

## Monmouth County Board of Agriculture

Minutes March 15, 2011

**Attendance:** Frank Alloco, George Asprocolas, Bruins Reiks, Bruins Robin, Marty Bullock, , Pat Butch, Ross Clayton, Gary DeFelice, Patrick Depalma, Bob Freiberger, Tom Freiberger, Wickie Hom, Hugh McKittrick, Nyna McKittrick, William Potter, Hal Rifkin, Bill Sciarappa, Angelo Trapani, Anna Trapani, William Walker, Ed Wengryn, Jim Wikoff.

**Guests-** James Asprocolas, Jessica Tegano

The meeting was called to order by President Gary DeFelice at 7:38. The invocation was given by William Potter.

**Minutes-** Mr. DeFelice asked for a motion to approve the Feb. 15, 2011 meeting minutes. A motion was made by M. Bullock to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

**Treasurers Report-** given by Ross Clayton- Farm Bureau quota 818, members to date 616. Motion to approve was made by T. Freiberger to approve the report. Motion approved.

### **Correspondence-**

NJ FFA Foundation- Thank you for your financial support in the past, would you continue to support the program? Motion to donate \$1000.00 to the general FFA fund, was made by R. Bruins. Motion approved.

### **REPORTS-**

#### **Bill Sciarappa- Rutgers Cooperative Extension-**

-Successful Turf + Ornamental meeting with 245 in attendance. Modifications to the budget and personnel. Budget awaiting approval. Two retirements within the department. Joe Maher IPM testing /scouting requests to visit the April meeting. Horse racing meeting held at the Library to gather data on the industry as a whole, including pleasure horse, grain and hay. NJ Vegetable growers meeting held in Mt. Holly, the new president is Joe Marino. The new fertilizer law requires certification of professional Turf and Ornamental applicators. Classes will be developed and run by Rutgers who will also implement an online course and testing.

**Bill Walker-NJDA-** There will now be check-off on the tax form line #63, which will be to provide food bank purchases. Horse Person of the Year Dennis Drazin. The beginning Bee keeper's classes have all filled. March 25, is the NJ Animal Emergency Working Group (NJAEWG) Training. Jersey Fresh program received a block grant for TV commercials. Specialty Crops with value added component received grants.

#### **Ed Wengryn- Farm Bureau-4 bills of note-**

1. Authorizes NJ to declare Food Dessert areas, which provisions for cutting red tape to get farm markets into new areas. State supersedes local provisions.
2. Raw milk sales passed general assembly, now it is going to the Senate
3. Permit to allow NJDEP to issue waivers for wetlands permitting so that land can be used for production.
4. Winery licensing requirements- doing away with small farm license which would affect Jersey Fresh wine because it has 51% NJ wine. Creates manufacturers winery license which would not have any NJ component..

Deer Feeding ban bill- working on clarifying language. Ag Experiment Station funding is level, however federal funding for Agriculture is still in peril.

**Hugh McKittrick-State Board of Agriculture-**

March 23, 2011 meeting with DEP concerning water issues, at the Eco Complex. Blue Agro tourism signs will have a much shorter turn over time now, and the restrictions have been relaxed for agriculture. Crop insurance problems can be taken to the SADC who will provide a mediator FREE OF CHARGE TO THE FARMER. Crop adjusters are not licensed in NJ. Contact Congressman Rush Holt to inquire about changing the 38 pages of exclusions for crop insurance to plain language. Paul Hlubik New Jersey State Executive Director of FSA, is also working on this. The Board is working on Farmland Assessment. Senator Jennifer Beck will not confirm Monmouth County's two nominations for the State Board. The Senator has not responded to inquiries regarding the situation. There is a fear that Monmouth County will not be able to get members on the State Board due to Farmland Assessment. The State Board does not want to make the rules and make definitions regarding Farmland Assessment. Discussion on how to resolve the issue. Thank you to the Board for writing a letter of inquiry into the situation. At The State Convention Hugh's nomination was re-approved. Water Quality- Dr. Dey was representing the farm interest in water quality. A replacement needs to be found that will continue representation.

**FFA-** Jessica Tegano- The Allentown Chapter of FFA meeting is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Allentown High School. They are having a dinner auction at Hope Fire House.

**New Business-**

Please send information that is of interest to the Board to Secretary Nyna McKittrick at mckittrick@verizon.net, so that it can be included in the County web site. Meetings, Information and points of interest are appreciated.

Discussion on memorial donation regarding Dr. Stephen Dey. Motion to give a donation of \$500.00 to the Horse park of NJ, made by R. Bruins. Motion approved.

MCBOA committees form was released for sign –ups.

**Old Business-**

Discussion on forming a resolution to name the Agriculture Building after Ted Narazanik. Discussion about the August picnic.

Motion to Adjourn made by N. McKittrick. Motion approved.

Minutes respectively submitted by Nyna McKittrick.

**Next meeting April 19, 2011 at the Agriculture Building**