

MINUTES OF THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SEPTEMBER 12, 1983

The September meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Arthur R. Brown at 9:30 a.m. at the Health and Agriculture Building, Trenton, New Jersey.

Notice of this meeting was forwarded to the Secretary of State, newspapers of record, and posted as required. It was declared that adequate notice was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Call of the membership roll indicated the following:

Members Present

Arthur R. Brown, Jr., Chairman
Kenton Inglis (Rep. Joseph Branco)
Frank Bartolf
Charles Pratschler
Richard Leithmann
James Shissias
Robert Scro (Rep. Comm. Hughey)
John Traino
Robert Hanna
David J. Burns, (Rep. Dr. Neiswand)
Samuel R. Race, Secretary

Members Absent

Kenneth J. Roehrich
Lewis Donaldson

Associate Members and Others Present

Richard D. Chumney, NJDA
Peggy McNeill, NJACD
Dick Long, ASCS
David Friedman, Ocean SCD
Dominick Cassetta, Cape-Atlantic SCD
Robert Baumley, NJDA
Howard Thurman, DOT
J. Peter Anderson, Dept. of Health
Lloyd R. Casey, U.S. Forest Service
Duane Copley, Warren SCD
Russell Myers, DEP
George Pierson, Forestry, DEP
James Sadley, NJDA
Juan Carlile, NJDA
Dan Shinder, NJDA
Sue Butch, NJDA

Minutes of Previous Meeting -

It was moved by Frank Bartolf, seconded by Mr. Shissias and passed that the minutes of the July meeting be approved as mailed.

Announcements -

It was announced that area forester Otto Kunkle had died recently. A motion was made by Mr. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Pratschler and passed that a resolution in honor of Mr. Kunkle be forwarded to his family.

Unfinished Business

1. Reports of Northeast Region and National Conferences -

Mrs. McNeill reported that the recent Northeast Region NACD meeting held at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania was very well attended by New Jersey delegates and that the event was very interesting and worthwhile. Mr. Race reported on the NACD leadership meeting held in Traverse City, Michigan. Conducted for State Association presidents and State Conservation Agency leadership this meeting was well attended by representatives from most of the states throughout the nation and provided an excellent opportunity to review national priorities and matters of current importance. Mrs. McNeill also attended this conference.

2. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act -

a. Quarterly and Cumulative Report - Workload summaries from districts throughout the State for the last quarter of fiscal 1983 and cumulative figures for the entire fiscal year were reviewed. For the last three months of fiscal 1983, there were 630 applications received for projects encompassing 4,133 acres. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

b. Appeal from Ocean SCD Action, Great Adventure - Mr. Race announced that a hearing on this appeal has been held by Mr. Romano, Hearing Officer for the Department of Agriculture. He advised that Mr. Romano has not completed his review of the appeal but will make his recommendations at the next meeting of the Committee. At issue is the determination by the Ocean District that several land disturbances, each of which is less than 5,000 square feet, when submitted as one application, are subject to the requirement of an erosion control plan.

c. Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission - Pursuant to a request by the Meadowlands Commission, a meeting was held at the Meadowlands offices to review the requirements of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act as they relate to Meadowland Development Commission projects. Chairman Brown and Commissioner Renna were present at this meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Race and officials of the Bergen and H.E.P. Districts. As a result, the Meadowlands Commission has agreed to condition all of its development approvals upon certification by a local conservation district of a plan for soil erosion and sediment control. Following review of the various approval authorities, a procedural agreement will be developed between the Committee, the two districts, and the Commission.

d. Outcome - Burlington SCD Embezzlement Case - A report from the Office of the Attorney General indicates that the former Burlington District Clerk has entered a plea of guilty with respect to the charge of embezzlement of over \$26,000 from District funds. Sentencing has been set for September 23. Mr. Traino indicated that substantial changes have been made in the fiscal procedures utilized by the Burlington District to prevent a recurrence of such loss. He indicated that most of the loss will be covered by a \$25,000 surety bond held by the District. It was agreed that details regarding the outcome of this case and the revised procedures adopted by the Burlington District be summarized and sent to all districts for their information.

e. Engineering Training Needs Survey - Mr. Race explained that a training needs survey has been prepared by Committee engineer Lee Holt and sent to districts for their response. Upon receipt of comments, a training program will be proposed and brought to the Committee for consideration and approval.

f. Draft Outputs - Chapter 251 Study Project - Mr. Race indicated that draft copies of a policy and procedures manual have been completed and forwarded to DEP as final outputs for this project funded in part by a grant from EPA. Messrs. Baumley and Shinder reviewed the content of these documents briefly with members of the Committee. Additional copies of the document will be prepared and distributed to districts for comment.

Following considerable discussion, it was agreed that a special committee of district personnel be established to assist with detailed review of these outputs and to help develop final modifications for Committee consideration. Mr. Race explained that this work has been in progress for quite some time and will provide the basis for more uniform interpretation and implementation of Chapter 251 throughout the State. Assistance in this work was volunteered from the Ocean, Cape-Atlantic, and Warren Districts representatives of whom were present at this meeting. It was agreed that this matter

should be given high priority.

g. District Requests for Interpretative Guidelines - Mr. Race indicated that numerous requests have been received from districts seeking interpretations, clarifications and other guidance needed for uniform implementation of the Act.

