draft form.

These policies are being reviewed to determine which require legislative action to facilitate changes.

Single Family Exemption- The comments received have been reviewed and incorporated into the draft Administrative Bulletin. Examples, or a top 20 frequently asked questions will be included with the document. On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Lomax, the draft Single Family Exemption Bulletin was adopted.

- Fee and Fiscal Sub-committee- The Fee Schedule Manual has been issued. Further discussion will be held in regards to guidance for storage and databases. In addition, a meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2014 to discuss the audit manual.

- Review/ Appraisal Sub-committee- Mr. DiLodovico reported that this sub-committee is working on self-assessment documents but essentially waiting for final products from other sub-committees to incorporate into their work.

- Dr. Murphy requested an update regarding the Soil Restoration Standard. Mr. Minch indicated that the economic impact and parameters need to be examined and discussed. A lengthy discussion ensued.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

1. **Flower Show-** The theme for the upcoming Flower Show is “Great American Novels”. The Conservation Partnership has discussed utilizing “Huckleberry Finn” for their display.
2. **Poster Contest-** Work is being done on the brochure for the upcoming poster contest.
3. **Envirothon-** The next meeting is scheduled for October 28th at the Cape May 4H Fairgrounds.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ms. Mosley reported on the following:

1. **Soil Web App**- works on I Phones and indicates the type of soil for a particular location.
2. **NRCS Agreements**- The new Federal Fiscal year began October 1st. NRCS is operating under a continuing resolution. They have executed new agreements with the Mercer SCD and extended existing agreements with Hunterdon SCD, NJACD & NJDA.
3. **Soil Health Initiative**- Encouraging farmers to always keep their soil covered. An aerial cover crop seeding was done in northern New Jersey that was extremely successful. It is hoped that this program will be expanded next year.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mr. Hlubik provided an update on FSA programs and the potential consequences of sequestration. FSA staff has been training for the various new Farm Bill programs. In addition, there are many producer meetings scheduled over the next few months.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Ms. Hayes extended a welcome to the newly elected supervisors. These new supervisors stood and introduced themselves to the SSCC. Supervisor orientation/training will be provided at the conclusion of the Association meeting. Details for the upcoming conference will be finalized today.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings involving the university. Dr. Murphy also informed the Committee that 2015 is the International Year of Soils.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Lomax reported that he, Mr. Buscaglia and Mr. Minch have reviewed all of the SCD audits for the last six years and a report is being written which should assist districts in operating more effectively. In addition, NACD is revising and updating the Financial Manual and the Employee Handbook which, for the first time will address employee responsibilities regarding social media.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. DiLodovico the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held December 8, 2014 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch

