

SUSSEX COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES

AUGUST 20, 2012

The meeting opened at 7:40 p.m. by Chairperson Brodhecker in the Freeholder Meeting Room at the Sussex County Administrative Center, One Spring Street, Newton, New Jersey. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended. Notice has been forwarded to the newspapers and posted on the bulletin board maintained at the Sussex County Administrative Center for public announcement.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Brodhecker, Chairperson
Lori Day, Vice Chairperson
Jim Hunt
Cece Pattison
Joan Snook Smith
Peter Southway

STAFF PRESENT: Donna Traylor, CADB Coordinator
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary
Steve Komar, County Agricultural Agent

ALSO PRESENT: Freeholder Richard Vohden
Brian Smith, Esq., SADC

New components to the recording system were being used for the first time at tonight's meeting. They failed to record the meeting. Therefore, Minutes were prepared from memory and notes.

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by CeCe Pattison to approve the Minutes of July 16, 2012, as presented. The motion was seconded by Joan Snook Smith. All were in favor, with an abstention from Peter Southway. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A. 2013 COUNTY PIG FINAL APPROVAL, SADC, 7/13/12:

A letter was received from the SADC advising that at their meeting on May 24, 2012, the SADC granted final approval to Sussex County's 2013 County Planning Incentive Grant application. The County's identified target farms are now eligible to proceed through the full application approval process. The Resolution of Approval was included in the correspondence.

B. 2013 GREEN TWP. FIP PRELIMINARY APPROVAL, SADC, 7/13/12;

A copy of correspondence was received from the SADC to Green Township regarding their application for the 2013 Municipal Planning Incentive Grant. Conditional preliminary approval was granted on May 24, 2012 and the township's identified target farms are now eligible for submission. The SADC will not grant final approval of individual farm applications until the township's Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan and 2013 Municipal PIG application package receives SADC final approval and future funding becomes available.

C. SADC FINAL APPLICATION REVIEW DATES:

The SADC sent final application review dates for the Fiscal Year 2013 County Planning Incentive Grant Program. The chart included SADC scheduled meeting dates and the application Packet deadline dates.

D. NJAES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING, 7/28/12:

An e-mail was received from Dave Klemm with an invitation to all Sussex County Board of Agriculture members to attend the September NJAES Board of Managers meeting and the pre-meeting dinner. The meeting is scheduled for September 18 at 5:30 p.m. A light dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the S.C. Fairgrounds.

E. NOTICE OF VACANCY, SC SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

The Nominating Committee of the Sussex County Soil Conservation District is seeking candidates for the position of member of the Board of Supervisors for the District. Candidates must be a resident of Sussex County and have an interest in natural resource conservation. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and

resume to the SCSCD Nominating, 186 Halsey Road, Newton, NJ 07860. Questions may be directed to Clifford R. Lundin, District Manager. Applications must be received no later than September 21, 2012.

F. USDA PROGRAMS TO ASSIST LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS:

The USDA is offering programs to assist livestock producers who have been impacted by drought. The USDA has encouraged crop-insurance companies to voluntarily provide a grace period on unpaid insurance premiums until November 1, 2012, in order to give farmers hard hit by drought conditions a chance to catch up. Three Conservation programs are affected by the temporary changes. They are: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP.)

G. FRANKFORD PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WQM PLAN, 8/6/12:

Thomas Collins, Attorney for Frankford Township requested that the Sussex County Planning Board issue a statement of consent on a proposed amendment to the Sussex County Water Quality Management Plan for the Frankford Town Center, as required by State regulations. Part of this request deals with the protection of grasslands (possibly farms) for threatened and endangered grassland birds.

H. ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

Donna discussed some articles related to the Christie Administration's Farmers Market Kick-Off and Trail Riding Events hosted by the Heritage & Agriculture Association and NJDEP/Division of Parks & Forestry.

RIGHT TO FARM:

The Wantage Township Zoning Officer submitted a complaint regarding the use of gutted trailers to house poultry.

A complaint was received from a Frankford Township resident regarding severe pig manure odor from a farm located a 340 Mattison Reservoir Avenue in Frankford. This was forwarded by the Sussex County Health Department.

AG. AGENT'S REPORT:

Steve Komar said there will be a Great Tomato Tasting event at the Snyder Farm in Pittstown NJ on August 29 from 3:00 p.m. to dusk. Steve talked about the Animal Waste rule and asked the Board to promote compliance with the rule. He also talked about a Nyger Study which is being conducted in Sussex County. Steve answered some production questions.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. AGRITOURISM UPDATE (HARVEST FESTIVAL):

The 3rd annual Harvest and Honey Festival will be held on October 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. Invitations for this free event will be going out shortly. The Sussex County Beekeepers will be joining us as a partner.

B. FPP UPDATES (APPRAISALS, SURVEYS, CLOSINGS, POLICIES):

There were no new closings; however, the next closing may put us over the 17,000 acre mark. Updated appraisals on the Green, Klein & Tommaso farms are due in the next several weeks. Survey work for three 2011 round farms has been awarded.

C. TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE UPDATE/PSE&G UPDATE (NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION):

Sussex County has been served by Tennessee Gas Pipeline on a “friendly” condemnation for preserved farmland on Hamming in Wantage and Shaffer in Montague. Additional background was provided by SADC Council, Brian Smith.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. CONCELLATION OF JORRITSMA APPLICATION, LAFAYETTE:

After extensive review and analysis, it was concluded that the Jorritsma application, as presented to the SCADB, could not be continued. The environmental constraints are more than significant between wetland, Category 1 stream, access over a Rail Trail and zoning. A meeting was held with the Jorritsma’s to explain the issues.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Jim Hunt to cancel the Jorritsma application for Farmland Preservation for the reasons noted in the discussion able. The motion was seconded by Peter Southway and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brian Smith, Esq., SADC answered questions about Farmland Preservation funding. He also talked about Princeton nurseries and the Den Hollender case.

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by CeCe Pattison. The motion was seconded by Jim Hunt and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.