Some questions being asked may require actual amendments to the Act or promulgation of rules and standards of administrative procedure which is authorized under the Act.

Mr. Race indicated that at a meeting of district managers scheduled for later in the month the problem issues will be identified and that districts will be asked to propose workable solutions to the problems suitable for state committee adoption.

It was agreed the special committee which will assist with the policy manual also be utilized to help generate appropriate outputs.

h. Interaction with Pinelands Commission - Mr. Race reported that subsequent to a meeting held with the Pinelands Commission a letter has been received from the assistant director describing their understanding of how problems have been or will be resolved regarding soil stabilization. Suggested plant materials will be tested for suitability in the pinelands environment and added to SSCC and Commission standards where needed and procedural problems will be resolved through improved coordination and communication.

Mr. Race said copies of this letter were sent to all districts in the pinelands with a request for response if there was disagreement with the statements in the letter. No comments have been received.

i. Fee Schedule Modification Requests - Mr. Race reported that a fee schedule modification request has been received from the Camden SCD. Mr. Sadley reported that preliminary review showed need for additional information which is being developed by the district.

It was also reported that although preliminary approval was granted to the Warren SCD subject to submission of additional documentation, nothing has been received.

j. Trout Water Policy - At the previous meeting a policy statement outlining special considerations for development projects which impact trout production and maintenance waters was adopted subject to comments to be submitted no later than August 1, 1983. No comments were received from districts and only a few minor word change suggestions were received from D.E.P. No further action was taken.

3. Forestry Assistance -

Pursuant to action taken at the previous meeting Mr. Russell Myers, Director of Parks and Forestry, DEP was invited and present to review recent changes in the DEP program of assistance to woodland owners.

Mr. Myers indicated that cutbacks in State funding forced the reduction in the program. He noted that a revolving fund may be established which could facilitate assistance to owners of small wood lots who cannot afford private consultants. These funds may be available to hire forestry personnel.

Mr. Lloyd Casey, representing the U.S. Forest Service was present and when asked what impact federal funding had on the program, he indicated the federal contribution has not been reduced. He said his agency has assured funding equivalent to the 1978 base level and that the decision to reduce the program was not a result of federal actions or influence.

Committee members expressed substantial concern regarding the loss of forestry assistance and urged that the program be reinstated.

4. Budget Situation -

a. State - Mr. Brown reviewed actions taken to secure administration support for a supplemental appropriations. He has made contact with the governors counsel and budget officials. He expressed hope that some funding may be reinstated by way of a supplemental appropriations bill.

b. Federal - Mr. Inglis noted that final budget figures have not been received but anticipates funding for technical assistance will be reduced from the previous year because of targeting and distribution formula changes.

Mr. Hart said the ASCS administrative budget remains adequate but ACP funding will also be impacted by the targeting process and non targeted areas may be reduced.

He also reported that requests will be made to Secretary Block for drought disaster designation for the entire State.

5. Farmland Preservation Program - Conservation Cost Sharing -

Mr. Race reported that a task force as authorized by the Committee is being established and will meet on September 29 to propose a state cost share program. Eligible practices and procedural arrangements will be developed for review by districts and cooperating agencies.

6. Conservation Tillage Conference -

Flyers describing this program were distributed. Committee staff have been working with the coordinating group and have secured the use of the Trenton Armory at no cost. Original arrangements would have resulted in substantial rental, janitorial and insurance costs.

7. Supervisor Appointments -

Nominations for supervisor positions in the Salem District submitted too late for the July meeting were presented for consideration. It was moved by Mr. Pratschler, seconded by Mr. Hanna and approved to appoint Messrs Ivan Garrison and William Brooks, Jr. to three year terms effective July 1, 1983.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Grants to Districts Policy -

Copies of policy regarding allocation of state grant funds were reviewed. It was moved by Mr. Pratschler, seconded by Mr. Leithmann and passed to continue this policy, copy of which is attached.

2. Targeting, USDA Programs -

Mr. Inglis reported that four counties in North Jersey has been authorized as a target area and \$100,000 from federal targeting funds will be allocated to the area for increased technical assistance. The counties are Hunterdon, Somerset, Sussex and Warren.

He noted that an application has been submitted for the south Jersey area but no approval has been indicated.

It was agreed that a coordinated effort involving all cooperating agencies will be required to achieve the goals of soil loss reduction in the target area. It was suggested that the Extension Service should play a key role by promoting soil erosion control goals at county educational meetings. It was also suggested that the target districts should also target the worst problems within the district to achieve the greatest soil loss reductions and that the economics of soil erosion control should provide a basis for promotion.

It was recommended that the State Soil Conservation Committee and the local districts adopt policies and initiate appropriate actions at State and local levels to provide leadership and assurance of success in achieving soil loss reduction goals. It was moved by Mr. Bartolf, seconded by Mr. Pratschler and passed to support these actions.

Mr. Inglis reviewed a new accomplishment reporting mechanism known as the Conservation Reporting and Evaluation System which will relate agency expenditures to soil losses prevented.

3. P.L. 566 -

Mr. Inglis advised that his agency is reviewing all major watersheds in the State for project action feasibility. He expressed concern that this watershed protection and Flood Prevention Program may have limited future application if proposed changes on agricultural benefits are adopted. Current proposals would require 20% of the benefits to be related to agriculture.

