

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, June 3, 2014, 7:33 PM
Freeholders' Meeting Room, Hall of Records
One East Main Street, Freehold, New Jersey

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Bullock, Buscaglia, Butch, Clayton, DeFelice, Foster, Grbelja, McCarthy, Potter, Sciarappa
Staff: Beekman, Brockwell, Honigfeld
Representatives: Gruzlovic (SADC)
Public: Stephen Deady, Monica LaRue, Rick LaRue, Jim Mahedy, Terrie Mahedy, Lori Moreno, Harriet Yorey(sp?)

MINUTES:

No action.

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

REGULAR REPORTS:

- A. Chairman: No Report.
- B. State: No Report.
- C. Staff: Staff attended the 2-day Preserving America's Farmland conference in Hershey, PA. Attendees from 18 states discussed an array of preservation techniques and programs, the relationship to agricultural viability and economic development and stewardship. The county convened the Master Plan Agricultural and Economic Development Working Group on May 28th and received excellent input. The next meeting will be held July 17th in the late afternoon.
There is an upcoming Monmouth County Greentable on June 17th.
The SADC approved the division of premises application for Killdee Farm.
The SADC declined to support Holland Greenhouses' proposal for the Rue farm. The committee was concerned about extent of cut and fill needed for the greenhouses. The decision process was not handled very transparently. The Den Hollender case clearly influenced the outcome. Ms. Honigfeld is worried about the implications for other more cutting edge agricultural operations, especially those that demand a lot of infrastructure.



On a related note, the SADC staff is doing field work to investigate impacts of hoop houses on soil and visited 3 farms in Monmouth County.

- D. Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Dr. Sciarappa reported on the hiring of a new secretary, and an offer made for a new Ocean County environmental agent.
- E. Municipal Representatives: No reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

RIGHT TO FARM ISSUES:

- **Status Reports:** Staff has received two SSAMP applications, one for a beginning Christmas tree farm in Freehold Township and one for a beginning nursery operation in Wall Township.
- **Memorialization of SSAMP Resolutions Regarding Items 1a and 1b (Block 50, Lot 6.07 UFT):** Ms. Grbelja made a motion to memorialize resolution 2014-05-04 pertaining to Item 1a of the LaRues' SSAMP application. Ms. Butch seconded the motion that was approved by roll call vote.

Ms. Grbelja made a motion to memorialize resolution 2014-05-03 pertaining to Item 1b of the LaRues' SSAMP application. Mr. DeFelice seconded the motion that was approved by roll call vote.

- **Continuation of SSAMP Hearing (Block 50, Lot 6.07 – Upper Freehold):** The hearing resumed with the board considering evidence that the LaRues met the commercial farm income threshold for 2013-2014. Ms. Butch made a motion that the LaRues met the income minimum. Ms. Grbelja seconded the motion which was adopted by roll call vote and will be memorialized as Resolution 2014-06-01.

Staff asked to enter a copy of the LaRues' PowerPoint presentation from May as Exhibit A1. The applicant suggested marking each page and Counsel complied.

Monica LaRue testified and showed a video from 2011 (entered as Exhibit A2)

Mr. DeFelice made a motion that trailer parking and the storage of equipment on the farm met generally accepted management practices. Mr. Potter seconded the motion. As worded, the motion did not carry.

Ms. Grbelja reworded the motion to note that whereas trailer parking and the storage of equipment are generally accepted farm practices, in the LaRues' case there is an insufficient buffer to the neighboring property. Mr. Bullock seconded the motion which was adopted by roll call vote and will be memorialized as Resolution 2014-06-02.

Mr. DeFelice made a motion regarding trails and maintenance roads that are generally accepted as long as in compliance with NJ DEP guidelines regarding millings and recycled asphalt pavement. Ms. Butch seconded the motion which was adopted by roll call vote and will be memorialized as Resolution 2014-06-03.

Ms. Butch made a motion that leaf mulch permitting is in the jurisdiction of the Monmouth County Solid Waste Department and NJ DEP. Mr. Bullock seconded the motion which was adopted by roll call vote and will be memorialized as Resolution 2014-06-04. The board also suggested the use of core aeration when applying leaf mulch to steep slopes to ensure that the land is not further disturbed and cause more erosion problems.

Ms. Butch made a motion that the board's review of the beef cattle operation would be premature since no specific information as to the beef cattle practices was part of the materials submitted to the board. Ms. Grbelja seconded the motion which was adopted by roll call vote and will be memorialized as Resolution 2014-06-05.

Mr. Potter made a motion that the saw mill on the farm, which processes lumber from the property, is an accepted management practice. Mr. DeFelice seconded the motion. Mr. Foster asked to see a photograph before voting so he could get a sense of the scale. The motion was adopted by roll call vote and will be memorialized as Resolution 2014-06-06.

Mr. Bullock made a motion that using lumber milled on the farm for farm buildings and structures is an accepted management practice. Mr. DeFelice seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by roll call vote and will be memorialized as Resolution 2014-06-07.

Mr. Potter made a motion about the use of lighting on the farm, which is consistent with standard management practices, however must be in compliance with municipal ordinances for lighting installation. No conflict with local ordinances is seen at this time. Mr. Buscaglia seconded the motion which was adopted by roll call vote and will be memorialized as Resolution 2014-06-08.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Gruzlovic provided a response regarding one of the board's questions during the staff report and reminded the board that the Jansen decision can be appealed to the appellate division of the superior court.

Monica LaRue thanked the board for moving the meeting into a room with a microphone system.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Potter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Buscaglia seconded the motion, and following voice vote the meeting ended at 9:44 PM.