

MONMOUTH COUNTY
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Joseph McCarthy
Chairman



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Minutes for a Regular Meeting of the
MONMOUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 7:32 PM
Freeholders' Room, Hall of Records
One East Main Street, Freehold, New Jersey

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Bullock, Buscaglia, Butch, Clayton, DeFelice, Grbelja, Holmes, McCarthy, Potter, Sciarappa
Staff: Beekman, Brockwell, Honigfeld
Representatives: John Jacoby (Colts Neck), Gruzlovic (SADC)
Public: Stephen Deady, Edward Eastman III, Lynn Engler, Mark Engler, John Gabinelli, Joan Harper, Roland Kane, George King, Mariellen King, Monica LaRue, Rick LaRue, Paul Meli, Dot, Meli, Lori Moreno, Mark Ringwald, John Schilling, Wendy Schilling, Linda Sevenent, Jim Sorrells, Jean Sorrells, Joseph Van Den Bogart, Suzanne Wiedman, Jim Wikoff, Maryann Wikoff

MINUTES:

Approval of April 2014 Regular Minutes: Mr. Bullock made a motion to approve the draft minutes. Mr. DeFelice seconded the motion that was approved by voice vote.

Approval of April 2014 Executive Minutes: Mr. Potter made a motion to approve the draft minutes. Mr. Bullock approved the motion that was approved by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

The SADC sent us a letter congratulating Monmouth County on preserving its 200th farm. There is a new mediation handbook available.

REGULAR REPORTS:

- A. Chairman: No Report.
- B. State: No Report.
- C. Staff: All future MCADB meetings are likely to be held in the Freeholders' meeting room because of its better audio and recoding system.
- D. Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Dr. Sciarappa reported on better weather the in last month, the approval of a replacement secretary (Dorie Grimes passed away), a department head meeting, and the water managers appointment process
- E. Municipal Representatives: No reports.



OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Monmouth County Master Plan Agricultural and Economic Development Working Group** Mrs. Brockwell updated the Board on the county’s current effort to revise its master plan and invited members to attend as well as notify potential stakeholders about an upcoming series of working group meetings related to agricultural and economic development. She also mentioned a grant application that the county submitted to fund a Grown in Monmouth marketing initiative. Ms. Grbelja made further comments on this agenda item and promoted the Panhandle Regional Study. She asked staff to send members a link to or copy of the document.
- **Discussion on Update MCADB Bylaws**
Ms. Honigfeld noted that staff has begun a review of the MCADB bylaws. Aside from incorporating a Freeholder resolution on attendance a few years ago, the bylaws have not changed in 30 years. Staff recommends that they be revised to reference the most current legislation and correct any outdated items. Staff is seeking assistance from interested members to assist in preparing the initial draft that will be circulated to the larger group.
- **Hearing to Create a Municipally Approved Farmland Preservation Program (Block 1117 p/o Lots 30.01 and 31.01 Middletown Township)**
Mr. DeFelice made a motion to approve the William Kohl LLP petition to enter the 8-year program. Ms. Butch seconded the motion that members adopted by roll call vote. Mr. Potter abstained. Once the township has the second reading of its ordinance, staff will obtain signatures and forward the agreement and supporting materials to the SADC for its approval.
- **Division of Premises Request (B 299, L 114 and 115 Marlboro Township; B 4.01 L 11.01, B 5 L 24, B 12 L 12.03 Manalapan Township)**
Ms. Honigfeld showed some photographs of Killdee Farm and summarized the request to divide the easement into two pieces, one east of Route 9 and one west of Route 9. Jim Wikoff spoke to the Board and answered questions. There is a road stand on the east side of Route 9 (the home farm). Jim’s children are farming with him at present but his siblings are not. Mr. Wikoff is the longtime manager of his family’s farm and would like to own a portion in fee in his own name. Mr. Bullock made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion that was approved by roll call vote. Mr. Potter abstained.

RIGHT TO FARM ISSUES:

- **Status Reports** – Staff updated the board on pending SSAMP applications and Right to Farm matters.
- **SSAMP Hearing 1 (Block 50, Lot 6.07 – Upper Freehold):**
Monica LaRue testified and showed a Power Point presentation (marked in June as Exhibit A-1a through A1h. Purchased farm in 2003, raising beef cattle, cutting firewood, sawing own timber for fencing and building materials. 90% woods converted to 90% pasture.
Upper Freehold Township issued a summons claiming that the newer portion of the driveway was in violation of the side property line setback. Ms. LaRue discussed their progress with selling and slaughtering the cattle they raised on the property. She also expressed her intention to breed the cattle. Additionally, she presented information about a proposed horse barn and indoor arena as well plans to expand into pig farming. Soil testing has been conducted and plans to Lime the fields are underway.

Jean Sorrells testified that she likes the LaRues’ beef a lot.

Mark Engler, a neighbor, spoke against the application in regards to burning and erosion problems and provided photos from April 30th. (Marked as exhibits O1 –O4).

Joan Harper testified that she has been trying to help the LaRue's. She is an experienced pig and cattle farmer that is downsizing.

Readdress- LaRue's spoke about burn permit and putting notices in neighbors' mail boxes.

Board packet entered as Exhibit B1

The board and applicant held discussion and questions about the application. The applicant's provided responses.

The board determined it was necessary to make motions on an item specific basis. Item 1 on the application was split into 1a and 1b.

Ms. Butch made a motion that the LaRues' (Item 1b) pasture management currently complies with generally accepted management practices with the added recommendation that the owners explore irrigation and water containment on the farm. Ms. Grbelja seconded the motion. Despite 3 no votes, the motion carried and will be memorialized as resolution 2014-05-03.

Ms. Grbelja made a motion that the LaRues' (Item 1a) terrain management did not comply with generally accepted management practices because the landowners accelerated their woodland management plan. Ms. Butch seconded the motion which was adopted by roll call vote and will be memorialized as resolution 2014-05-04.

Mr. DeFelice made a motion regarding equipment storage and farm work areas. Ms. Butch seconded the motion. After some discussion and a plea by the LaRues for the Board to consider the Raub case, the board tabled the motion in order to review the Curzi v. Raub case.

Ms. Butch made a motion that the horse trails and maintenance roads on the farm conform to generally accepted management practices as long as the DEP Asphalt Millings guidelines are followed. Mr. DeFelice seconded the motion. The motion did not carry.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Monica LaRue requested a copy of the SADC Mediation Handbook.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Buscaglia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 PM.