4. Water Resources Legislation -

Mr. Race reported that legislation is being proposed which would authorize federal funding through EPA for implementation of non point source pollution controls. This legislation is being developed under the leadership of congressman James Howard. The committee expressed support for such legislation.

5. Coordination of Computer Facilities -

Mr. Race reported that a committee of district and agency personnel has been established to coordinate computer facilities. The Committee will develop information on existing equipment and programs and recommendations for coordination among the districts.

6. Other -

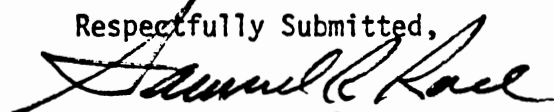
It was moved by Mr. Bartolf, seconded by Mr. Scro and passed that a preliminary agenda be mailed to members with the minutes prior to the meeting.

Next Meeting -

It was moved by Mr. Traino, seconded by Mr. Pratschler and passed to hold the next meeting on November 21 in conjunction with the Joint Annual Conference. If a special meeting is needed in October the date of October 17 was suggested.

Unless otherwise indicated all actions were taken by unanimous vote of members in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted,



Samuel R. Race, Secretary

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
FOURTH QUARTER 1983 SUMMARY REPORT
OF SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLANS
BY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
APRIL 1, 1983 TO JUNE 30, 1983

District	Number of					Fees Received	Area of Projects in Acres	Number of		SCD Staff Hours to Implement Ch. 251
	Applic. Rec'd	Cert. Issued	Condit. Cert.	Cert. by Expir.	Denials			Reports of Compliance	Site Insp. Performed	
Bergen	56	41	0	0	0	16,480	192	16	674	1,885
Burlington	48	53	1	0	0	16,671	457	3	375	1,061
Camden	25	27	1	0	0	5,766	126	18	674	694
Cape-Atlantic	42	43	0	0	2	17,535	196	34	659	1,035
Cumberland	14	14	0	0	0	2,510	86	0	102	240
Freehold	111	96	0	0	2	56,423	847	79	1,895	2,615
Gloucester	20	22	0	0	0	4,340	170	8	191	180
H E P	75	75	0	0	0	26,670	554	29	1,256	1,107
Hunterdon	12	16	5	0	0	1,690	56	0	26	252
Mercer	27	21	0	0	0	7,040	249	3	149	451
Morris	47	40	1	0	0	15,270	203	146	456	1,841
Ocean	60	61	0	0	0	28,332	231	27	648	1,975
Salem	2	2	0	0	0	230	3	0	64	128
Somerset - Union	59	59	0	0	0	9,505	518	40	1,093	1,254
Sussex	15	9	2	0	3	4,446	77	3	143	369
Warren	17	14	2	0	0	2,790	168	7	110	513
TOTALS 4th Qtr	630	593	12	0	7	215,698	4,133	413	8,515	15,600
TOTALS 3rd Qtr	557	507	10	0	33	179,591	3,457	277	6,811	14,222
TOTALS 2nd Qtr	463	468	8	0	7	135,674	2,600	450	7,126	13,272
TOTALS 1st Qtr	527	471	7	0	5	150,360	2,953	400	6,386	12,765

These figures should not be utilized for comparative program cost analysis.

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 STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
 CUMULATIVE SUMMARY REPORT
 SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLANS
 BY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
 JULY 1, 1982 TO JUNE 30, 1983

District	Number of					Fees Received	Area of Projects in Acres	Number of		* SCD Staff Hours to Implement Ch. 251
	Applic. Rec.'d	Cert. Issued	Condit. Cert.	Cert. by Expir.	Denials			Reports of Compliance	Site Insp. Performed	
Bergen	234	201	2	0	0	63,890	891	70	1,985	5,505
Burlington	164	163	11	0	0	61,873	1,239	28	1,289	4,182
Camden	100	86	1	0	0	20,973	355	53	2,852	2,996
Cape-Atlantic	180	179	0	0	7	75,375	1,106	105	2,408	3,695
Cumberland	64	64	0	0	0	8,785	192	32	378	780
Freehold	352	301	0	0	9	147,801	2,845	207	6,800	9,065
Gloucester	67	71	0	0	0	13,110	481	44	582	621
H E P	254	250	2	0	1	69,870	1,220	215	3,625	3,951
Hunterdon	33	38	7	0	0	7,000	340	1	58	875
Mercer	64	61	2	0	0	14,590	596	43	626	1,959
Morris	178	160	1	0	7	58,065	806	518	1,694	6,230
Ocean	207	211	0	0	22	92,516	997	49	2,034	6,967
Salem	13	10	1	0	0	3,420	145	9	217	674
Somerset - Union	190	185	2	0	0	27,036	1,193	133	3,350	5,092
Sussex	41	25	6	0	6	13,269	387	17	581	1,382
Warren	36	34	2	0	0	3,750	350	16	359	1,885
TOTALS	2,177	2,039	37	0	52	681,323	13,143	1,540	28,838	55,859

*This information is a workload indicator only. It should not be utilized for comparative program cost analysis.

