

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture

Minutes

April 15, 2014

In attendance: Robin Bruins, Marty Bullock, Pat Butch, Ross Clayton, Gary DeFelice, Denise Emmons, Stuart and Chris Faunce, Wicki Hom, Bill Potter, Bill Sciarappa, Anna and Angelo Trapani, Bill Walker, Ed Wengryn, and Jim Wikoff.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by President, Angelo Trapani. After Bill Potter gave the invocation, Marty Bullock moved to accept the minutes of the March 18th meeting. Seconded by Ross Clayton, the motion carried.

Correspondence

Farm Bureau letter thanking us for the \$250 donation to Young Farmers and Ranchers
Freedom Fest letter inviting us to have a booth at their fair
Immune Deficiency Foundation newsletter

Angelo Trapani sent a registered letter to the Board of Governors on our behalf regarding the proposed change in Board of Managers member selection.

Treasurer Gary DeFelice reported a current balance of \$9315.84. Ross Clayton moved to accept the report. The motion which was seconded by Anna Trapani was approved.

Committees

FFA

Stuart Faunce reported that four state officers traveled to South Africa joining 178 other state officers to learn about another culture and its agriculture. 525 New Jersey students participated in the state Hort Expo, creating 825 floral arrangements. All four Monmouth County chapters brought home first place honors at the recent Spring CDEs. The 85th State FFA Convention will be held at the Monmouth University May 21-23. Chris Faunce reported that money earned during the fair will be used to send teams to state contests and the National convention. Recently, the Allentown chapter raised more than \$2000 at their gift auction.

Allentown advisor, Denise Emmons commented that the school is working on 4 college articulation agreements so that students can receive credits in college for Ag classes.

May 15th is the deadline for the Mon. County Board of Ag scholarship.

Young Farmers and Ranchers

Stuart Faunce reported Doug Fisher spoke at our meeting about grants available to young farmers and ranchers. Several social events are being planned, such as tractor pulls at Burlington County Fairgrounds.

NJ Dept. of Ag

Bill Walker reported on March 25th National Agriculture Day, National School Breakfast Week, Specialty Crop Block Grants, the Department of Defense Direct Delivery Pilot Program, the Pesticide container Recycling Program, the Soil Erosion and Sediment control Program and the occurrence of Avian Influenza and Emerald Ash Borer.

Monmouth County Cooperative Extension

Bill Sciarappa noted that the soil is the coldest that it has been in twenty years which will foster more disease and pest damage to seeds. Fruit damage may also occur with the expected cold temperatures. The office has processed 300 soil tests at \$20 each. The new process for water reporting is on line. NJ pesticide licensing is being targeted by the EPA for monitoring. Noteworthy, 850 people have registered for Home Gardener School at \$75/participant. The Open Space Pace meeting will be held next week. \$1000 scholarships will be presented again to selected charitable groups this year. Rutgers will hold a strategic planning seminar on May 7, 2014.

Farm Bureau

Ed Wengryn suggested that we may want to work with Mercer County to host a Hazardous Waste Pesticide Day for farmers. The Preservation Farm Bill flew through the legislature in one week, the fastest in Ed's career. It does contain

some major changes for NJ wineries such as a ban on outdoor music and the requirement that temporary structures such as tents be put up only during the event. This bill's definition of agritourism does not agree with the SADC's definition. Farm Bureau's stance on this bill has not yet been declared due to the speed of the bill's passing. They will work with the governor on these issues. Farm Bureau continues to work to get \$1 million earmarked in the state budget for NJAES for production agriculture.

Monmouth Co. Fair

Most farmers on last year's bags have renewed their sponsorship. This year each bag will cost us \$1.16, (cheaper than last year). The committee is seeking 4 more sponsorships for the bags. NJ Dept. of Ag and Farm Bureau will have tables in our tent. The two interns and new staff person in our Extension office may be able to help in the tent.

NJ Board of Agriculture

A letter was sent to support the tabling of the Proposed Resolution Amending the Nomination Process Appointing Members from each County to the Board of Managers. Marty Bullock reported that they are seeking nominations for the Distinguished Service Award. Board member, Dave Clem passed away last week. His dedication to our state's agriculture will be missed.

Board of Managers

A GMO forum will be presented by Greg Jaffe on May 9, 2014 at the Bordentown Eco Center. At which time Brad Hilman will distribute the White Paper on GMOs that was requested at the NJ Agricultural Convention in Atlantic City this year. Search Committees are in the process of hiring new agents/staff in Bergen, Ocean, Camden, Warren, Mercer, Gloucester and Passaic counties. Three new strawberry varieties have been developed by Rutgers and will be available for sale next year.

Meredith Compton and Pat Butch met with the Chair of the Board of Governors, Gerald Harvey, and subsequently presented the Annual Report to the entire Board of Governors at their April 1st meeting.

With one week's notice a Resolution was proposed for passage by the Board of Governors that would amend the Nomination Process for Appointing members from each county to the NJAES BOM. This resolution would jeopardize each county board of agriculture's right to select their own representative to move forward for appointment by the Board of Governors. It would no longer accept the Board of Agriculture as the only organization to make nominations and would give the Director the right to select the appointee from a pool of candidates. The agricultural community was asked to support our request to have this resolution tabled in order to set up a study committee to assess its impact on the Agricultural Experiment Station, the State's agricultural industry, 4-H, Health & Family Services, and the thousands of stakeholders affected by it. As a result of the quick responses from supporters the BOG tabled the resolution and set up a subcommittee to look into the process. Pat reported that the reason given for the proposed change in Board of Managers member selection was that the nomination process should "more closely and comprehensively reflect the broad mission of the NJAES." We content that it already does. Actually, six positions currently exist representing Marine Science, Community Resources, Food Science, Environment, Public Policy, and Biotechnology. Rob Swanekamp, State Board President, will be setting up meetings with representatives from the State Board, BOM, and Farm Bureau to formulate a plan to move forward advocating for the best approach to service the Agricultural Experiment Station. An open forum is planned for the end of May by the Rutgers administration and the Board of Governors. I will keep everyone apprised of our progress and meeting dates, etc.

Old Business

Blue Claws fundraising opportunities include sale of tickets and concession working. Denise will present this opportunity to her administration. Gary DeFelice will speak with John Neyhart and Deb Pribel, who may offer some insight since she was involved with Trenton Thunder ticket sales.

New Business

Distinguished Service Citation will be presented at the 25th Ag Convention. Nominations are due Sept. 30th.

Angelo Trapani requested a letter to the State Board of Ag, nominating him as a applicant for an open member position. Gary DeFelice moved that we write a letter of recommendation for Angelo. Jim Wikoff seconded the motion which carried.

Jim Wikoff moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary DeFelice seconded the motion which passed. We adjourned the meeting at 9:41.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Bruins