
FARMERS KEEP
OUR COUNTY
GREEN



MONMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

4000 Kozloski Rd., Box 5033, Freehold, NJ 07728

Meeting Minutes May 15, 2012

Called Order 7:36 pm

Invocation: Robin Bruins

Attendance:

George Asprocolas, Rieks Bruins, Robin Bruins, Marty Bullock, Pat Butch, Ross Clayton, Gary DeFelice, Patrick DePalma, Dave Holmes, Wickie Hom, Debi Kauffman, Doug Kauffman Diane Larson, John Neyhart, Bill McCormick, Hugh McKittrick, Nyna McKittrick, Bill Potter, Angelo Trapani, Anna Trapani, Bill Sciarappa, Ed Wengryn, Jim Wikoff.

Correspondence-Gloucester County Board of Agriculture asking for support of Santo John Maccherone for a position on the State Board of Agriculture. Three applications for MCBOA scholarships.

Treasures Report read by Ross Clayton. A motion to accept was made by Nyna McKittrick, Bill Potter 2nd.
Approved

Secretary Report Submitted by Nyna McKittrick. A motion to accept was made by Marty Bullock, George Asprocolas 2nd. Approved

REPORTS:

Bill Sciarappa-Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) - The County Budget is being released with some increases. Rain has helped crops including Nursery, vegetables and field crops. Pokeweed, buttercup and cats ear weeds in pastures may be leading to equine illnesses. Two new employees were hired, Diane Larson and John Neyhart, to work part time in the extension office. Agricultural Agents Retreat included information about staffing and hiring in Ag resources. Open Space Pace Sept. 29.

Diane Larson-RCE- The 12th class of Master Gardeners has commenced. Graduation will be in November. A Map of the agriculture tent for the Monmouth County Fair was presented.

Bill Walker- NJ Department of Agriculture-Written Report-JERSEY Grown promotions, Jersey Fresh availability and forecast report resumed its weekly updates; Community Farm Markets and the Department of Health are partnering to certify interested Farmers to be able to receive WIC checks. Jennifer Zeligson has taken the position of Manager of Food Distribution in the Division of Food and Nutrition. FFA Spring Career Development Events took place at Rutgers. Monmouth County Teams did very well. Information regarding requirements needed for horse transportation into the state: a current negative coggins test, and a current signed health certificate.

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ) are sponsoring three regional meetings for landowners on June 4, June 6, and June 14 to discuss leasing experiences, resources, and opportunities.

Ed Wengryn Farm Bureau- Legislators returned to session. Bills of interest: Ban on horsemeat for human consumption, Forestry on state land's bill, Banning gestation crates for pigs, prescribed burning, and the farmland assessment bill.

Hugh McKittrick- State Board of Agriculture- They are spending a lot of time on the Rutgers budget regarding extension and its workforce. This has been ongoing since last November. They are still waiting for a complete numbers. A letter is being sent to the Board of Governors of the College, and the College's president as a last effort before legal action is initiated. Farmland assessment bill is in committee and has changed its requirements over the years. The Department is not after shutting horse auctions down. Coggins tests are required along with the paper records to be in compliance. The state board is trying to get compliance of the Animal Waste Management Plan, which is in effect now. State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) – comments from counties regarding SADC leadership. A suggestion of listening sessions throughout the state to hear comments should be established.

Marty Bullock- Farm Bureau- FB gave a donation to the Horse Park of NJ. Discussion on how to get more horse related entities to become FB members.

Anna Trapani- Fair - Ten ads have been sold for the give-away bags that are distributed at the fair.

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New Business-

Debi Kauffman- Tri-county cooperative auction market - 609.448.0193 is now open on M/W/F 5:30. 1. Annual membership is \$250 after May 1st. \$150 for Membership fee \$100 for clean up or 1 day of service. Members are allowed to sell and use fork lift. New member do not pay for clean up fee for the first year of membership. The Tri-County Cooperative Board of Directors meets on the second Monday of each month following direct sales in the Coop office.

Bill Sciarappa requested a financial contribution towards the North East Association of County Agriculture Agents meeting which will be held in 2013. A motion to donate \$100.00 in 2012 and \$1000.00 in 2013 was made by Jim

Wikoff, Angelo Trapani 2nd. Approved. Robin Bruins will write a letter to all county boards to notify them of our pledge and ask for their cooperation with this event.

Agriculture Leadership Program- Two applicants asked for scholarships if they are chosen for the new class. Nyna McKittrick a county board member and Michael Infanti a Resource specialist from NRCS were the two applicants.

A discussion over sponsorship levels of past applicants ensued. A motion was made by Marty Bullock to sponsor the first year of the scholarship for Nyna McKittrick in the amount of \$1500.00, Jim Wikoff 2nd. Approved.

A motion was made to sponsor Michael Infanti for \$500.00 for 2012 with the contingency that he becomes a member of the MCBOA and meets the requirements to be a member in good standing and be accepted into the program. Robin Bruins 2nd. Approved. Robin Bruins will write a letter to Mr. Infanti outlining the Board's decision.

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture Scholarship applications were approved for the following applicants: Karla Mertins who will be attending Delaware Valley college, Anthony Santoriello who will be attending Centenary college, and Curtis McKittrick currently attending Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

Old Business- The Open Space Pace at Freehold Raceway Park sponsorships are available. The Board had pledged \$500.00 for a ½ page ad, and \$1000.00 for a banner located in the well of the race center.

County Agricultural Development Board position was filled by J. David Holmes.

Motion to Adjourn: Bill Potter, Robin Bruins 2nd. Approved