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
CUMULATIVE SUMMARY REPORT
SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLANS
BY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
JANUARY 1, 1976 TO JUNE 30, 1983

District	Number of					Fees Received	Area of Projects in Acres	Number of		SCD Staff Hours to Implement Ch. 251
	Applic. Rec'd	Cert. Issued	Condit. Cert.	Cert. by Expir.	Denials			Reports of Compliance	Site Insp. Performed	
Bergen	1,947	1,902	39	0	60	424,113	8,699	1,116	11,672	20,773
Burlington	1,029	1,009	185	0	7	290,280	11,709	299	4,571	25,230
Camden	913	809	7	0	4	194,289	9,094	471	11,166	17,034
Cape-Atlantic	1,370	1,245	3	0	37	304,042	9,830	855	10,248	12,887
Cumberland	309	303	16	0	4	47,190	3,418	44	2,279	4,541
Freehold	2,546	2,348	8	1	58	616,639	27,437	1,218	23,681	38,171
Gloucester	456	438	0	3	1	114,448	5,784	254	4,892	3,444
H E P	1,518	1,465	45	0	77	339,599	6,748	685	11,014	17,352
Hunterdon	240	262	52	0	3	81,367	4,976	4	278	4,070
Mercer	395	361	29	0	1	63,155	4,407	178	2,811	7,111
Morris	1,249	1,095	6	1	23	258,688	12,806	1,607	7,636	24,746
Ocean	1,099	1,054	8	0	22	349,937	7,010	282	5,236	20,513
Salem	78	73	2	0	0	18,115	1,135	37	1,378	3,242
Somerset - Union	1,408	1,357	141	0	24	218,343	13,050	647	9,777	19,357
Sussex	306	184	90	0	41	79,651	3,130	109	2,850	6,328
Warren	183	136	31	0	12	56,109	4,607	94	1,125	5,852
TOTALS	15,046	14,041	662	5	374	3,455,965	133,840	7,900	110,614	230,651

*This information is a workload indicator only. It should not be utilized for comparative program cost analysis.

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 STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
 CUMULATIVE SUMMARY REPORT BY FISCAL YEAR
 OF SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLANS
 STATEWIDE FROM JANUARY 1, 1976 TO JUNE 30, 1983

Fiscal Year	Number of					Fees Received	Area of Projects In Acres	Number of		* SCD Staff Hours to Implement Ch. 251
	Applic. Rec.'d	Cert. Issued	Condit. Cert.	Cert. by Expir.	Denials			Reports of Compliance	Site Insp. Performed	
1976	659	499	91	1	58	111,698	7,580	0	--	--
1977	1,677	1,421	153	0	86	298,418	15,347	192	--	--
1978	2,042	1,900	87	1	37	398,794	20,044	435	--	--
1979	2,009	1,919	97	3	40	448,757	20,592	1,215	14,252	42,539
1980	2,029	1,969	95	0	21	460,641	20,233	1,478	18,392	42,574
1981	2,320	2,172	55	0	34	496,792	19,906	1,493	21,768	40,685
1982	2,133	2,122	47	0	46	559,542	16,995	1,547	27,364	48,994
1983	2,177	2,039	37	0	52	681,323	13,143	1,540	28,838	55,859
TOTALS	15,046	14,041	662	5	374	3,455,965	133,840	7,900	110,614	230,651

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*This information is a workload indicator only. It should not be utilized for comparative program cost analysis.

RESOLUTION
IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF OTTO KUNKLE

WHEREAS, Otto Kunkle served for many years at State and local levels to promote the cause of conservation and wise land management, and

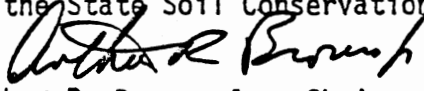
WHEREAS, his dedication to and support for soil, water, forest and related conservation programs were outstanding and resulted in improved woodland management and production, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Committee are deeply saddened by his death.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State Soil Conservation Committee does hereby recognize and commend the career and accomplishments of Otto Kunkle which have helped to make New Jersey a better place to live.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Committee and also presented to his family.

By the State Soil Conservation Committee


Arthur R. Brown, Jr., Chairman


Samuel R. Race, Secretary

November 10, 1983

District Grant Allocation Policy
State Soil Conservation Committee
adopted September 12, 1983

Justification for State grants to soil conservation districts is based upon need for district level professional staffing to accomplish conservation program objectives. The requirement for local matching funds ensures further justification through the generation of county government funds to share program costs with local government.

To achieve the intent of the program, to equitably distribute State grant funds, and to provide long term direction to the program, the following criteria are adopted:

1. Districts may request funds in an amount not exceeding the amount of local matching funds available for the grant year. All state funds must be matched by local funds.

2. Highest priority for allocation of funds will be to support district professional personnel. (Personnel with management or complex technical responsibility involving substantial independent decision making duties). / Allocations may also be made to districts where no professional personnel are employed but shall not exceed 35% of median (total grant funds ÷ 16). Where part time professional staff is employed the grant may be increased from the no staff maximum (35%) by a ratio equivalent to the portion of professional staff time compared to the normal work week. Example - Professional staff time 15 hours/week = 37.5% of 40 hour week. 37.5% of the difference between the no staff maximum and full allocation be added to the no staff maximum.)

3. Priority for allocation of funds will also be given to districts where the local matching funds are generated by county government in at least an equivalent amount. Allocations to districts where no county government funding support is generated shall not exceed 85% of median. Where less than equivalent county government funds are generated, this amount (85%) may be increased on a matching basis up to the median level. In all cases locally generated funds must be provided to match State funds.

4. Allocations to districts where professional staffing and local public funding exist, as described in 2 and 3 above, may be funded at the median of the funds remaining after original median level requests are approved, subject to analysis of need, anticipated benefit and other criteria which may be adopted by the Committee.

