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2
3 MINUTES OF THE MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
4 MEETING HELD MONDAY MAY 4, 2009
5 IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
6 640 S. BROAD STREET, TRENTON, N.J.
7 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
8

9 I. CALL TO ORDER

10 Vice-Chairman Steve Jany called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM.
11

12 II. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

13 Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was given to the Trenton Times,
14 Trentonian, Mercer County Clerk, and posted in the Mercer County Administration Building.
15

16 III. ROLL CALL

17 A. Voting Members:

18 Nancy Tindall, Chairwoman – Absent
19 Steve Jany, Vice-Chairman - Present
20 Earl Tindall - Present
21 Peggy McNeill – Present
22 Charles Appelget – Present
23 Scott Ellis - Present
24 Frank D'Amico, Jr. – Present
25

26 B. Non -Voting Members:

27 Bill Agress, County Planning Board – Absent
28 Rodger Jany, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension – Present
29

30 C. Others Present:

31 Dan Pace, MCADB Secretary
32 Leslie Floyd, Assistant County Planning Director
33 New Jersey Turnpike Representatives: John Keller, Larry Pesesky, Ryan Scerbo
34 Tim Brill (SADC)
35

36 IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

37 Mr. Jany asked for a motion to approve the April 20, 2009 meeting minutes. A motion was made
38 by Mr. Tindall to approve the minutes. Mr. Ellis seconded. Ms. McNeill and Mr. Appelget
39 abstained. The minutes were approved.
40

41 V. PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Jany asked if there was any public comment. There was none.
42

43 VI. CORRESPONDENCE

44 There was no correspondence.
45

46 VII. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

47 A. SADC

48 1. No report.
49

50 B. Land Development Activity – No report
51

52 C. Status of Farmland Preservation Applications

- 53 • No change in status.
54

55 VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1
2 **A. Turnpike Widening Project** – Continuing the discussion from the last CADB meeting, Mr.
3 Jany asked the Turnpike representatives if they had any comment to make. Mr. Keller said that
4 Turnpike representatives have met with Mr. Kim and discussed a couple of options that could re-
5 route the pipeline with less impact on the ag operation. They will be continuing those
6 discussions with Mr. Kim.
7

8 Mr. Jany asked Board members if they had any additional questions for the Turnpike
9 representatives or revisions to the draft conditions prepared by staff pursuant to the directions
10 given at the April 20th CADB meeting.
11

12 Rodger Jany commented that he would like the Turnpike to clearly identify all conditions
13 associated with the use of each utility ROW that would impact agricultural operations. For
14 example, types of crops and types of structures permitted. Mr. D’Amico agreed and added that any
15 prohibited operations should be identified for each utility (e.g. depth of tillage and fence posts).
16

17 Members expressed the desire for farmers impacted by the widening construction to be given
18 advanced notice of the timing of that construction so they could plan ahead to their next season.
19 For example, the purchase and application of fertilizer and lime preceding the planting of a crop
20 would be wasted if future construction prohibited that planting. The Turnpike representatives
21 were sensitive to this but said that such a notice could only be given to the landowner and the
22 landowner, if different than the farmer, would have to pass on the information.
23

24 Mr. Ellis remarked that because current utility ROW’s are in close proximity to each other or
25 sometimes shared, that approach should be encouraged by the Turnpike to lessen the impact
26 where agriculture must co-exist with the utilities. Turnpike representatives explained that like
27 the Turnpike, the utilities were planning for future needs and those plans preclude the sharing of
28 ROW – especially between pipelines and power lines.
29

30 In addition to the extensive impact on the preserved Kim farm, discussion returned to the April
31 20th meeting’s Dakota exception area discussion. The Turnpike representatives acknowledged
32 that the impact of the proposed pipeline path would make the residential exception area
33 unbuildable on the Dakota farm located between Gordon and Walters Road. They had not had a
34 discussion yet with the owner of the farm but if the pipeline must go through the exception area,
35 then there must be appropriate compensation. Board members commented that in the event the
36 exception becomes unusable, through no fault of the landowner, then the SADC should consider
37 allowing it to be moved.
38

39 On a motion by Mr. Tindall, seconded by Mr. Ellis, the Board unanimously approved a finding
40 that the widening of the Turnpike did not have an unreasonable adverse affect on the County
41 ADA. However, the finding included a list of conditions that staff will incorporate into a
42 resolution to be distributed among Board members for review prior to the next CADB meeting
43 on June 1st.
44

45 **B. Farm Monitoring** – Mr. Pace reported that annual monitoring of preserved farms had
46 been competed. There was only one farm with significant areas of concern. To address that, Mr.
47 Pace passed out to the members a draft letter to Mr. John Hart. The letter identified: 1) the
48 continued collection of trash and wrecked vehicles/equipment; and 2) the apparent use of the farm
49 by a landscaping company.
50

51 After some discussion about the continuing concerns with trash accumulating on the Hart farm
52 and the appropriateness of landscaping operations on preserved farms, the Board instructed Mr.
53 Pace to send the letter.
54

55 IX. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

1 There being no New Business or Other Business of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at
2 8:30PM. The next meeting of the Board will be on June 1, 2009.

3
4 Respectfully submitted,

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6
7 Daniel Pace
8 MCADB, Secretary

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10 Date adopted:

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12 Attachments and related correspondence, if any, are made a part of the permanent record and are filed
13 with these minutes in the Agricultural Development Board Book located in the Mercer County Planning
14 Division Office. All copies are available upon request.