

**STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (SADC)  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**REMOTE MEETING DUE TO CORONAVIRUS  
EMERGENCY**

**August 9, 2021**

Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

Ms. Payne read the notice stating that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.

Roll call indicated the following:

**Members Present**

Chairman Fisher  
Martin Bullock  
Scott Ellis  
Gina Fischetti  
Denis Germano  
Pete Johnson  
Renee Jones  
Roger Kumpel, Alternate Farmer Member  
Brian Schilling  
James Waltman

**Members Absent**

Julie Krause

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Susan E. Payne, Executive Director  
Jason Stypinski, Esq., Deputy Attorney General

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**Report of the Chairman**

Chairman Fisher called for comment from the public.

**Public Comment**

Mary Nolton, operator of Knightsbridge Farm in Monmouth County New Jersey (NJ), stated that she has been a horse professional for over forty years and is the current president of the United States Hunter Jumpers Association, which is the recognized affiliate to the United States Equestrian Federation. Ms. Nolton offered an explanation as to why the operation of Hunter Farms in Montgomery Township is so critical to equine business in NJ.

She stated that sport horse production is like racehorse production in that both race and sport horses' commercial values are based on competitive success. Without top competition venues the sport horses have no value. In NJ, there has been a decrease in the number of competition venues. Every year more competitions= venues are lost to development and lack of quality infrastructure and this makes it harder to farm and produce quality horses in NJ.

Equine, as part of agriculture, has several methods of satisfying production, which includes breeding and raising horses and advertising at horse shows. Horse shows are used to train and showcase horses with the eventual idea of selling the horses. Ms. Nolton stated that Mr. Philbrick, owner of Hunter Farms, has created a true national level competition and facility at his farm, which allows professionals to create value in their sport horses by demonstrating competitive success. The high-quality competition infrastructure at Hunter Farms is critical to the success of NJ equine farms and equine production.

Ms. Nolton stated that agritourism is part of what horse shows are about. She noted that the most recent economic impact study shows that the equine industry accounts for \$122 billion dollars in the economic impact, 1 million jobs and 1.7 million in total economic impact. The American Horse Council has not yet produced a break down for NJ, however, according to a 2007 Rutgers survey, the horse world of NJ is responsible for \$1.1 billion dollars in economic impact and generates about 13,000 jobs. Ms. Nolton stated that the NJ horse community is truly proud of being an integral part in the NJ agricultural network.

She stated that horses enrich lives through healthy activities, love of the outdoors and leadership training in children all while providing strong economic impact and agricultural jobs. She stated that she would like to see the horse world stay strong and that Hunter Farms needs more shows, not less. The loss of potential competition and opportunities at Hunter Farms would hurt the equine industry and all related businesses. Ms. Nolton encouraged the committee to support equestrian competitions at Hunter Farms and stated that with the success of competitions at Hunter Farms, NJ will continue its long-standing legacy of producing top quality horse farms, horse production and competitions. Ms. Nolton thanked the committee for their time and support.

Chairman Fisher thanked Ms. Nolton for her comments.

Mr. Jim Bushon spoke on behalf of the local community and congratulated the committee on its preservation efforts. Mr. Bushon stated that he lives one mile away from Princeton Show Jumping (PSJ) and that he stops by regularly to watch the horse exhibitions. He stated that he has never owned a horse but loves animals and PSJ provides an opportunity for the horses to live happy and fulfilling lives. He explained his overall support for PSJ and encouraged everyone to go and visit the horses at PSJ to see for themselves. He stated that the spirit of the horses in action and the bond between the horses and riders is a special experience and

one that people in his community would not be able to experience if not for the existence of PSJ.