(Example - For illustration purposes only)

Total funds available \$146,440 ÷ 16 = original median	=	\$ 9,152.50
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1 District with no professional personnel, 35% of median	=	\$ 3,204.00
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3 Districts with professional staff but no county funds at 85% each (\$7,779.00)	=	\$ 23,337.00
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3 Districts requesting \$9,152.50 original median and funded at that level	=	\$ 27,457.50
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7 District requests funded at	SUB TOTAL	\$ 53,998.50
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Remainder \$92,441.50 ÷ 9 districts equals remainder median of \$10,271.28

9 Districts with requests above original median funded at level of request up to \$10,271.28	=	\$ 92,441.50
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TOTAL GRANTS	\$146,440.00
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POLICY CONCERNING DISTRICT REVIEW AND INSPECTION OF PROJECTS

IMPACTING ON TROUT MAINTENANCE AND TROUT PRODUCTION WATERS

One of the basic intents of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act is to protect water quality in streams and lakes throughout the State. In implementing the Act, districts will provide particular attention in identifying projects occurring within their jurisdiction which may adversely impact waters that are classified for trout maintenance or trout production. The N.J.D.E.P., Division of Water Resources will assist districts by providing a list of the trout waters in each district with copies of U.S.G.S. topographic maps on which the indicated trout waters are delineated and by identifying the most critical times of the year for these trout waters. Precautionary measures and procedures for reviewing and inspecting these projects are identified in the "Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual for Implementing the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act."

Preliminary Site Review

The district plan reviewer will be responsible for performing a preliminary site review of all projects. Such review will identify projects which may adversely affect water quality in trout maintenance and trout production waters as identified on the topographic maps or in the N.J.D.E.P., Division of Water Resources list that is based on the N.J.D.E.P. Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife report, "Classification of New Jersey Waters as Related to Their Suitability for Trout".

Detailed Plan Review

The district plan reviewer will review all proposed soil erosion and sediment control practices to assure conformance with the "Standards." Appropriate practices should be installed to effectively retain sediment on the site in order to minimize soil loss and to prevent possible detrimental effects on trout and other aquatic organisms.

Inspection

District site inspectors should schedule inspections to assure that the certified soil erosion and sediment control plan is being implemented properly. Priority for scheduling site inspections should be based upon the potential for off site delivery of sediment. Off site and adjacent areas will also be inspected to assure that they are adequately protected. Inspection of projects impacting on sensitive trout waters may warrant an accelerated inspection schedule, especially during the most critical times of the year for trout waters protection.

State Soil Conservation Committee
Adopted July 11, 1983

MINUTES OF THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NOVEMBER 21, 1983

The November meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Richard Chumney for Chairman Arthur R. Brown at 1:40 p.m. at Caesars Boardwalk Regency Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Notice of this meeting was forwarded to the Secretary of State, newspapers of record, and posted as required. It was declared that adequate notice was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Call of the membership roll indicated the following:

Members Present

Arthur R. Brown, Jr., Chairman
Joseph Branco
Charles Pratschler
James Shissias
George Horzempa (Rep. Comm. Hughey)
John Traino
Robert Hanna (Rep. Dr. Neiswand)
Kenneth Roehrich
Lewis Donaldson
Samuel R. Race, Secretary

Members Absent

Frank Bartolf
Richard Leithmann
John Gerwig

Associate Members and Others Present

Richard Chumney, NJDA
Michael McGuinness, N.J. Builders Assn.
Peggy McNeill, NJACD
G.T. Munkittrick, SCS
Ron Sheay, Bureau of Forestry
George Pierson, Bureau of Forestry
William Chamberlain, NACD
Lee Holt, SSCC/SCS
Rich Sherry, SCS
G. Mills Bockoven, Morris SCD
Kent Hardmeyer, SCS
Dominick Cassetta, Cape-Atlantic SCD
Jim Butler, Bergen SCD
Robyn Roberts, Bergen SCD
Dan Galletts, Cape-Atlantic SCD
Joe Lomax, Cape-Atlantic SCD
Jerome Hytry, SCS
Rudy Carnegie, Cumberland SCD
James Brazel, Bergen SCD
James Traxinger, Bergen SCD
Wendell Kirkham, SCS
William Roach, Somerset-Union SCD
Barbara Maus, SCS
Eleanor Wilson, SCS

Carl Montana, SCS
Ray Dean, HEP SCD
Guy Shane, HEP SCD
Charles Monahan, DOT
Kenton Inglis, SCS
Mack Wilson, SCS
Carl Eby, SCS
Tom Drewes, SCS
Donald Fortunatio, SCS
Wayne Wilcox, Freehold SCD
Robert Scro, DEP
Malcolm Crooks, NACD
Phyllis Anderson, Sussex SCD
obie Ashford, SCS
Carl Klotz, Morris SCD
James Vreeland, Morris SCD
Gary Domian, SCS
William Schauer, Freehold SCD
Juan Carlile, NJDA
James Sadley, NJDA
Dan Shinder, NJDA
Sue Butch, NJDA

Minutes of Previous Meeting - It was moved by Mr. Roehrich, seconded by Mr. Pratschler and passed that the minutes of the September meeting be approved as mailed.

