



State of New Jersey

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 4, 2025

(Wednesday)

Public meeting notice was certified by communication on May 29, 2025.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by giving written notice of 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, Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey; mailed to the Newark Star Ledger; the Camden Courier Post; the Trenton Times and filed with the Office of the Secretary of State.

President Bob Blew called the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture to order at 10:00 am. Board members in attendance included President Bob Blew; Vice President Lisa Specca, Kurt Alstede, David DeFrango, John Hart, Stephen V. Lee, IV, Joel Viereck and Richard Gardner. The meeting was held via Teams.

Also in attendance were Secretary Wengryn; Assistant Secretary Joe Atchison; Frank Minch, Director, Division of Agricultural & Natural Resources; Rose Chamberlain, Director, Division of Food & Nutrition; Joe Zoltowski, Director, Division of Plant Industry; Nancy Wood and Isabella Walz, Division of Marketing & Development; Chuck Roohr, Executive Director, SADC; Tameko Webster, Chief of Staff, Christopher LaRegina, Robert Vivian, Jeff Beach, Kaitlyn Dixon, Alyssa Pit, and Andrea Egizi, Office of the Secretary. Also in attendance were Peter Furey, Ashley Kerr and Al Murray, NJ Farm Bureau; Dr. Brian Schilling, Rutgers University; Lindsay Carragher, Deputy State Director, Farm Service Agency, and Linda Walker, NJ Department of Agriculture.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

ON the MOTION of Joel Viereck, seconded by John Hart, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2025 regular meeting.

Lisa Specca recused from the vote as she was not in attendance at the last meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Rulemaking – Proposal to Amend N.J.A.C. (Laboratory Services)

To add a volume discount for state agencies / state entities to the fee schedule. If the Board acts in favor of this rulemaking proposal, the Notice of Proposal would be expected to appear in the July 7, 2025 (or July 21, 2025) NJ Register, followed by a 60-day public comment period that would run through September 5, 2025 (or September 19, 2025).

ON the MOTION of Lisa Specca, seconded by David DeFrance, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Rulemaking as presented.

Gleaning Grants

Grants Committee Chair Steve Lee reported that they met to review the Gleaning Grant that goes through the Department for gleaning. This program, which has been very successful, has seen an increase in funding over the years and the Committee has worked to modify the existing grant to have a little more outreach to other organizations including seafood.

President Blew commented that the Committee worked to broaden the scope of what we can do with this money, and it opens it up to our seafood gleaners in this state. He appreciates the work that was done by the Committee.

ON the MOTION of Steve Lee, seconded by Joel Viereck, the Board voted to approve the Gleaning Grant information as presented for 2026.

Kurt Alstede recused himself.

Charity Racing Day Grants

Grants Committee Chair Steve Lee reported that the Committee had also reviewed the Charity Racing Day Grants and asked Assistant Secretary Atchison to comment. Assistant Secretary Atchison reported that the Charity Day Racing awards are from the NJ Racing Commission's care of retired horse funds that are collected during the previous year. This past year they collected \$3,934.73. In the past, the historical precedent is that fifty percent is awarded to the Horse Park of NJ and the other fifty percent is divided equally among eligible applicants of which there were three. New Beginnings Thoroughbred; MMXX Standardbreds and Second Call Thoroughbred Adoption and Placement. The Horse Park will receive \$1,967.36 and the other three organizations will receive \$655.79.

ON the MOTION of Steve Lee, seconded by Joel Viereck, the Board voted unanimously to approve as presented.

Additionally, Grants Chairman Steve Lee reported that since the Department did receive funding from USDA for Specialty Crop Block Grants and since the Department had proactively requested applications, the Grants Committee will meet on June 16 at the EcoComplex to review the applications so that they may make their recommendation to the full Board at their June 25 meeting.

State Agricultural Convention

President Blew reported that as the Department begins to plan for the State Agricultural Convention for 2026, the Board has asked that the structure be changed and has asked that the Convention Committee to work with the Office of the Secretary to move quickly and efficiently on getting the Convention set up in terms of planning, etc.

ON the MOTION of Joel Viereck, seconded by David DeFrangé, the Board voted unanimously to give the Convention Committee the authority to work with the Vegetable Growers Association going forward for planning purposes.

The group welcomed Secretary Ed Wengryn to the meeting as he has been on leave. He will be returning to work part time on June 8, 2025.

MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Agriculture will be held on Wednesday, June 25 beginning at 1:00 pm at Specca Farms, Burlington County.

ADJOURNMENT

ON the MOTION of Joel Viereck, seconded by Steve Lee, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph A. Atchison III