

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
DECEMBER 12, 2016**

The December meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Secretary Fisher at 9:42 A.M. at the Health and Agriculture Building, Trenton, 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

Sylvia Kovacs

Michael Rigolizzo

Brian McLendon (rep. R. Martin)

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Carrie Lindig

Tony DiLodovico

John Kocubinski

Joe Lomax

Sean Moriarty, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Paul Schiariti, Mercer SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Bob Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Christine Raab, Ocean SCD

Dan Galletta, C/A SCD

Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD

Nicole Ciccaglione, USDA-NRCS

Paul Hlubik, USDA-FSA

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2016 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Rigolizzo, the minutes of the October 17, 2016 meeting were approved.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. **2017 Meeting Schedule-** On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Cywinski, the 2017 SSCC meeting schedule was approved. The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis (3/13/17, 6/12/17, 9/11/17 and 12/11/17). The time in between meetings will be utilized for sub-committees to meet. If any pressing issues arise the SSCC meeting schedule will be adjusted accordingly.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **HEP SCD- County meetings-** Mr. Minch and representatives from the HEP SCD met with the County Executives and engineers from Hudson, Essex and Passaic Counties to educate them regarding the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act and assure development activities operate more smoothly.
2. **Soil Restoration Standards-** Mr. Minch reported that the comment period has closed. Four responses have been received. SSCC staff is reviewing and addressing said comments. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the standards and about the ability to review the comments at a public meeting. Mr. Minch will meet with a few Committee members to discuss.
3. **Engineering Report-** Mr. Showler reported on some of his work activities over the last several months. They include the following: an update of the Detention Basin Database Project (H&H), Soil Restoration Standards- self certifying form, the NJDEP BMP Stakeholder meeting, the North Village development project (Sussex SCD) and a bio-retention basin project (Warren SCD). A lengthy discussion was held regarding the self-certifying form. Mr. Showler will meet with several districts to discuss further.
4. **New Jersey Conservation District Sub-Committee Reports**
 - **Training-** Mr. Galletta reported that the group met on November 5th to review the results of the training survey. It is hoped that various training sessions will be held at the regional supervisor meetings and the annual conservation conference. In addition, the committee is working on a power point presentation to reviewing the District Supervisor Manual. The training committee next meets on February 6th in Freehold.
 - **Policies & Procedures-** Mr. Lomax reported that the comments received on the Administrative Manual are being reviewed and, where appropriate, are being incorporated into the manual. It is anticipated this will be completed for the March meeting.
 - **Fee/Fiscal-** Mr. Cywinski reported there are 2 or 3 district audits, covering the fiscal year that just ended, 6/30/16, which have not been submitted to SSCC staff. These districts have requested an extension. It has been suggested that district reserve funds be addressed in a Supervisor training session.
 - **Review/Appraisal-** Mr. DiLodovico suggested the review/appraisal subcommittee review the district audits.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND COST SHARE (FPCS) PROGRAM

Mr. Fekete reported on the following:

- **New Applications-** On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Kovacs, the following applications were approved, pending approval by the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)

<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>
Gloucester	Derek Zember	2.15- Irr. System	\$18,112.50
Gloucester	David Duffield	2.15- Irr. System	\$18,587.50

There are several issues which need to be resolved regarding the funding and processing of cost share applications. Until these items are addressed, staff will not forward these applications to the SADC.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

- **2017 NJ Envirothon-** will be hosted by the Morris SCD and will take place Saturday, May 13th. The theme for the upcoming Envirothon is “Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship”.
- **2017 NJ Conservation Poster Contest-** The theme for the upcoming poster contest is “Healthy Soils are Full of Life”.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Ms. Lindig provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings involving NRCS.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

Mr. Hlubik provided an update on FSA programs and personnel.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP)

Mr. McLendon reported there have been many employees retiring at DEP and very little backfilling. DEP is moving toward becoming paperless in their operations and permits. There has been an effort to streamline rules and regulations as much as possible.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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

- There are several proposed revisions to the supervisor standards which will broaden the types of meetings and activities that supervisors may utilize to attain the required points necessary for re-appointed.
- Jim Hill, Hunterdon SCD Supervisor, has volunteered to be a nominee for the position of NJACD Treasurer. This will be discussed at the NJACD meeting which follows the SSCC meeting.
- Secretary Fisher commended Mr. Cywinski for his dedication and hard work as President of the NJACD.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Rutgers University is celebrating its 250th anniversary. Dr. Murphy provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings involving the University and co-operative Extension, including the announcement that NJAES Associate Director for Farm Programs, Jack Rabin is retiring after a 34 year career.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Rigolizzo, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held March 13, 2017 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch