

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture
March 15, 2016
Minutes

In attendance: George Asprocolas, Robin Bruins, Marty Bullock, Pat Butch, Bill Carney, Ross Clayton, Dale Cruzan, Gary DeFelice, Bruce Ekland, Kristin Hock, William H. McCormack, Randy Peck, Bill Sciarappa, Angelo Trapani, Anna Trapani, Ed Wengryn, Meg Whitehouse, and Jim Wikoff.

This regular meeting of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture was held at the Monmouth County Agriculture Building at 4000 Kozloski Road in Freehold, NJ. President, Pat Butch called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Jim Wykoff moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting after corrections were made. Seconded by Ross Clayton, this motion was approved.

Robin Bruins moved to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. This motion was approved.

Reports

RCE

Bill Sciarappa – 3/15/16

ADMINISTRATION

1. RU-SEBS/Cook College – Kathleen Howell said Director Larry Katz has approved the movement forward of an additional Ag Agent in Monmouth County.
2. Department Chair Dan Kluchinski is working on a job description partially based on BOA leadership input during our county veg meeting with Freeholder Burry, Administrator Burke, support from Freeholder Arnone. The ARMA strategic plan is a major factor in the shaping of this new position.
3. 4H has passed the deadline for the lateral transfer process and advertised the 4H position to begin an interview process.

4. As an Advisory Committee Member to the RU Snyder Research and education Center, we examined and approved various R & D projects for the farm and discussed administrative issues.

AGRICULTURAL

1. The Central Jersey meeting on Feb. 26 was packed with over 150. Great friends, food and presentations including Ag secretary Fisher and FB President Ryck Suydam. Pesticide credits, new crops and IPM were key technical issues in addition to legislative ones.
2. The Turf and Ornamental session was also packed at the Battleground. Bill Hlubik was assisted by Ag staff Vivian Quinn, Joanne Bujalski and MG's.
3. I spoke at the Blueberry open House to 150 blueberry growers on soil health. They roundly cheered my presentation and encouraged our Blueberry Working Group to steer research in this important direction. Thus, we will have a Blueberry faculty meeting at Chatsworth this Friday on this proposal.
4. The NJ Soybean Council approved my proposal for examining soil health in corn-soybean rotations for \$ 4,500. In 2016.
5. I submitted enormous amounts of paperwork including– RU Survey of Methods, RU Impact/Outcome, a NACAA publication, an ASHS abstract on RSL Lettuce, a ISHS manuscript on soil health, new security forms, expense accounts for a ½ dozen ag meetings, a NJDEP proposal for Living Shorelines in Shark River, 40 soil tests, 8 new farmers or farm market interests, NACAA Awards, AAANJ Planning ideas, Aeroponic plans and problems, etc. WHEW!

FFA

Joanna Ricci and Shaun Wright reported that the Allentown Chapter had a busy week celebrating National FFA Week visiting Leslie Applegate's grave and having Theme Days. Helping with the Hope Fire House Fish Fry, FFA Gift Auction and Spaghetti Dinner were other events.

Ag Development Board

Gary DeFelice reported that a Farm Animal Sanctuary and educational facility is being reviewed.

FSA

Anna Trapani that a recruiting event will be held March 24, 2016 at Rutgers. Applicants must apply in person for entry level jobs.

NJ Board of Agriculture

Angelo Trapani reported on new bee regulations and the celebration of National Ag Day.

State FFA

May 25, 2016 an FFA Career Day will be conducted.

NJ Farm Bureau

The state is currently on budget break. Upcoming legislation will be: paid sick leave, state hourly wage minimum and open space funding. We were urged to reach out to Senator Beck and Thompson on these topics.

Women's Committee

Anna Trapani reported that two projects are being conducted Ag in the Classroom and Most Peas to the Table Contest.

Tri-County

George Asprocolas informed us that the Annual Clean-up will be held April 16, 2016. The Annual Meeting was held February 27, 2016.

NJ Ag Statistics

Bruce Ekland presented information on the five year census and the Ag Resource Management survey.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee has revised the form which is available on line and was sent to all county FFA chapters and the 4-H office. Vivian will contact Pat Butch

when she receives each scholarship application. Rieks Bruins was thanked for his contribution in revising this form.

Fair Committee met March 15, 2016 at 6:30 PM. The Monmouth County Parks System has requested that we operated out of the first tent along the fence next to the entrance of the fair. FFA Chapters will again sell produce in the same tent that we will man. Dale Cruzan requested \$200 "seed" money to purchase cut flowers for the first day of the fair. This motion carried.

Annual Dinner Committee reported a successful dinner. The Swanekamp family was honored as Distinguished Service Award recipients. FFA chapters were recognized for outstanding entertainment. A discussion of satisfaction with the dining room used this year was held.

Bylaws Committee reported that two lawyers researched our status and both concurred that the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture is not a quasi-governmental organization, but rather an independent organization.

New Business

- September Freeholders Luncheon
- Monmouth Conservation Foundation
- Conservation Rally in Trenton next week

George Asprocolas moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Randy Peck, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Bruins Secretary