Mr. Buschon noted that although these humanitarian and spiritual values are most important to him, there is also the practical economic consideration. It is obvious that a huge investment was necessary to build the PSJ grounds to world class standards, and thereby attract the finest horses and riders along the entire east coast. In addition to the revenue generated from exhibitors, the riders, horse owners, and support staff, all spend money at local hotels, restaurants and stores. PSJ also employs a sizeable staff to manage operations and maintain the grounds to impeccable standards and provide meaningful jobs to all those involved. Mr. Buschon stated that PSJ is a fine example of economic activity to preserve open space combined with the spiritual benefits offered to the horses, the equestrians and all who go to experience the wonderful things happening at PSJ. Mr. Buschon thanked the committee for allowing him to speak on behalf of the horses and everyone in the community who shares these values.

Mr. Tom O'Mara, president of the United States Equestrian Association, read a letter to the committee, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Chairman Fisher thanked Mr. O'Mara for his comment.

Ms. Christine Quinn, former speaker of the New York City (NYC) Council who resides in NJ, stated that she is an equestrian and understands the importance and value of open space. She stated that the PSJ grounds are in amazing shape and they have made every effort to follow the guidance of the SADC to make sure that the needs of the horses are always put first so that they are not injured. She noted that the opportunity for people to be a part of the PSJ community has always been important, especially now since coming out of the pandemic, as it provides a place for people to be a part of something together.

Ms. Quinn stated that she runs a group in NYC for homeless women and children in need of shelter, so she knows how hard it is for people who have lost their jobs. She stated that the jobs that PSJ provides people is important and critical and are exactly the types of jobs needed to help low-income people get back on their feet and move up the economic ladder. Ms. Quinn noted that there is a very high number of young girls participating in equestrian sports and it gives young girls the opportunity to compete on a level playing field with young boys, which helps girls develop into strong women. Ms. Quinn stated that PSJ is balanced in a regulatory fashion, good for the economy, good for welfare and girls and she urged the committee to approve the proposed dates for PSJ and come up with a mechanism where the show dates can be regularly renewed.

Liz Durkin, resident of NJ and strong advocate for horse sports in NJ, stated that she fully supports all show dates that Hunter Farms is requesting from the committee today and supports all comments made thus far.

Debbie Purowitz, owner, rider, sport horse competitor and small business owner in the equine industry addressed the committee and stated that she can attest to the importance of PSJ to the equine industry. She stated that Hunter Farms is truly a world class facility that is a valuable resource that attracts local, national and international students and equestrians of all levels. She stated that she was able to watch Martin Boyd train before departing to Tokyo to represent the United States in the Olympics and stated that Olympic show jumping medalist Jessica Springsteen began her training at PSJ as a child. Ms. Purowitz stated that she got to see children proudly displaying the ribbons they won alongside their ponies and no other venue in NJ has this resume.

Ms. Purowitz also stated that Hunter Farms is an integral part of the local agricultural community and offers huge exposure for the Princeton area and if they are taken out of the equation, the cultural and economic impact will be considerable. Small business owners in NJ have been devastated by the pandemic and lots of these small business owners are based in the equine industry and will be hurt without the horse shows. Ms. Purowitz said Secretary Fisher has been quoted as saying *NJ has been known for its diverse equine industry which offers everything from pleasure riding to world class horse shows and horse racing.* She noted that the NJ Department of Agriculture's website states that *"the NJ equine industry is a key factor in the agricultural industry of NJ...equine related services add an estimated \$3.2 billion annually to NJ's economy"*.

Ms. Purowitz stated that it would be quite short sided to believe that the economic effects relating to Hunter Farms is insignificant especially when small business owners are in dire need of opportunities to recover. She stressed that supporting the NJ equine industry and economy should be priorities of the SADC and preventing horse shows at the Hunter Farms facility works against this goal. She asked that the SADC support, encourage and promote competitions at Hunter Farms and continue to help the community. She thanked the committee for their time and consideration.

Chairman Fisher stated that NJ values the equine industry, hunter-jumper world class athletes and everything that is involved with it. He noted that the issue that is going to be discussed today is not involving the value of PSJ and the equine industry but rather a hyperspecific matter involving the Deed of Easement (DOE) on Hunter Farms a.

