

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 10, 2014**

The March meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Acting Chair Monique Purcell at 9:41 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

Monique Purcell

Priscilla Hayes

Joe Lomax

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Brian McLendon (rep. B. Martin)

John Kocubinski

Maria Collazo

Tony DiLodovico

Barbara Rosko

Charlie Buscaglia

Sean Moriarity, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

John Showler, SSSC, NJDA

Dr. Ferdows Ali, SSSC, NJDA

Tim Fekete, SSSC, NJDA

Glen Van Olden, HEP SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Cliff Lundin, Sussex SCD

Bill Brash, Mercer SCD

Matt Ward, HEP SCD

Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

Bob Dobbs, NJACD

Paul Hlubik, USDA/FSA

Bob Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Don Knezick, Burlington SCD

Cathy Costa, Burlington SCD

Chris Sztenderowicz, MCS

MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2014 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Mr. Cywinski, the minutes of the January 13, 2014 meeting were approved. Mr. Lomax suggested that the sub-committee reports provide more detail.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **Phone Directory-** The directory is complete and posted on the NJDA web site.
2. **Workload Indicators-** A graph detailing the Chpt. 251 workload indicators (based on quarterly reports) covering the timeframe 2005 to 2014 was distributed and reviewed by State Committee members. The graph covered applications, fees, acres, inspections, etc. There are more 251 projects but on smaller sites. This produced a discussion regarding SCD staffing.

9:54 AM- Mr. Buscaglia arrived.

9:56 AM- Dr. Ali arrived.

3. **HEP Correspondence-** Correspondence from the HEP Board requesting that the issue of what constitutes "statewide importance" be discussed. The HEP Board requested that the SSCC develop a clearly written policy indicating what and how issues shall be reviewed and acted upon by the Attorney General's Office (AG). DAG Moriarity addressed these concerns and indicated there is no clear standard as to what constitutes statewide importance and the Attorney General's Office has discretion on a case by case basis unless the SSCC specifically requests AG assistance. Mr. Van Olden, HEP District Manager, spoke regarding problems at the former Pabst Blue Ribbon property which borders Newark and Irvington that is demolished and currently abandoned and has seen a great deal of illegal dumping and, in essence, has been turned into a citywide landfill. The HEP SCD has spent a significant amount of resources, time and money, to address this matter and other similar situations which they feel are of statewide importance. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding AG involvement.

On motion by Ms. Hayes, second by Mr. Lomax, the SSCC requested that DAG Moriarity look into and advise the HEP SCD of their appropriate options and action to take with regards to the illegal dumping site, the old Pabst Brewery.

After further discussion, the motion was rescinded while the HEP SCD gathers additional information and works with water enforcement personnel at NJDEP. In addition, DAG Moriarity will research the various options available to the HEP SCD to remedy the situation.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **2:90 Rule Amendments-** Mr. Minch reported that the revised and updated 2:90 rules have been published in the February 3, 2014 issue of the NJ Register and will be effective February 20th.

Mr. Showler reported that staff has developed and retained a list of standards errata that will be posted on the NJDA website. Currently listed are several typographical errors and the corrected conduit outlet formula. All districts have been notified regarding standards errata. If errors are found, please notify Mr. Showler.

The Topsoil and Land Grading Standards are in the process of being completed. The Topsoil Standard is closer to completion than the Land Grading Standard. A discussion was held regarding the cost/benefit analysis. The discussion centered on how to quantify the benefit aspect.

10:41 AM- Mr. Ward arrived.

2. **Compost Filter Sock** – Mr. Lomax reported that the task force has determined that the compost filter sock is another tool consistent with state standards as a sediment barrier under certain circumstances. Compost filter socks have been accepted as a sediment barrier by a wide range of State and Federal agencies and meet the requirements for bale sediment barrier. The draft task force report covered recommendations, applications, product criteria considerations, limitations, installation considerations and maintenance considerations.

Mr. Sztenderowicz of MCS spoke regarding the compost filter sock and the most important elements of this practice, which include the compost in the sock, size of the sock and the mesh. Mr. Lomax requested that a technical bulletin be prepared and issued regarding the compost filter sock. Mr. Showler indicated that any technical bulletin on this conservation practice would need to be generic in nature.

On motion by Mr. McLendon, second by Mr. Lomax, the SSCC accepted the draft report and the State Engineer is tasked with writing a technical bulletin regarding the use of the compost filter sock for use as a sediment barrier.

Mr. Lomax thanked the task force for its time and effort in researching this practice.

11:00 AM- Secretary Fisher arrived.

3. **Engineering Issues-** Mr. Showler reported on various items he has been working on over the last several months including the status of the Detention Basin Database Project, Mountain View at Hunterdon Estates, Bernards High School ball fields, Neptune Estates, 2014 FEMA Dam Safety training workshop and EPA revised construction site erosion control rules.

4. **Quarterly Report-** Mr. Showler reported on the second quarter FY 2014 (October to December 2013) Soil Erosion and Sediment Control program statistics. During this timeframe, 1,342 applications were received, 1,357 certifications, \$1,825,408 in fees were collected covering 3,749 acres, 13,316 inspections were performed which covered 22,545 staff hours.
5. **Permit Extension Act-** Mr. Minch reported on a memo to all district managers and chairpersons dated March 10, 2014. The memo pertained to the 2012 Permit Extension Act extension applicability to Chapter 251 and Stormwater General Permit. A clarification was necessary since a question arose regarding a project in the municipality of Denville (Morris County) and if said project was subject to the Permit Extension Act. Ultimately, it was determined that the project was subject to the Permit Extension Act. It is hoped that this clarifying memo will assist if similar situations arise.

