

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DRAFT MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2024**

The June meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Edward Wengryn at 9:33 A.M. 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 front door of the 200 Riverview Building in Trenton; mailed to The Star Ledger, the Courier Post and filed with the Office of the Secretary of State.

The Flag Salute was recited.

Call of the Membership Roll indicated the following:

Members Present

Edward Wengryn
Ray Cywinski
Sylvia Kovacs
Louise Davis
Mike Haberland (rep. B. Schilling)
Dennis Contois (rep. S. LaTourette)
John Kocubinski
Cormac Morrissey
Dr. Stephanie Murphy
Mike Rigolizzo
Edwin Muniz (rep. J. Hawkins)
Frank Minch, Division Director

John Showler, SSCC, NJDA
Tim Fekete, SSCC, NJDA
Sara Mellor, SSCC, NJDA
Diana Diaz, SSCC, NJDA
Ines Zimmerman, NJADC
Rick Dovey, C/A SCD
K. Blew, Gloucester SCD
Janet Rekesius, HEP SCD
Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD
Jim Hill, Hunterdon SCD
D. O'Connell, Burl. SCD
Tim Thomas, Freehold SCD
D. Clapp, SADC
J. McCulloch, Morris SCD
T. Wang, Mercer SCD
R. Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD
Mike Kent C/A SCD
M. D'Alessandro, S/U SCD

MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2024 MEETING

On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Ms. Kovacs, the minutes of the April 15, 2024, meeting were approved. Mr. Kocubinski abstained.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Secretary Wengryn reported the following:

1. Has been meeting District personnel at the regional meetings.
2. Everyone has to work together in a collaborative effort to accomplish goals.
3. Grant funds are available from DEP for the Districts.
4. There will be Farmland Preservation Regional meetings to discuss the new evaluation process and natural resource assessment.
5. This year is the 40th anniversary of the "Jersey Fresh" Theme.
6. Farm Tours with legislators will be taking place throughout the summer.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. Supervisor Appointments-

Category 1- Supervisor Re-nominations that meet Supervisor Performance Standards for 3-year term ending June 30, 2027. On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Ms. Kovacs the following were approved, Ray Cywinski and Kim Mitchell (Bergen), Mr. Cywinski recused.

On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Ms. Davis, the following were approved, Dan Caldwell and Thomas Budd (Burlington).

On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Ms. Kovacs, the following individual was approved Chris Martin (Camden). Mr. Rigolizzo and Mr. Contois recused.

On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Dr. Murphy, the following were approved, Cormac Morrissey and Rick Dovey (Cape-Atlantic). Mr. Morrissey recused.

On motion by Mr. Morrissey, second by Ms. Kovacs, the following were approved, Ralph Sickler and Maurice Sheets (Cumberland-Salem).

On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Ms. Davis, the following individual was approved, Charles Buscaglia (Freehold).

On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Mr. Haberland, the following individual was approved, John Furfari (Gloucester).

On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Ms. Davis, the following were approved, Geraldine Flach and Elizabeth Hite Vollavah (HEP).

On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by MR. Haberland, the following individual was approved, Bill Engisch (Hunterdon).

On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Ms. Kovacs, the following individual was approved, Scott Ellis (Mercer).

On motion by Mr. Morrissey, second by Ms. Davis, the following were approved, Raymond Bukowski and Wm. Pollock (Ocean).

On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Haberland, the following individual was approved, Ben Jorritsma (Upper Delaware). Ms. Kovacs recused.

Category 2- Supervisor Re-nominations that did not meet Supervisor Performance Standards. On motion by Mr. Haberland, second by Mr. Morrissey Philip Roerich (Morris) was re-appointed to a one-year provisional term. Ms. Davis recused. On motion by Mr. Morrissey, second by Mr. Kocubinski Robert McEwan (Morris) was granted a six-month extension. Ms. Kovacs opposed. Ms. Davis recused. On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Mr. Kocubinski, Edward Dec (Somerset-Union) was granted a one-year extension.

