

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
OCTOBER 22, 2013**

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

Ray Cywinski

Priscilla Hayes

Barbara Rosko

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R Goodman)

Tony DiLodovico

Brian McLendon (rep. B Martin)

John Kocubinski

Carrie Mosley

Kristen Heinzerling, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Don Knezick, Burlington SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD

Bill Engisch, Hunterdon SCD

Robert Dobbs, NJACD

Nancy Coles, FSA, USDA

Bill Brash, Mercer SCD

Sylvia Kovacs, Warren SCD

Charles Buscaglia, Freehold SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Amy Karpati, PPA

Chris Sztenderowicz, MCS

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Mr. DiLodovico, the minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting were approved. Ms. Rosko abstained.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **Floyd Menchek Resolution-** On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Cywinski, a resolution posthumously honoring Mr. Menchek's tireless work and dedication to the conservation movement and public service was approved.
2. **Infiltration Basin Data Request-** As discussed at the September meeting, a letter was sent to all SCD Chairpersons and managers clarifying and confirming requested information. The letter also outlined expectations and established a timeframe for compliance.
3. **Camden SCD Interim Manager-** Bob Dobbs retired as Camden SCD Manager and Craig McGee is Interim Manager.
4. **Annual Conference- SSCC Expiring Terms-** A letter was sent to all SCD Chairpersons regarding notice of expiring terms of district supervisor members serving on the SSCC. The terms for both Ms. Hayes and Mr. Cywinski expire at the end of this calendar year. The election to fill both positions will take place at the Annual Business Meeting of the NJACD on October 28th.

In addition, the letter included the *Procedure for Election of Members to the State Soil Conservation Committee*. Mr. Minch indicated that several years ago a change was made adjusting the Committee members terms from July 1 to January 1 but no formal action was taken to amend the policy. Mr. Minch will make the appropriate language adjustments for action by the Committee for the December meeting. A discussion was also held clarifying some ambiguous language in the procedure.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **District Surplus Property Disposal Policy-** Mr. Minch and Ms. Zimmerman reviewed Administrative Bulletin 2013-1.0, *Disposition of Excess and/or Surplus Property (including computer equipment)*.

On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Ms. Mosley, this Administrative Bulletin was adopted.

2. **District Computer/Internet Policy-** Administrative Policy 2013-2.0, *Computer and Internet Acces and Use* was reviewed.

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Ms. Mosley, this Administrative Bulletin was adopted.

3. **Erosion Control Product Procedure** – Mr. Minch reviewed the draft “*Procedure for the Evaluation of New Erosion Control Products for compliance With the Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in New Jersey*”. A lengthy and heated discussion ensued regarding this procedure. A sub-committee was to review and draft a broad based policy document. The sub-committee will have the policy for State Committee review by the December meeting. Members of this committee include Sylvia Kovacs, Sandy Myers, Don Knezick, John Showler, Dr. Stephanie Murphy, an NRCS representative and a Burlington SCD representative.
4. **Compost Filter Sock**- This agenda item has been tabled until the December meeting at which time Mr. Lomax will report to the SSCC on progress of the task force assigned to this project.
5. **Engineering Issues**- Mr. Minch reported on various items Mr. Showler has been working on over the last several months including Fenimore Landfill (Morris County), a solar farm in Wantage Township, Sussex County and a Toll Brothers site in Hunterdon County.
6. **Sub-Committee Report Process**- Mr. Minch reported that at the last meeting there was much discussion and differing opinions regarding this endeavor. Ms. Hayes indicated Mr. Lomax has written a draft clarifying the steps involved in the process of how the sub-committees report to the SSCC and how the information is broadly disseminated to the SCDs for comment and final adoption for policy. The draft was e-mailed to Ms. Hayes yesterday and she has not had an opportunity to review same. Ms. Hayes requested this agenda item be tabled until next meeting when it can be reviewed in more depth and prepared for final recommendation. In addition, Secretary Fisher requested the DAG look into the process to ensure it complies fully with policy and regulations.

10:34 AM- Mr. Sztenderowicz left the meeting.

7. NJ Conservation Workgroups- Sub-Committee Reports

- Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee- Ms. Zimmerman provided a brief update regarding the progress of this sub-committee.
- District Fee Schedule and Fiscal Sub-committee- Mr. Cywinski provided a brief update regarding the progress of this sub-committee.
- Training Sub-Committee- Mr. Brash provided an update and overview regarding the progress of this sub-committee.
- District Review Sub-Committee- Mr. DiLodovico provided a brief update regarding the progress of this sub-committee.

10:39 AM- Ms. Karpati left the meeting.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE PROGRAM (FPCSP)

Mr. Fekete reported on the following:

1. **Cost Share Update**- Since the September SSCC meeting, one payment request was processed to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) totaling \$6,907.00 for an underground drainage project. This represented the State share for the completed and functioning project with a total cost of the project exceeding \$14,900.00.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

1. **2014 NJ Flower & Patio Exhibit-** Will be held Feb. 13 through the 16th. The theme is “America Blooms Garden Styles Coast to Coast”.
2. **2014 NJ Envirothon-** Will be held on May 2nd in Sussex County at the School of Conservation. A planning meeting is scheduled for October 30th.
3. **NJ Poster Contest-** The 2014 theme is “Dig deep, the mysteries in the soil”

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ms. Mosley reported that NRCS will be making a presentation at the upcoming Annual Conservation Conference regarding soil productivity mapping for use in Farmland Assessment. NRCS has updated and digitized these maps which may now be utilized as an overlay to the original maps.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Ms. Coles provided an update on the various FSA programs and funding of same.

10:57 AM- Mr. Buscaglia arrived.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Ms. Hayes reported on the following:

1. NJACD signed an agreement with NRCS to have SCDs trained to help NRCS meet State obligations. Bob Dobbs has been hired by the Association as the Executive Director.
2. The annual Conservation Conference will take place Sunday, October 26 through Monday, October 27th. The Employee Association has put together a tour and there will be a reception Sunday evening. The meeting agenda was discussed in more detail.
4. An updated version of the *NJ Conservation Partnership Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles* will be signed by all partnership members. There were several questions and clarifications regarding verbiage in the agreement.
5. A committee is being formed to explore fund raising opportunities for NJACD.

11:06 AM- Mr. Dougherty arrived.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

No report.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported there will be a 4-H sustainable soil summit held on campus January 15, 2014. In addition, Dr. Murphy also provided an update regarding various other meetings and functions taking place on campus.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Hayes reported that she, Mr. Lomax and Mr. Reilly will be giving a presentation on Project Soil Conservation at the NACD Annual Conference in February.

Mr. Belcher reported that NJ Network followed and highlighted the MAST (Marine Academy of Science and Technology) team at the 2013 NJ Envirothon and that segment will air Sunday, October 27th at 7:30 AM and 12:30 PM. It will also air November 2nd, December 3rd and December 7th.

Mr. Cywinski commended the committee and Mr. Minch regarding re-issuance of the infiltration basin letter. Mr. Cywinski stated this letter clarified several issues and the Bergen SCD Board now understands the importance of the requested information and how it would be utilized.

On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Mr. Cywinski, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held December 9, 2013 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch

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