6. **NJ Conservation Workgroups- Sub-Committee Reports**

- **Roadmap Process-** A discussion was held regarding the process and approval of any changes to The Roadmap To Effective Change. Clarifications were proposed to ensure the process was understood by all parties.

All sub-committee work products will be presented to the District Working Group to ensure there are no conflicts/duplications with other sub-committee work. The District Working Group will have one week to make comments. The work product will then be submitted by the sub-committee which produced it to the SSCC for review. The SSCC shall send each work product for concurrent review and comment by the SSCC and districts. Any comments or suggested changes should be directed to the SSCC staff. All comments and recommendations received will be remanded to the appropriate sub-committee for review. The final work product will be submitted to the SSCC for approval and implementation at least one week in advance of any scheduled SSCC meeting.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, the clarifications to The Roadmap To Effective Change process were adopted.

- **Training Sub-committee-** Mr. Brash reported that the Supervisor Training Manual has been completed and ready for review and comment by the SSCC and districts. This manual is in PDF format by chapter. Mr. Brash will forward the electronic version to Mr. Minch who will send the PDF files to SSCC members and the districts. Those parties will have one month to review and comment. Comments will be sent to Mr. Minch, who will forward to the Training Sub-Committee for review. A final version of the Supervisor Training Manual will be presented to the SSCC for adoption at the next meeting.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Belcher reported on the following:

1. **2013 National Poster Contest Winners-** Staff has been informed that NJ has two first place national winners, Grace Ming (Somerset-Union SCD) and Brandon Li (HEP SCD). They will be honored at the 2014 poster awards ceremony scheduled for May 21st.
2. **2014 Poster Contest-** All State level entries are due by April 1st.
3. **NJ Flower and Patio Show-** Mr. Belcher conducted a power point presentation covering the Conservation Partnership display. The entry won three awards, 1st place for most educational, 2nd place for environmental focus and 3rd place for best plant materials
4. **NJ Envirothon-** The NJ Envirothon web site was reworked. Although the site is still under construction, Mr. Belcher provided the SSCC with a demonstration and navigated through the highlights of the improved web site. Potential teams can now register on line, conduct training sessions, etc. Due to lack of funding, the 2014 National Envirothon, has been cancelled.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ms. Collazo reported that the new Farm Bill was passed on February 7th. This bill consolidated and streamlined many NRCS programs. No funding details have been received for the upcoming year.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Ms. Hayes reported on the following:

1. Another SCD related article appeared in the League of Municipalities magazine. In addition, there is another article scheduled for publication in the next issue.
2. NJACD has unveiled a new logo which was designed by a student at the College of New Jersey.
3. NJACD was well represented at the NACD Conference.
4. The Project Soils presentation will be repeated at various meetings and conferences throughout the state.
5. Mr. Lomax spoke about the Project Soils presentation at the NACD conference and how the presentation was well received. Also Mr. Dobbs gave a presentation at the conference regarding the increasing capacity of SCDs.
6. Mr. Lomax spoke about the Endangered Species Act and the conflict this has caused between landowners in the west. NACD is developing management strategies to prevent certain industries from floundering because of overarching regulations.

7. The Northeast regional NACD meeting will be held in Newport, RI, August 24 through the 26th.
8. Regional supervisor meetings are scheduled for March 25th, 26th and 27th.
9. Mr. Knezick reported on the Contractor Power Point training class Paul Evans of the Burlington SCD created. This power point presentation has been distributed to all districts. The Burlington SCD held the first training class, Feb. 4th and the next class is scheduled for March 27th.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon responded to questions regarding the NJDEP form Request For Routine Inspection Suspension/Reduction. SCDs were unfamiliar with this form. Mr. McLendon indicated that builders have the opportunity to request suspension of inspections if a site is dormant in excess of 60 days. It is up to the discretion of the SCD but it should be evaluated and if warranted.

The updated report Commissioner Martin was to provide on the status of the Barnegat Bay in January has been rescheduled for April 25th. In addition, it was suggested that NRCS attend this function because it may be an opportunity for NRCS to assist shell fish producers with aquaculture conservation practices in the Barnegat Bay.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy reported on the following:

1. Next semester Dr. Murphy will be teaching the “Soils and Society” course. This is a basic soils course for non-science majors.
2. There are no standards in NJ for organic lawn care. Dr. Jim Murphy is working on a review of information and possibly development of a course.
3. A short course, “Managing Turf Grass and Landscape Weeds”, is being offered tomorrow, March 11th.
4. Stephan Hart, Rutgers Weed Specialist, passed away recently.
5. NJAES vacancies and job postings were reviewed.
6. The Plant Pest Advisory Newsletter is available on-line.
7. The Soil Society of America is developing a series of booklets on state soils. Officially, New Jersey doesn’t have a state soil, though a booklet was written indicating that Downer is the official soil of New Jersey.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Costa, Burlington SCD Chairwoman, commented regarding the National Envirothon. In addition, Ms. Costa commented that that she is pleased that NJACD hired Mr. Dobbs. Mr. Ward, HEP SCD Supervisor, urged an expedited review of the issue of what constitutes “statewide importance”.

Mr. Belcher indicated there are 36 teams signed up for the New Jersey Envirothon. The sign-up deadline has been extended to April 1st.

On motion by Mr. Lomax, second by Ms. Hayes, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 PM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held May 12, 2014 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch

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