Category 3- New Supervisor Appointments for 2-year term ending June 30, 2026. On motion by Ms. Davis, second by Ms. Kovacs, the following were approved for a 2 year term: Dan O'Connell (Burlington), Ronald Thomas (Cumberland-Salem), Robert Dryer (Freehold) and Lucia Hubner (Mercer).

Category 4- New Supervisor Appointments for 2-Year Term ending June 30, 2026. On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Ms. Davis, Walter Wilson was approved to fill the balance of Richard Stothoff's term.

2. **NJDEP REAL rules**—This is a proposed 1,000+ page DEP regulation. NJDA is reviewing this proposed rule. It is anticipated that the rule will be publish for comment in the July NJ Register.
3. **Heat Stress Bill-** S2422 is a bill primarily targeting the safety of laborers working outdoors in hot, humid weather including NJDA and SCD staff. It requires periodic water and shade breaks at a minimum. This bill also applies to individuals working indoors without air conditioning. The only exemption to the rule is amusement parks.
4. **District Audits-** Awaiting the 2023 Bergen District audit. Mr. Cywinski indicated the Bergen SCD meets tonight and hopefully this will be resolved this evening.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler provided a brief overview regarding some of his recent activities including assistance provided to the Districts, Standards update and a Dam Removal seminar he attended.
2. **Exempt Municipality Report-** Will be completed for the next meeting.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Mr. Muniz reported on the following:

1. RCPP proposals are due July 2nd.
2. Working with partners to complete agreements.
3. RCPP Coordinator position has been filled.
4. Some SCD staff have participated in the NRCS "Boot Camp".
5. The Camden County soils survey is being updated.
6. The State Technical meeting is scheduled for Wednesday.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (NJACD)

Mr. Dovey reported on the following:

1. Good participation at all 3 regional meetings.
2. Thanks to the Freehold District for all their hard work to make the 2024 NJ Envirothon a success.
3. The Envirothon and Poster Contest winners will be honored in August.
4. The Northeast Regional Meeting will be held in Boston this August.
5. The Annual Conservation Conference will be held on November 25th in Columbus, NJ.
6. Ms. Zimmerman is pursuing several grant opportunities for the Association.
7. Mr. Cywinski reported there was an NACD Legislative meeting last month regarding the Farm Bill. Additional funding has been requested.
8. Mr. Cywinski was on the Urban Grants Committee which reviewed grant applications and recommended funding.
9. The Invasive Species Committee meets next in July.
10. Officer nominations for NACD are due by November 8th.

NJ SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Mr. D'Alessandro reported on the following:

1. The Association's goals are to establish more training sessions and seek more uniformity.
2. A virtual training session with DEP will be held on June 26th.
3. A training session with NRCS regarding soils is scheduled for July 24th.
4. Looking to schedule a training in September.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. Contois reported on various proposed changes in DEP regulations.

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Mr. Haberland reported on the following:

1. Applications for Salem County Agronomy Agent are still being accepted.
2. Four applicants for the Warren County Livestock Agent position have been interviewed.
3. The Urban Agricultural Agent for Essex County has been chosen.
4. Applications are still being accepted for the south jersey vegetable IPM position.
5. There were over 19,000 visitors to the Plant Pest Advisory website.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. Rutgers Day/Ag. Field Day was a big success.
2. Over 400 people participated in the 28th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic.
3. Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days will be held July 30-31st.
4. On April 26th USDA and Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) announced a \$232,378 Distance Learning Grant to the University's Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health.
5. SEBS website redesigned and updated.
6. Planning for the December 2024 Vegetable Growers meeting is underway.
7. Dr. Murphy is working with a group of stakeholders on revisions to DOT's Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Standards.
8. There is an agrivoltaics project on Cook Campus.
9. The FRST (Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool) project has been launched.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS

Mr. Minch advised the State Committee that an appeal has been received regarding an issue in Morris County. If informal mediation doesn't lead to a satisfactory conclusion by July 2nd, the SSCC will reconvene to discuss the matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch, Division Director

SSCC MINUTES- JUNE 10, 2024- PAGE 5