

FARMERS KEEP  
OUR COUNTY  
GREEN

MONMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE  
4000 Kozloski Rd., Box 5033, Freehold, NJ 07728

## Meeting Minutes November 20, 2012

Called Order 7:45 pm

### Attendance:

Diane Larson, Ed Wengryn, Bill Sciarappa, Meg Whitehouse, Jim Wikoff, Anna Trapani, Angelo Trapani, Nyna McKittrick, Doug Kauffman, Debi Kauffman, Gary Defelice, Ross Clayton, Robin Bruins, Rieks Bruins

Minutes for Septembers meeting was passed with a corrected of the date for the stake holders meeting change from the 12th to the 3rd.

Minutes for Octobers meeting were passed.

Correspondence--Thank you from Mr Michael. Infanti, for the scholarship.

Treasures Report read by: Gary DeFelice motion to accept by J. Wikoff, Ann Trapani 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved

### Reports:

Bill Sciarappa RCE- Most of the soy bean crops were in before the storm hit along with most of the common crops in the fields. Had calls about a lot of Greenhouse damage from the winds. Most damage came from winds blowing trees down onto things. Ag communities did much better than the Shore communities. Freehold office was closed for a week due to the storm. Fishing and Aqua Culture took a big hit from the storm, Shellfish is suffering the hardest. Budget is still in review at this point. Two 4-H staff members will be leaving in 2013, Kate Everett is relocating and Terry Hansen will be retiring. Best wishes to both staff members.

Bill Walker, NJDA- With the onset of Hurricane Sandy the Dept. staffed a Center and set up a web page to give information to resident and farmers. On the page were pet friendly hotels, shelters, and information for farmers impacted by the storm. Farmland Preservation Milestone has reached a major point of 200,000 acres. There are 23 Ag landmarks now on Highway Signage Program, Secretary Fisher and Deputy Transportation commissioner Mrozek took time out to visit a local farm on the list. Congratulations to Bill Walker of the Division of Marking and Development and Linda Walker State Board of Agriculture Secretary, were honored at the Burlington County Bd of Ag dinner meeting with a Distinguished Servied Award for their commitment to Agriculture.

Ed Wengryn Farm Bureau- Convention went well, a new president was set in place at the convention. Ryke Sydham is President of the Farm Bureau Steve Jany is the VP and things will be business as usual. Things that are being talked about are the farm bill and ag minim wage.

Pat Butch Board of Manager- meeting was held on oct 23. meeting started with a presentation from sussex county agent Stephen Komar on Challenges & Opportunities Facing NJ Agriculture. Pat feels that the Board of Managers are starting see the light and things are moving in good direction.

Diane Larson Master Gardeners Graduation was postponed due to the Hurricane and has been rescheduled to january 21,2013. A lot of calls have come into the office about salt water flooding on plants. How to repair the damage to the broken and cracks in ornaments are some of the other questions that have been coming through the office.

Meg Whitehouse 4-H Things are Going well in the 4-H Clubs.

New Business- Stake holders meeting has been changed to **January 15,2013 5:30pm in Freehold**. Please make a note of the change. Topics are including the replacement of Rich Obal and Kate Evertt, please make it a point to make it to the meeting. We need your support.

Old Business- Letter to support care of the animals at the Long Street Farm at the Homdel park. Robin will follow up on this and send the letter.

Bill Sciarappa showed a short clip on the Freehold Open Space Pace, very well put together.

Dave Klem is running for Northern candidate. next year need a fruit grower.