Mr. Emad Abou-Sabe, adjacent landowner to Hunter Farms, thanked the committee for giving him the opportunity to speak. Mr. Abou-Sabe stated that he applauds the successes of Hunter Farms and appreciates their right to farm but reminded everyone that this is a condition-based decision. He anticipates that the staff will inform him as to the progress and satisfaction of the conditions. He referred to the letter from Montgomery Township as far as seeking information on the progress and satisfaction of those conditions. Mr. Abou-Sabe stated that this has been an ongoing case since 2013 with numerous requests for consideration and relaxation of the rules and he would like to see action. He noted that there has been a

great amount of activity at Hunter Farms with regard to berms, but without specifics he is essentially uninformed as to the satisfaction of the conditions.

Ms. Payne stated that Montgomery Township has submitted a comment letter since the SADC meeting began that she would like to read into the record. Mr. Sposaro stated that the township has a habit of submitting letters at the eleventh hour and affording him no opportunity to respond, and that he received the letter after this meeting commenced. Therefore, he objected having the letter becoming part of the record. Ms. Payne stated that she received the letter after the meeting started and in the interest of public comment and transparency, she has an obligation to read this letter for the record.

At Chairman Fisher's request, Ms. Payne read the letter, which was sent by the Montgomery Township attorney. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

Chairman Fisher stated that the topic for today is not a right to farm issue regardless of the reference that Montgomery Township made to that.

Chairman Fisher asked Mr. Sposaro to make comment on the letter.

Mr. Sposaro stated that Mr. Todaro acknowledges receipt of his July 9<sup>th</sup> letter, which was received a month ago. However, it's become standard operating procedure for the township to wait until the day of the SADC meeting to send out its response. Mr. Sposaro noted that the court had to intervene twice when the township took this matter to court instead of going to the County Agriculture Development Board (CADB), and illegally refused to issue an assembly permit. Mr. Sposaro stated that the last time they were in court, the judge in his written opinion commented that the actions of Montgomery Township are the very reason that the Right to Farm (RTF) Act exists and why municipal regulation has been preempted.

Mr. Sposaro stated that the township complains that they haven't had an opportunity to review whether the violations that have been identified have been abated. The reason that they have not had an opportunity to review it is because it is outside of their jurisdiction completely as it's with the jurisdiction of the Soil Conservation District, the Department of Agriculture, and the SADC and its staff.

Mr. Sposaro stated that PSJ was required to install storm water improvements at a cost of nearly \$500,000. The Somerset Union Soil Conservation District, by letter dated August 4, 2021, issued an unconditional letter of compliance with the storm water plans that were reviewed and approved by engineers with the department of agriculture.

There was also a question regarding impervious cover where PSJ was asked to document, by way of survey, the impervious cover on the property. Mr. Sposaro stated that there were site inspections by the SADC staff, and everyone has acknowledged and confirmed that PSJ is in compliance with the DOE and that the impervious cover on this property is indeed less than 5%. There was also a question regarding the temporary tent pad areas and whether they were rendered impervious as a result of compaction. PSJ agreed to give former state

soil scientist, Dr. Richard Shaw, access to the property to evaluate the soil and determine if it had been compromised and were impervious.

Dr. Shaw concluded and reported back that those soils were not impervious and should not be included in the calculations. Lastly, Mr. Sposaro discussed the temporary tent pad area where the soils were disturbed and PSJ had Dr. Shaw to the property to evaluate the soil. Based on Dr. Shaw's recommendations, PSJ engaged Linda Peterson, a professional engineer, to come up with a plan. The plan was reviewed, approved, and is currently being implemented. Mr. Sposaro stated that PSJ has done everything that the SADC asked them to do to comply with conditions of approval and Montgomery Township should have no legitimate interest in this any further.

Chairman Fisher thanked Mr. Sposaro for his comments and called on staff for their presentation for Hunter Farms request for additional shows for 2021.

