**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

 **DRAFT MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 12, 2022**

The December meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:38 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 Secretary of State.

The Flag Salute was recited.

Call of the Membership Roll indicated the following:

**Members Present** John Showler, SSCC, NJDA Douglas Fisher Tim Fekete, SSCC, NJDA

Joe Lomax Sara Mellor, SSCC, NJDA

Sylvia Kovas C. Buscaglia, Freehold SCD

Louise Davis Ines Zimmerman, Freehold SCD

Mike Haberland (rep. B. Schilling) Matt Ward, HEP SCD

Dennis Contios (rep. S. LaTourette) Lily Mehl, NJACD

Ray Cywinski

Maurice Sheets

JohnKocubinski

Frank Minch, Division Director

 **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 MEETING**

On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Mr. Kocubinski, the minutes of the September 12, 2022 meeting were approved.

**CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS**

Secretary Fisher praised the Districts for the important and vital services they provide to the public but emphasized the need for the Districts to seek and explore sustained funding opportunities and sources in the future so as to remain solvent.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **SSCC Meeting Calendar-** On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Kovacs, the 2023 meeting schedule was approved (1/9, 3/13, 4/10, 6/12, 9/11, 12/11).
2. **2023 SSCC Members-** Mr. Cywinski (North) and Mr. Rigolizzo (South) were re-appointed to the SSCC. Maurice Sheets of the Cumberland/Salem SCD was appointed to the unexpired term of the late Dennis Dougherty.

 **SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT**

1. **DOT Coordination Protocol- updated**- The updated *Procedure for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Coordination, Problem Resolution on Road Construction Projects* was distributed to all committee members. Mr. Minch indicated the main updates involved contact personnel.
2. **Soils Training***-* Ms. Mellor reported on the recent soils training which was an overview of New Jersey soils. There was a North session (Somerset) and a South session (Plant Materials Center in Cape May County). These training sessions were well attended and received positive feedback. A meeting will be held tomorrow regarding planning for GIS training.
3. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler provided a brief overview regarding some of his recent activities including plan review assistance, NJ Pact/Inland Flooding Rules, Rutgers University Agri-voltaics Study, and Standards update.
4. **NJACD-** Ms. Davis reported on the following:
* Distributed the 12/22 issue of NJACD Newsletter.
* At the Annual Conference discussed, identified and prioritized other sources of revenue beyond the 251 Program. The following seven priorities were identified, SADC Easement Inspection (Farmland Preservation), urban agriculture, soil health, education and outreach, watershed and water resources protection, climate change resiliency and woodland management.
* A new NJACD Board was elected at the annual business meeting. The new Board is as follows: Charles Buscaglia, President, Richard Dovey, 1st Vice President, Matt Ward, 2nd Vice President, James Hill, Treasurer, Michael Rigolizzo, Secretary, Ray Cywinski, NACD Representative, Gina Berg, NACD Alternate.
* Mr. Cywinski reported that the annual NACD meet will be held in New Orleans Feb. 11-15th. There is a proposed amendment to the NACD bylaws that would reduce the five committees down to three committees (legislative, natural resources and District and partner relations). Another proposed change would open sub-committees to SCD staff.

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Mr. Contois reported that Vince Mazzei has a new title. He is the State Floodplain Administrator for DEP. Mr. Mazzei’s focus is on rules and regulations.

MS4 and Stormwater Management regulations have been revised.

**RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Mr. Haberland reported on the following:

1. The new Cape May County Extension Agent/Faculty member started July 1, 2022.
2. Extension Agents/Faculty members for Morris & Somerset Counties have been hired and are slated to start February 1, 2023.
3. Search Committees have been formed to identify possible Extension Agent hires for Cumberland, Essex and Warren Counties.
4. The northern NJ IPM position has been re-advertised.
5. Rutgers Cooperative Extension has been informed that there will be an across the board 10% cut in funding next fiscal year.
6. There is an all Cooperative Extension meeting this Thursday.
7. The Camden SCD was awarded a 319 Grant.
8. Rutgers is holding a Soil Health Conference March 14th.

**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Dr. Murphy was not in attendance but submitted a written report which was disseminated to SSCC members and attendees of today’s meeting.

**PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS**

Mr. Lomax reported that the National Conservation Planning Partnership is pulling together core partnerships (NACD, NASCA, NRCS, RCDs, employee associations, etc.) to discuss present and future funding.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding capacity building and the importance of Local Work Groups and restarting these workgroups.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch, Division Director

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