Unfinished Business

1. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act -

a. Quarterly Report - A summary report of district actions on erosion control plans was distributed and reviewed. With 684 applications received, this quarter showed a substantial increase over previous quarters and was the highest since the law was enacted. Over 4,300 acres were included in project applications. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

b. DOT Erosion Control Standards - Mr. Monahan reviewed recent interaction between DOT and the Committee. An implementation plan is being prepared which will include promulgation of DOT standards. A joint staff meeting has been set for December 7, 1983.

c. Coordination with Hackensack Meadowlands Commission - Mr. Race reported that development of a procedural agreement is in process.

(At this point Mr. Brown arrived and assumed the Chairmanship of the meeting)

d. Progress on Guidelines, Rules and Procedures - Mr. Race reviewed progress on the development of guidelines, rules and procedures. A summary of results of the special committee of district personnel which met on November 14 was distributed and a copy is attached to these minutes. Various districts were assigned the tasks of developing language which would serve as definitions, guidelines or rules suitable for adoption by the State Committee and promulgation for statewide use. It became apparent at this meeting that conflicting procedures are utilized by the districts and that a consensus could not initially be achieved on several of the issues.

e. Proposal for district Personnel Training - Mr. Race reported that Lee Holt, Erosion Control Engineer, has surveyed district needs for training and is developing a proposed training program.

Mr. Holt reviewed the responses he has received from district personnel and responded to questions. A five day program is proposed for mid or late winter. An outline of the proposal will be available for Committee review in December.

Mr. Race also reported that the annual short course on erosion control for engineers presented by Cook College in cooperation with the Committee, Districts and SCS will be held again this year. Modifications are proposed with the primary sponsorship being the State Committee and the local districts with the training staff provided by SCS. A brochure is being prepared and will be distributed by the Committee to local districts for their use in encouraging local engineering firms to participate.

f. Fee Schedule Modification Requests - Mr. Sadley reviewed the status of fee schedule modification requests and actions as follows.

- 1) Warren SCD - supporting data requested to justify amended fee schedule has not been submitted. This schedule was conditionally approved at the July 11 meeting with the submission of additional documentation as a binding condition.
- 2) Camden SCD - Request received for increase now under review.
- 3) Hunterdon SCD - Request received and under review.
- 4) Ocean SCD - Request received and under review. Response to initial staff analysis received only two days prior to the meeting date allowing insufficient time to develop staff recommendation.

No action was taken on the above requests.

g. Status of Appeal by Great Adventure - The findings of fact and recommendations from the Department hearing officer have not been received but are anticipated for consideration at the next meeting.

h. Payment of Engineering Services - A bill for 6 months from SCS for 50% of the costs for Lee Holts services was reviewed. Mr. Race reported that while original verbal indications showed that Holt's services would be over subscribed, written commitments from districts and actual usage experience shows a short-fall. He noted that this short-fall must be covered by the State and must come from the "grants to districts" account.

The matter of engineering assistance from the SCS was discussed. Mr. Branco said a limited amount of such assistance will continue to be available to each district. Priority for this assistance in most cases will be directed to agricultural work.

2. Navesink Watershed -

Mr. Branco reported that a survey of problems has been conducted and a preliminary report is due in latter part of December. Meetings with potential sponsors are anticipated in January 1984.

Mr. Horzempa reviewed DEP concerns for bacterial contamination of the river which impairs use for shellfishing. He referred to the State Non Point Pollution Control Plan which has designated local districts as management agencies for control of Agricultural related sources of pollution, and urged cooperation in securing project help from SCS.

Freehold district personnel indicated that letters have been sent to farmers in the watershed advising of problems and offering assistance. This will analyze the problem closely when the preliminary report is received. They expressed some concern about the conclusions reached about the sources of the pollution.

3. Conservation Tillage Conference -

To be held November 29 at the Trenton Artillery Armory, this conference is sponsored by all members of the conservation agency family. Messrs. Carlile and Hardmeyer reviewed the program and urged attendance.

4. Farmland Preservation Program -

Mr. Chumney reviewed the current Status of this program. Some rules have been adopted by the SADC.

Messrs Race and Shinder reviewed progress on the State Cost Share program. A special task force authorized by the Committee has met and made basic recommendations. A draft outline has been prepared for distribution and comment.

5. Conservation Exhibit, N.J.E.A. Convention -

Messrs Carlile and Cassetta reviewed this project. Cosponsored by the Committee and the Association of Districts, a booth and exhibit was manned at the Teachers Convention by Mr. Cassetta. He reported an excellent response and recommended continuation in future years.

6. National Soil and Water Conservation Awards Program -

Mr. Race reviewed this national program designed to recognize outstanding conservation farmers. Acting as state coordinator for the program on behalf of the Committee and the State Association he noted that short lead time had not allowed a comprehensive contest with broad sponsorship this year. The winner of the conservation farmer award in the State Association Annual Awards program was entered.

He suggested sponsorship be expanded in the coming year.

7. SCS Targeting -

Mr. Branco reported that four counties in Northwest New Jersey are approved and \$100,000 of additional funding has been committed for accelerated erosion control work for 1984. Progress reports will be measured in tons of soil loss prevented.

He noted that approval of this targeting proposal returns the State SCS budget allocation to the equivalent of the previous year however, if new targeted areas are not approved the overall budget allocation may diminish.

Mr. Crooks suggested that priorities for targeting should be set by each state and not on a federal basis. This would prevent funding losses to the individual states.