**Note: Mr. Schilling reminded the committee that he is recused on this matter.**

Mr. Roohr stated that Princeton Show Jumping (PSJ), also known as Hunter Farms, is 101 acres in Montgomery Township, Somerset county and is owned by Mr. Andrew Philbrick. The property was preserved in 2003 with the standard deed of easement (DOE) with the addition of a 5% impervious coverage limitation. PSJ purchased the subject farm on May 7, 2012 at which time, Mr. Philbrick developed the site as a hunter jumper training and competition facility. In 2013, the SADC approved 9 horse shows and 42 show days contingent on several requirements. Since May 23, 2013, the SADC has reviewed the current activities on the farm on numerous occasions and have allowed the same number of shows and show days as the 2013 resolution.

Mr. Roohr stated that the reason that the committee is meeting today is to address the recent request from PSJ to allow for additional shows in their 2021 season. As of the date of this meeting PSJ, has scheduled or hosted 9 shows totaling 41 show days and they have essentially used up the show days that they were allotted for this year. Mr. Roohr explained that PSJ is requesting to add 5 additional shows, with a total of 25 additional show days and those would occur between August 25 and October 17.

The committee recently discussed Hunter Farms at its March 2021 meeting where they approved the 9 shows and 42 show days for the 2021 season and there were three major conditions that came along with that. Those conditions were that Hunter Farm complete the storm water basins, restore the field along Burnt Hill Rd, and that they provide an updated impervious coverage map from their engineer.

The storm water basins have been structurally complete for a few months now, but in order to be deemed complete by the Soil Conservation District, they needed to have an appropriate amount of vegetation established and that's what was holding up the final letter of completion. Last week, the district sent Mr. Sposaro a letter indicating that this was done and that the storm water basins are officially complete at this time.

Regarding the restoration of the field along Burnt Hill Rd, there was some degradation to the soil quality because of tent pads that were there, but staff was not sure as to how much soil was affected and how bad it was or what the fix would be. Staff then sent Dr. Shaw out in the spring to evaluate the soil and he found that a .3-acre area of this field was scraped of its topsoil and to restore that area new topsoil will need to be brought in. Another ¾-acre area was found to be depleted of organic matter and the recommended solution to increase the organic matter is to add compost to it. That recommendation was finalized at the end of May and since that time Hunter Farms' engineer Linda Peterson has created and submitted a plan that considers all of Dr. Shaw's recommendations to the SADC, which staff has approved. PSJ will be bringing in new topsoil and the tests on the new soil have been deemed satisfactory. As far as increasing the organic matter in the ¾ acre area of land, PSJ intends to create compost out of its own horse manure and that process will take six to eight weeks. Once the quality of the organic material is agreed upon by PSJ and SADC staff, it will be incorporated into the area this fall.

Mr. Roohr stated that the DOE has a 5% impervious cover limit, and staff knew that PSJ was very close to reaching that limit. However, at the March 2021 committee meeting the tent pad issue was resolved as it was determined through Dr. Shaw's research that additional material was not added to the tent pad area and therefore this area does not meet the impervious cover definition in the DOE. Mr. Roohr stated that staff did a site visit and had the PSJ engineer add to their site map the things that they felt should be considered impervious and the impervious cover is currently at 4.9% so the impervious cover limit of 5% is satisfied.

Mr. Roohr mentioned that the tent pads were found to be pervious, but that does not resolve the issue of the tents themselves. The tents are large, approximately 60 x 222 feet and are used as temporary horse stalls. Staff researched a number of SADC and other state agency definitions in an attempt to understand whether temporary structures such as tents are treated as impervious surfaces and based on that research it was recommended that tents up for more than 180 days in a calendar should be considered impervious.

Mr. Roohr stated that there is another big item from all SADC resolutions and approvals that concerns the equine participation in shows and the income derived from horse production. In 2013, the original resolution required 10 horses or 10% of the horses in any show would need to be owned and bred, raised or trained on the premises. In 2019 the committee expanded that definition to include horses that are trained by PSJ and that would entitle PSJ to a commission when the horses were sold.

