

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2010 Minutes

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture was called to order at 7:36on 4/20/2010 in Freehold by President Gary DeFelice.

Next Meeting May 18, 2010

Invocation: B. Potter

Flag Salute

Attendance: Robin Bruins, Marty Bullock, Ross Clayton, Gary DeFelice, Patrick DePalma, Stephen P. Dey, Debi Kauffman, Doug Kauffman Hugh McKittrick, Nyna McKittrick, Rich Obal, Bill Potter, Angelo Trapani, Anne Trapani, Ed Wengryn, Meg Whitehouse, Diane Zahorsky

Guests: George Asprocolas, Pat Butch

A. Approval of Treasurers Report: Read By Ross Clayton, unanimously approved as read. 1st S.P Dey

B. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. 1st S.P. Dey

C. Correspondence: Thank you from Judy Grignon for donors. Farmers Against Hunger – plea for donations of excess fruits and vegetables.

D. Reports:

Rich Obal: County Extension. Fields have dried out. Weather good. Experiment stations will receive funding with 15% state wide budget cut.

4-H has new program assistant- Sabrina Brown. Agent interviews finished and selection news will come out 7/1.

E. Ed Wengryn: Farm Bureau. State budget- Gov. took specific line items related to farmers and advocates out. Budget process ongoing. New budget in before 7/1 deadline to keep govt. services ongoing. Still working on Ag drivers licenses. Pinelands commission- farmers can vote on changes to the plan. The Red tape commission came out with report on how to reduce the size of the Govt. and was generally favorable. SADC –solar wind on preserved farms and farm conflicts.

F. Diane Zahorsky: Extension. #rd year Jr. Master Gardeners program started with 16 youth , runs on Saturday 9:30-12:30. Working on plant a row garden which is 40x60'. Planting carrots now. Master Gardeners will be at the Strawberry Festival.

- G. Hugh McKittrick : State Board. A bus load with a great mix Ag representatives went to see Congressman Rush Holt March 25. Crop insurance big topic. Assistant of RMA –spoke on the 33 +/- pages of exceptions on policies. Reasonable rate of return on policies average 17% over the past 21 years.
Horse industry brings in dollars to Ag through grain farmers, Fruit and Veg. through restaurants, and Ag tourism.
- H. Bill Walker written report : NJDA. NJ museum of Agriculture- The state grant was struck out of the budget. The museum is investigating sale of excess inventory. FFA and Ag education programs could be on the chopping block as well. The Board had a motion to write letters of support for continued Ag education by N. McKittrick 2nd by M. Whitehouse. Unanimously approved.
- I. S. P. Dey : Board of Managers. All programs that have been in existence will have funding at the college. New surpluses found to fund and maintain faculty and research centers. A new professor was hired to head up the Nutritional institution – Peter Gilles. USDA looking to collaborate research groups. Rutgers is in a good position to apply for grants for research. New officers- S.P. Dey Pres., Lou MacCrancy – V.P.
- J. Marty Bullock: Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Went to training in Harrisburg for directors. Trip was very informative and very intensive. Farmer appreciation night at the TRENTON THUNDER Aug. 24 tickets \$10.00 4-H can sell tickets as a fund raiser. Tues. night \$1.00 hot dogs \$3.00 to park.
- K. Debi Kauffman: Direct Marketing- Tues Aug 17, twilight meeting- all are invited to Kauffman farm. \$1000. 00 scholarship 1st payment of ½ the scholarship in Sept. .
- L. MCBOA scholarship deadline May 10, 2010.
- M. New Business: Strawberry Festival Booth and discussion. Motion to fund Monmouth County Fair booth by N. McKittrick, Approved unanimously.
Discussion on ideas for fair booth.
Discussion on insurance for board members- MCBOA predates NJ Charter and acts as an advisory to:
1. The Dept. of Ag. 2. Advisory to Rutgers. 3. Farm Bureau 4. Pre-existence of Boards own entity. Motion to purchase insurance policy with \$1mil. General liability from Farm Family Casualty to cover The Board was made by M. Bullock, motion was approved.
Tri-county Market On Wednesday Direct sales at 5:00, Auction at 7:00.
- N. Old Business: Strawberry Festival Discussion- G. DeFelice will set up a booth with our banner. Fair runs May 26-30. Farmers will be given table space to sell products if you are interested. 4-H can participate with project areas.

Motion to Adjourn S.P. Dey.

Submitted by Nyna McKittrick