8. Federal Legislation, Non Point Source Pollution Control -

Mr. Race reported that legislation has been proposed in the Congress which would authorize funding to states for control of non point pollution. Comments in support of such legislation were made by Mr. Crooks, Horzempa and Mr. Branco.

It was agreed that the Committee should work toward necessary interagency coordination which would be needed to receive funding for demonstration programs, which may provide cost sharing to landowners.

9. Annual Conference Program -

The overall agenda for the two day Annual Conference was reviewed. Those attending the committee meeting were urged to participate.

10. Educational Programs -

Mr. Hanna reported on the status and progress in several areas. Essay Contest Brochures printed by the State Committee were distributed.

New Business

1. Budget Situation-Status -

Mr. Brown reported that recent program reevaluation within the Department has resulted in the allocation of an additional \$30,000 to the Soil Conservation program with \$20,000 to go to clerical support and \$10,000 for grants to districts. He noted that he is still seeking support for the supplemental appropriation bill for \$166,000 which has been introduced as Assembly Bill 3946 by Assemblywoman Costa and Assemblyman Pankok.

Members of the Committee and others attending joined in thanking Chairman Brown for his strong support for soil conservation.

2. Allocation of State Support to Districts -

Mr. Pratschler expressed concern about the manner in which clerical support is allocated among the several districts. He proposed that rather than distributing the total funds on an equal basis that some formula should be developed which would provide more support for those districts which have heavier workloads related to agriculture and other programs which are not supported by fees. He noted that where Ch. 251 workloads are relatively small very little fee support is generated while workloads are higher for conservation work primarily related to agriculture. He urged that the Department of Agriculture allocate additional funding to such districts.

Mr. Race suggested that consideration be given to a base level of funding for each district with additional funds allocated on formula factors which would reflect non fee related work.

It was agreed that the proposal be explored and that a recommendation be presented

for consideration at a subsequent meeting. There was no opposition expressed by Committee members.

4. Proposal to Designate Delaware River as Wild & Scenic -

Mr. Race reported an congressional proposal to designate a portion of the Delaware River in Hunterdon County as Wild and Scenic. Such designation could impact the availability of water for agriculture in that segment of the River.

While no action was taken, Committee members suggested that the matter be tracked for subsequent action.

5. Urban Conservation Committee -

Mr. Roehrich reported on actions taken by this national NACD Committee on which he serves as a member. The committee thrust has been directed to assist urban area districts with conservation programs and to generate urban population support for conservation program funding.

6. 50th Anniversary of Soil Conservation -

Mr. Race reported that a national coordinated effort is underway to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the soil conservation program.

It was agreed that a coordinated effort also be initiated in the state. Mr. Brown appointed Charles Pratschler to chair a committee to develop a program. Additional members will include representatives of cooperating agencies and committee personnel to be selected later.

7. Other -

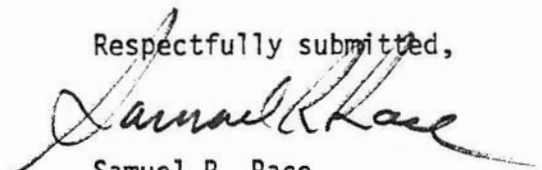
Mr. Brown reported that a request for emergency drought assistance for twelve counties has been forwarded to USDA Secretary Block.

Mr. Race mentioned a national conference on trickle irrigation to be held in South Carolina on December 11-13 by the State Conservation Commission.

Next Meeting - It was agreed to hold the next meeting on December 12, 1983.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel R. Race

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
FIRST QUARTER 1984 SUMMARY REPORT
OF SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLANS
BY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
JULY 1, 1983 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1983

District	Number of					Fees Received	Area of Projects in Acres	Number of		SCD Staff Hours* to Implement Ch. 251
	Applic. Rec'd	Cert. Issued	Condit. Cert.	Cert. by Expir.	Denials			Reports of Compliance	Site Insp. Performed	
Bergen	70	68	0	0	2	26,645	259	17	357	1,888
Burlington	58	57	3	0	0	27,170	278	9	573	1,667
Camden	43	38	2	0	0	9,990	220	18	785	841
Cape-Atlantic	49	40	0	0	0	14,660	183	34	642	1,207
Cumberland	26	21	0	0	5	3,350	89	0	182	300
Freehold	125	106	0	0	4	76,600	1050	59	1,730	2,240
Gloucester	24	20	0	0	0	6,142	278	12	186	172
H E P	63	63	0	0	0	13,310	187	45	930	975
Hunterdon	7	6	0	0	0	1,680	79	0	36	178
Mercer	22	27	0	0	0	7,985	290	4	207	548
Morris	46	56	0	0	0	17,305	538	257	497	1,321
Ocean	56	53	0	0	1	27,264	271	11	536	2,123
Salem	1	4	0	0	0	100	1	0	48	118
Somerset - Union	73	61	1	0	3	12,959	458	48	780	1,359
Sussex	12	7	2	0	2	4,825	125	4	158	423
Warren	9	10	1	0	0	2,285	37	7	144	515
TOTALS	684	637	9	0	17	\$252,670	4,343	525	7,791	15,875

*This information is a workload indicator only. It should not be utilized for comparative program cost analysis.