The 2013 original resolution reiterated that evidence of horse sales needed to be provided to the SADC staff by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. A comprehensive assessment of owned, trained horses and an accounting of the sales of horses for the five years prior was provided to staff in the fall of 2018. This did confirm substantial income from horse sales. Chairman Fisher asked Mr. Roohr if the SADC got the information by December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2020 for the previous year. Mr. Roohr stated we did not receive any horse participation data for 2020 until the last 10 days.

Ms. Payne stated that the language for the 2019 and 2020 resolutions state that, “ *a minimum of 10 horses, or 10% of the horses participating in shows held on the premises, whichever is greater, shall be owned by, or being trained by the owner with a commission agreement in place should the horse be sold.*”

Mr. Germano stated that the 10 horses or 10% of the participating horses is one requirement which is separate and apart from the second requirement that every year there is a report as to how many horses are sold. Mr. Germano stated that this requirement was established in 2013 and the first report wasn't given to the SADC until 2018 and there has not been another report given since that time.

Mr. Roohr stated that the report for horse sales was given to staff last week for years 2019 and 2020. The information that staff received included total numbers in each show, number of horses belonging to PSJ, who the trainer was and what competitions those horses competed in. Upon review, it was determined that PSJ includes the following categories in its “10% participation” calculation: horses that it owns in part and in full, horses that it trains for which a commission is due upon sale, horses where Mr. Philbrick or one of PSJ's trainers are a consulting trainer for an outside operation, and horses which are sold as a result of having been to the farm or a show. Mr. Roohr stated that under this scenario, the participation rates are much higher than 10%.

Mr. Roohr stated that an accounting statement was received from the Princeton based firm of Lear & Pannepacker describing the total related equine income for 2019 and 2020, with 2020 being a little lower due to the Covid pandemic. Substantial income is shown in both of those years and according to Mr. Philbrick, approximately 70% of the income is from horse sales with the other 30% being from commissions. Staff is in 100% agreement that horses owned in full by the farm and horses which are in a training program at Hunter Farms that are sold subject to a commission agreement with Hunter Farms should count. Mr. Roohr stated that there were other various sources of income that will need further clarification and that will be clarified in a future resolution. Mr. Roohr stated that staff is seeking the committee's input for 5 additional shows and 25 additional show days to wrap up PSJ's 2021 season.

Chairman Fisher called for questions and comments from the committee regarding the request from PSJ. He reminded the committee the issues are the requirement of participating horses and income derived, the amount of time the tents remain standing and if the committee finds allowing an additional 5 shows and 25 show days for the 2021 season acceptable. Chairman Fisher emphasized that this would only apply to the remainder of 2021.

Ms. Payne clarified that PSJ's facility has been subject to an SSAMP issued by Somerset County and that it's more recently been subject to a RTF complaint filed by some of the neighboring property owners. Somerset County can not proceed on the RTF matter unless it is sure that the property is in compliance with the DOE. The purposes of today's discussion and subsequent resolution is to make sure that it's clear whether or not PSJ is in compliance with the DOE so then Somerset County can proceed on the RTF issues.

Mr. Kumpel commented that he was concerned with the water runoff at Hunter Farms but that he is satisfied with the restoration work and engineering. He stated that he is in great supporter of PSJ and everything that they have done to restore the farm. As a farmer and a member of the SADC, he supports the equine industry as it is an important part of the agricultural community. Mr. Kumpel stated that he is not in agreement of tearing the tents down after the shows as it is a waste of time and money. Ms. Payne explained that Mr. Philbrick stated the same thing and the SADC agreed the farm could keep the tents up if there were back to back shows each weekend.

