

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 11, 2019**

The March meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:35 A.M. at the Institute of Food, Nutrition & Health Building at Rutgers School of Environmental & Biological Sciences on the George H. Cook Campus, New Brunswick, New Jersey. 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 third-floor bulletin board, Health and Agriculture 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 Associate Members and Others

Douglas Fisher

Joe Lomax

Matt Ward

Dr. Brian Schilling

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Carrie Lindig

Tony DiLodovico

Sylvia Kovacs

Michael Rigolizzo

Cristin Mustillo, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSCC, NJDA

John Showler, SSCC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSCC, NJDA

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

C. Raabe, Ocean SCD

Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD

Jeff Wolfe, NJDA

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2018 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Cywinski, the minutes of the December 10, 2018 meeting were approved.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2018 CLOSED SESSION MEETING

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Cywinski, the minutes of the November 2, 2018 closed session meeting were approved. Dr. Schilling abstained.

Brad Hillman, Director of Research, welcomed the SSCC to the Institute of Food, Nutrition & Health Building. It is the newest building on campus and multi-functional.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **Sussex Report-** The sub-committee tasked with reviewing the operations of the Sussex SCD is close to finishing their review. The Sussex SCD will be temporarily housed out of the Warren SCD. The Sussex lease is up in May and the landlord wants to increase the rent beyond the affordability of the district.
2. **Supervisor Reappointment packages-** The Supervisor appointment packages have been mailed. It is anticipated that action on reappointments will take place at the June SSCC meeting. Due to changes in the Performance measures, it is anticipated that several supervisors will not meet the revised standards. It is especially crucial in the Bergen & Sussex Districts which only have three supervisors. If either district loses a supervisor, they will no longer have quorum. A lengthy discussion was held regarding filling supervisor vacancies.
3. **Regional Dinner Meetings-** The annual regional supervisor dinner meets are scheduled as follows: Central (4/3), South (4/9) and North (4/11). To date, there are 34 individuals registered.
4. **C/A Fee Schedule-** The Cape/Atlantic SCD is reassessing their fee schedule & rates after reviewing the summary of district audits.

10:10 AM- Ms. Kovacs arrived.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **DEP Coordination Meetings-** There have been three regional coordination meetings held between State Committee staff, DEP Water Compliance and Enforcement staff & District personnel. This was a good opportunity for District staff to meet DEP staff.
2. **DOT Coordination Meeting-** State Committee staff met with DOT for coordination purposes. The Procedure for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Coordination, Problem Resolution and Guidelines for Jurisdiction on Road Construction Projects guidance document was updated and will be distributed to all districts.
3. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on some of his work activities over the last several months, including training and assistance, NJDEP Stormwater Rule changes, NJ Stormwater Utility Bill passed by the Senate and Assembly and National Dam Safety Training Program.

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Minch reported that the Review/Appraisal Sub-Committee group sent a self-assessment questionnaire to all districts. The sub-committee is analyzing the responses from this extremely detailed questionnaire. It is clear from the responses reviewed so far that training in all areas is being requested.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher provided the following update:

- **2019 NJ Envirothon-** will be hosted by the Camden SCD and will take place in Waterford Township, Camden County. The date for the event is May 11th. 29 teams are registered, representing 15 counties. A planning meeting will be held tomorrow at the Eco-complex.
- **Poster Contest-** Local entries are due in Trenton by April 1st. The awards ceremony is tentatively scheduled for May 30th at the State Museum.
- **Farmland Assessment Training-** Is scheduled for the end of the month.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Ms. Lindig reported on the following:

- NRCS is in the process of implementing the new Farm Bill which was passed in December. Conservation program funding is the same or more than last year.
- NACD will be traveling to Washington DC to meet with legislators. NJACD is scheduled to meet with at least 6 different legislative staff including members of Congressman Jeff Van Drew's staff. Mr. Van Drew is on the Congressional Agriculture Committee.
- The State Technical Advisory Committee will meet on April 2nd.
- NRCS dams built in the 1950's and 1960's are all tied to the Dam Watch Network.

CONSERVATION COST SHARE

Mr. Minch reported that staff is working to get costs for well drilling which would be adopted as a supplemental cost table. It appears the cost in the NRCS Cost Table is not reflective of actual cost in New Jersey.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. Dougherty reported on the activities of the NJACD including the following:

- The upcoming regional meetings.
- The annual NACD meeting in San Antonio, Texas

10:55 AM- Due to circumstances beyond the control of the SSCC, the meeting was moved across the hall to the Board Room and resumed after setting up the recording equipment.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings and the calendar of events involving the University and Co-Operative Extension. In addition, Dr. Murphy mentioned the following:

- A bill awaiting Gov. Murphy's signature would designate "Strptomyces Griseus" as the official State microbe.
- Dr. Murphy is involved in a still to be formalized project regarding a comprehensive study of the carbon budget of Duke Farms.
- A summary was provided of the 2018 activity of the Soil Testing Lab.
- Rutgers Day will take place on Saturday, April 27th.

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Due to time constraints, Dr. Schilling deferred his report to the June meeting.

Secretary Fisher mentioned that he received a phone call from a distraught mayor complaining about a particular SCD and their unprofessionalism. The Secretary explained to the mayor that the Districts do not work directly for the state.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS

- Ms. Raabe wanted to publicly thank Mr. Showler for the assistance he has given the district in training their new employees.

Mr. Minch wanted to emphasize 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 was filed with the Secretary of State and publicly posted.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held June 10, 2019 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch
Executive Secretary, SSCC