

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture
Minutes
March 18, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Angelo Trapani at 7:35 PM. Bill Potter lead the prayer.

Randy Peck moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Seconded by Ross Clayton, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Gary DeFelice reported a balance as of 3/18/2014 of \$9473.34. Bill Potter moved to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Dave Holmes and carried.

Correspondance

Tom Arnone, Freeholder – thank you note for the dinner and \$100 donation.

Cathy Nicola and Ryck Suydam – thank you note for the dinner invitation

East Coast Beer Co. - Spent Brewers Grain offer

Committee Reports

Direct Marketing

George Asprocolas will be the delegate, Angelo Trapani will be the alternate.

Marty Bullock moved to donate \$100 to Direct Marketing. Dave Holmes seconded the motion which passed.

Young Farmers and Ranchers

Marty Bullock moved to donate \$250 to the general fund of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Association. Seconded by Anna Tranpani, the motion was approved.

Farm Bureau

Ed Wengryn expressed his gratitude for the dinner invitation to our annual dinner. Currently, the budget is being discussed. \$1 million will be restored to the Rutgers budget. Bills presented include: Potential ban on invasive plants for sale and pesticide training for application around bees. Pesticide certification may consist of continuing education rather than tests every five years.

Mr. LaRue was invited to attend our meeting during a phone conversation. He may have contacted us due to confusion on the part of the Monmouth County Freeholders lawyer who thought that our board was part of Farm Bureau.

Ed Wengryn will get a list so that board members can make phone calls to Farm Bureau members who have not renewed their membership.

Department of Agriculture

Bill Walker reviewed the success of the NJ State Ag Convention and FFA Week. The Soil Erosion Standard is now online.

Monmouth County Cooperative Extension

Bill Sciarappa informed us that his Secretary Madge Quince passed away after serving our county for ten years. He reported that the Ocean County Agent search will focus on the hiring of an Environmental Agent. The Ocean/Atlantic agent will also cover Monmouth County, though this was not formally approved.

Soil temperature has averaged ten degrees below normal. The office will be measuring beneficial microbial activity during the next month. Seed Sterilization has begun.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Doug Kauffman reported that a \$400,000 program will be initiated Friday. Call the office for more information.

4-H

Monmouth County hosted the South Jersey Teen Conference. 1300 teens participated in this community program. Contact the office if you are interested in the Science of Soil Summit at Rutgers. High School Sophomores from urban areas from the top 20% of their class may participate in a Summer Science Project. Apply at the office.

FFA

Jena Pinhas thanked us for inviting FFA members to our annual dinner. Upcoming events include the FFA Gift Auction April 5, 2014 at Hope Fire Co. at 5:30 and the Ag Expo this Friday through Sunday.

John Neyhart reported on the Horticulture Expo. He stressed that Ag Education is not just FFA, but involves curriculum and supervised occupational experiences.

Board of Ag

Marty Bullock informed us that the Board will meet next week. Major issues are ranked: 1. Farmland Preservation 2. GMOs 3. Locally grown definition 4. Micro enterprise

Women's Committee

Anna Trapani had no report

USDA

Livestock producers should keep good records. Check out the 2014 Farm Bill Fact Sheet.

Board of Managers

The 2013 Annual Report will be adopted. The Board of Managers is looking into the actions that should be taken when people retire. Examples of this issue are Rich Obal and the

Hunterdon Ag Agent. The Board of Managers are supposed to meet with Gerald Harvey, President of the Board of Governors. NJ AES needs to recognize the Board of Managers as the #1 advocacy group.

Old Business

None

New Business

Fair

Tri-County and Tractor Supply may help supply produce for the FFA Farm Stand. Anna Trapani will send a letter out to the ten farmers who sponsored the bags last year, requesting their financial support in 2014. The 1200 bags cost \$1.38 each. She will forward the letter to John Neyhart. Robin Bruins moved that we order 1500 bags. The motion which was seconded by Bill Potter, was approved.

Scholarships

Anna Trapani moved that the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture Scholarship Fund be awarded in the form of grants to students studying agriculture and veterinarian science and related studies in a post- secondary education. Doug Kauffman seconded the motion which was approved.

250 Blue Claw tickets can be purchased as a fundraiser.

Clean up day for the Coop is April 11 and 12.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gary DeFelice and seconded by Bill Potter. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Bruins