Mr. Waltman congratulated the owners of PSJ for its success in the recent Olympic games, stated that the representatives who spoke on behalf of PSJ were very impressive and noted that Mr. Philbrick works hard to be successful at his facility. However, Mr. Waltman stated that he is sympathetic to the neighbors and Montgomery Township. He stated that he served on the SADC since before 2013 and noted the landowner has never been prompt at complying to the various conditions placed on its activities. He noted the reason for this special meeting is because of the bad behavior of the owner who has been very derelict in responding to and implementing the conditions, however, it sounds as though most of what the SADC has asked for has been implemented and that's very good news.

Mr. Waltman asked if the SSAMP that was adopted in 2013 for PSJ contains the number of shows and days and if it was codified into a resolution. Ms. Payne stated that the RTF discussion was going hand in hand with the SADC approval and the SSAMP incorporated the SADC approval. If the SADC decides the activities at PSJ are compliant with the DOE, the CADB will have to update the SSAMP and take that into consideration. Mr. Waltman asked Ms. Payne if she agreed with Montgomery Township's assertion that an amendment to the SSAMP should precede approval by the SADC for more shows. Ms. Payne stated that she does not agree with that.

Mr. Waltman asked Ms. Payne for clarification regarding how long the tents have been up. Ms. Payne stated that the landowner needs to answer that question. Mr. Sposaro stated that he believes the tents have been up continuously but that he can't swear to that. He noted that it's at the discretion of the tent company when they can come out and take the tents down. He also noted that they believe it is more disruptive to the neighbors to put the tents up and take them down because there is lots of activity surrounding it. Mr. Waltman stated that the committee should not allow an excess of 180 days for a tent to be up in order to meet the impervious cover definition and Chairman Fisher agreed.

Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to approve the 5 additional shows with 25 additional show days. Mr. Johnson approved the motion. Ms. Fischetti seconded the motion.

Ms. Jones asked what approving the additional shows and show dates for 2021 means for the future. She acknowledged the fact that PSJ is doing great things but asked what precedent this will create going forward. Chairman Fisher stated that this approval is just for the end of this year and then PSJ will have to complete all the requirements expected of them and come back in October to ask for approval for shows for 2022.

Mr. Germano asked if the motion on the floor includes the idea that as long as the tents are not up in excess of 180 days that they don't count as impervious cover. Chairman Fisher stated that it could be a part of the motion if the person who motioned wants it to be. Mr. Germano stated that he doesn't want it to be a part of the motion because he is concerned that the stormwater improvements didn't take into account the runoff from the tents and asked if that was considered in the calculations that led to those improvements.

Mr. David Clapp stated that he doesn't know the answer to that specifically, but that the stormwater structures do capture the runoff from the tent pads, the roads and the surrounding areas. Mr. Germano stated that he would like to know with certainty whether 180 days with the tents being up was considered in the calculations that led to the design of the stormwater structures. Chairman Fisher stated that these questions can be answered when the discussion for 2022 show dates comes around. Mr. Germano requested that the SADC not make a determination as whether 180 days of having tents up violates the DOE or not.

Mr. Ellis asked if the decision being made today was if PSJ is abiding by the DOE. Ms. Payne stated that there are two issues. The first is whether the committee wants to entertain the request of PSJ to increase the number of shows for this year based on the current conditions on the site. A resolution will have to be developed to tie up all of the remaining DOE issues: tents, stormwater, and clarifying the 10% definition. Chairman Fisher stated today's decision is a stop gap measure that would allow additional shows based on the progress the owners have made to be compliant with the DOE. Mr. Ellis asked if the committee would be making the determination of compliance in the future. Ms. Payne confirmed.

Mr. Waltman expressed his concern and frustration with the lack of compliance from PSJ in a timely fashion. He stated the committee's last approval of 9 shows and 42 days was because it believed PSJ would get into compliance, but it did not state additional shows would be granted once compliance was obtained.

