

## The Monmouth County Board of Agriculture Meeting Minutes – Feb. 2011

I. Call to order by President G. DeFelice at 7:48 at the regular meeting of the MCBOA on February 15, 2011, Freehold, NJ.

II. Invocation by B. Potter

III. The following persons were present: Frank Allocco, George Asprocolas, Pat Butch, Martin Bullock, Reiks Bruins, Robin Bruins, Ross Clayton, Gary DeFelice, S.P. Dey, Tim Dey, Patrick DePalma, Bob Freiberger, Tom Freiberger, Wickie Hom, Debi Kauffman, Nyna McKittrick, Rich Obal, Bill Potter, Bill Sciarappa, Angelo Trapani, Anna Trapani, Bill Walker, Ed Wengryn, Meg Whitehouse.

Guests: James Asprocolas, Stuart Faunce, Jess Tegano ( Allentown FFA), Nick DeMauro, Erica Friedman, Tim Lamb (Freedom Fest), Grayson Asprocolas

IV. The minutes were approved as read. Motion by S.P. Dey. Motion carried.

V. The Treasurers report was given by R. Clayton. Motion to approve made by R. Bruins.

Motion carried.

Mr. Clayton also presented the 2010 Annual Report. A motion was made by S. P Dey to approve the report. Motion carried.

VI. Correspondence-NJ Museum of Agriculture (2), National Foundation for Transplants, The Rigolizzo Family, Senator Robert Menendez, 4-H Congress final report.

### VII. REPORTS:

**Rich Obal-** Rutgers Cooperative Extension

The office is busy with teaching and reviewing irrigation certificates. Call with questions.

**Bill Sciarappa-** Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Spoke at Hershey on leafy greens. In Atlantic City for session about mamorated stinck bug.

Writing grants for basil, blueberry, and specialty pepper.

**Bill Walker-** NJDA

Humane Standards Rule: [www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rule/Humane\\_standards.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rule/Humane_standards.pdf).

**Directory of Agricultural Organizations** – The online directory has been updated and can be accessed at <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/pdf/dirbook.pdf>.

**2011 State Agricultural Convention** – The annual convention was held February 8 and 9 in Cherry Hill and featured five listening sessions on Farm Labor, Food Safety and Product Traceability, Farmland Preservation and Right to Farm, Common Sense & Farm Regulations , and Sustainability of the Equine Industry . Governor Christie's Chief

of Staff Richard Bagger addressed the convention and expressed the Governor's support for the agricultural industry and his desire to continue building the Jersey Fresh brand. The delegates nominated two new State Board of Agriculture members, Richard Norz and Rob Swanekamp. Also at the convention, several awards were presented:

- 2011 Outstanding Young Farmer – John Melick
- 2011 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award – W. Peter Staats, a beef cattle and hay farmer from Somerset County.
- Patrick J. Mullen Jersey Fresh Quality Grading Program Award -- Maugeri Farms of Woolwich Township. This annual award is given to a grower who did an outstanding job of packing only the highest quality produce under the Jersey Fresh Quality Grading Program.
- NJ Agricultural Society Tony Russo Farmers Marketing Award – Hunter's Farm Market in Cinnaminson.
- Garden State Seafood Association Award for Commercial Seafood Producers – The late Captain John Larson of Barnegat Light, owner of

**Beginning Beekeepers** – Interest in learning how to be a beekeeper in New Jersey remains strong. To date, the Rutgers Office of Continuing Education Bee-ginner's Beekeeping Class in April is full with 65 registered students. The second class scheduled for May is almost full. One of the instructors of the class is State Apiarist Tim Schuler.

#### **Upcoming Department Events:**

**March 25, 2011** – The New Jersey Animal Emergency Working Group will hold its annual symposium in New Brunswick.

**March 26, 2011** – The New Jersey Junior Breeder Symposium will be held on the Cook Campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Hands on sessions for all species are schedule.

#### **Census of Horticulture**

[www.state.nj.us/agriculture/news/press/2011/approved/press110106.html](http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/news/press/2011/approved/press110106.html) .

#### **NJ #8 in the country for gross sales of horticulture products.**

#### **Hugh McKittrick-State Board of Agriculture- Written Report**

The SADC has people in place to mediate crop insurance claims. The state convention was well attended. The listening sessions had very good presence, with many ideas, appeals and questions posed. The session on equine was very productive, with positive suggestions on ways to sustain the industry. Additional sessions on farm labor and the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) provided insight to areas of concerns voiced from the delegates.

Regarding the SADC applications for preserved farmland- Farmers should have the contract reviewed by a knowledgeable agriculture attorney to safe guard their future needs for the farm.

**Ed Wengryn- NJFB**

New energy supplier through Farm Bureau can provide 10% savings. Raw milk sales have been voted to be released from committee. Contact FB if you have concerns regarding being able to continue to sell deer food. Federal Agriculture bill proposals are coming up next week.

**S.P. Dey-**

Board of Managers- Larry Katz spoke at the convention. Please contact him with concerns regarding the college programs.

**Marty Bullock- FB**

Will enquire about having FB come in to give a presentation about solar.

**Pat Butch-** Township of Millstone, Agricultural Advisory Council

Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council.

The rule proposal from the SADC comment period is open until March for Solar.

Discussion - moving farm machinery

**Guest Nick DeMauro-Freedom Fest**

Gave an overview of the fair. The fair will be off exit 8 of route I-195, July 12-17<sup>th</sup>. It will be located across from Hope Firehouse. Please call to participate.

**VII. New Business–**

**Rich Obal:** Budget cut 12%, and marine science will no longer be supported.

**VIII. Old Business-**

MCBOA meeting dates set-

March 15, 2011

April 19, 2011

May 17, 2011

June, July and August – Recess, unless emergency meeting needed.

September 20, 2011 (RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING)  
October 18, 2011  
November 15, 2011  
December 20, 2011

Discussion ensued on having a summer picnic and when it would be most convenient for Board members to attend. Motion to have the picnic in August was made by R. Bruins. Motion carried.  
Motion to adjourn made by B. Frieberger at 9:30. Motion carried

Minutes submitted by N. McKittrick.

Next meeting – March 15, 2011 7:30 PM