Mr. Germano stated that he agrees with Mr. Waltman and that Mr. Philbrick thinks he runs an equestrian facility and doesn't understand that he runs a preserved farm. He stated that the only reason that the equestrian facility is permissible on the farm is because the committee determined that the horses bred and those trained and then sold for a commission qualify PSJ as a commercial farm. He reiterated the 2013 requirement to provide annual reports of sales and horse participation and reminded the committee PSJ took 5 years to provide the first report and 2 years to provide the second. Mr. Germano stated the foundation of this facility and PSJ's operation is that it depends on these events to sell and show its horses and if running an equestrian facility is so important to the equestrian community and NJ's equestrian economy, he should comply with the rules set forth by the SADC.

Mr. Sposaro stated that he is concerned by the tenor of this conversation and understands that in the past Mr. Philbrick was not in compliance with the DOE, but he is now and he

has satisfied each and every outstanding condition. Mr. Sposaro requested that Mr. Philbrick not be punished for what he has done in the past. Mr. Sposaro stated that if the vote today is predicated upon a determination as to whether PSJ has complied with the DOE, the answer is yes. Mr. Germano stated that it doesn't have complete compliance because staff just received information to assess annual sales and compliance with the 10% participation requirement yesterday and further the tents have been up since April when the resolution calls for tents to be taken down periodically. Mr. Sposaro stated that Mr. Philbrick just notified him that after the spring shows the tents came down and went back up once the summer began, so he wanted to clarify that for the record.

Chairman Fisher stated that since the motion does not include anything about the tents, if this motion were to pass, he would strongly suggest that the tents come down after the events and then be put back up for subsequent events. He suggested Mr. Philbrick enlist the help of the members of the equine community to help take down and re-erect the tents if need be. Chairman Fisher suggested the issue of the 10 horses or 10% would be discussed again in October and all information needs to be submitted to the staff in a timely fashion or PSJ will not be allowed before the committee in October to address these things. Chairman Fisher stated that he understands the hardships that were faced by the equine community due to covid, but reiterated that PSJ is a farm and should behave as such. Chairman Fisher called for a motion again from the committee as to the approval of 5 additional show dates and 25 additional show days.

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Fischetti to approve five additional shows and twenty-five additional show days for Princeton Show Jumping's 2021 season. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Germano, Mr. Waltman, Ms. Jones voted against the motion. The remaining members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Fisher addressed Mr. Philbrick and stated that there were times in the past that he did not comply with the SADC's requirements but understands that he made huge strides to comply and requested that he continue to make those strides. Chairman Fisher stressed that the decisions that were made today do not guarantee anything for 2022 as these decisions were just made for the remainder of the 2021 year. Chairman Fisher strongly suggested that Mr. Philbrick get all necessary deliverables to staff before October so that they can digest the issues that they need answers to. He stated that these issues need to be resolved and the DOE need to be followed if Mr. Philbrick wants the 9 shows next year. Mr. Sposaro thanked the committee for their time and scheduling this special meeting.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 2:41 p.m. Ms. Payne read the following resolution to go into Closed Session:

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-13, it is hereby resolved that the SADC shall now go into executive session to discuss certain matters including any pending or anticipated litigation, including the Quaker Valley Farms case, and any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, including the Princeton

Show Jumping matter. The minutes of such meeting shall remain confidential until the Committee determines that the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

It was moved by Mr. Germano and seconded by Mr. Kumpel to go into Closed Session. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

Chairman Fisher thanked everyone for attending this special meeting and for their deliberations. He noted that the next meeting would be in September and that it will most likely be virtual because there are rules to enter the building that change on a daily basis. Ms. Payne agreed but noted that there were many committee members who expressed an interest in meeting in person. She stated that if the committee would like to do so they can, but there will need to be a facility to accommodate everyone being 6 feet apart and all attendees would be expected to wear a mask. Jamara Sirmans from the Governor's Authority Unit stated that as of now all meetings are to remain virtual until further notice.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Fisher adjourned the meeting at 3:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan E. Payne, Executive Director  
State Agriculture Development Committee