A3374



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

C.N. 330

TRENTON, N. J. 08625

ARTHUR R. BROWN, JR., SECRETARY

DIVISION OF RURAL RESOURCES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
ARTHUR R. BROWN, JR., CHAIRMAN
ROBERT E. HUGHEY
GRANT F. WALTON
JOHN L. GERWIG
JAMES A. SHISSIAS
PLATER CAMPBELL
FRANK BARTOLF
RICHARD LEITHMANN
CHARLES PRATSCHLER
KENNETH J. ROEHRICH
JOHN R. TRAINO

SAMUEL R. RACE, SECRETARY
TELEPHONE: 609-292-5540

SUMMARY - Meeting of Special Committee
Chapter 251 Rules, Policies and Procedures

A meeting was held on November 14 to review issues, problems areas and possible solutions related to implementation of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act. The purpose of the meeting was to review language prepared by assigned districts to determine suitability for adoption by the State Committee. However, it was apparent that implementation procedures varied and agreement on an acceptable procedure was initially not achieved. It was agreed that ultimate resolution of most of the issues should be accomplished through promulgation of rules through the Administrative Procedures process. A policy and procedure manual will also be developed to facilitate district implementation. In addition interagency cooperative agreements will be established or refined where needed by the State Soil Conservation Committee which will identify state agency and district roles and provide a mechanism for securing cooperative agency assistance to resolve implementation problems.

Of the 13 issues identified in the letter of October 21, and assigned to districts for analysis, seven issues were discussed. A consensus was eventually achieved for resolution of some problem issues discussed. Based upon the discussion and solutions proposed several districts were reassigned the task of developing refined language suitable for State Soil Conservation Committee adoption. A meeting date is proposed for December 16 to review revised draft language and to continue review on the other issues not covered at the first meeting. The following is a list of issues assigned to districts for the December meeting. Outputs are requested prior to the meeting to facilitate duplication and coordination.

Issue # 1 Subdivisions-(Where no land disturbance is proposed) assignment
Ocean SCD-develop language suitable for administrative rule.

Issue # 2 Projects with approvals granted prior to 1976
assignment Ocean SCD - develop language suitable for administrative rule.

Issue # 3 Reports of Compliance

assignment Somerset - Union SCD - develop draft Model Report of compliance, identify what the district needs for DCA cooperative agreement.

Issue # 4 Incomplete Application - agreement not reached -

assignment Burlington SCD - develop draft language to clarify when application is complete. State Committee staff to obtain comment from representatives of the State Builders Association and Engineer associations.

Issue # 5 - Exempt Activities - Agriculture/Horticulture

assignment - Somerset-Union SCD - further refine language to address forestry.

Issue # 6 Landfills

assignment - Burlington SCD - develop draft language for cooperative agreement with DEP to describe when, how, who, does what.

Issue # 13 Demolitions

assignment - HEP SCD - further refinement of language.

**MINUTES OF THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 11, 1996**

The March meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Mr. George Horzepa, for Chairman Arthur Brown, Jr. at 9:45 a.m. at the Health and Agriculture Building in Trenton, New Jersey.

Mr. Horzepa stated that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq. adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by giving written notice of the time, date, location and to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting. At least 48 hours in advance this notice has been posted on the third floor, Health and Agriculture Building, John Fitch Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey; mailed to the Newark Star Ledger, Camden Courier Post and filed with the Office of the Secretary of State.

Call of the membership roll indicated the following:

Members Present

George Horzepa (Rep. Arthur Brown)
Wayne Maresch, NRCS
Peggy McNeill
Joseph Heckman (Rep. Timothy Casey)
Daniel Kluchinski (Rep. Zane Helsel)
Daniel J. Van Abs (Rep. Robert Shinn)
John Traino
James Shissias
Joseph L. Lomax
Matthew Ward
Kenneth Roehrich
Samuel Race, Secretary

Members Absent

Walter Ricker

Associate Members and Others Present

Nancy Wittenberg, NJ Builders Assn.
Jay Walsh, NJDOT
Henry Renelli, NJDOT
Jay Kandle, Gloucester SCD
Cathy Costa, Burlington, SCD
Don Yarus, Burlington, SCD
Victor DeVasto, Gloucester SCD
Tim Fekete, Staff
Ferdows Ali, Staff
Jim Sadley, Staff
Rich Belcher, Staff
Richard L. Palatine, Staff
John Showler, Staff
Colleen Stemme, Staff

Minutes of the January 29, 1996 Meeting:

On motion by Mr. Traino, seconded by Mrs. McNeill the minutes of January 29, 1996 were approved as distributed.

Announcements - Mr. Race reported that Mr. Charles Pratschler has died. He was a former member of the State Committee, Past President of the NJACD, former member of the State Board of Agriculture, a supervisor and past chairman of the Sussex District and long time leader in soil and water conservation and agriculture. It was moved by Mrs. McNeill, seconded by Mr. Traino and approved that recognition and appreciation for the service and leadership of Charles Pratschler be memorialized in a formal resolution to be placed in the official minutes and sent to the Pratschler family. (The resolution is appended to these minutes).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. REVIEW OF NACD ANNUAL MEETING

Mr. Traino and Ms. McNeill reported excellent meeting content. Mr. Lomax reported on the presentation of the initial draft of the Strategic Plan for the Northeast and the ceremonial signing of the revised Mutual Agreement between NRCS, Districts and State Conservation Agencies. He also reviewed policy discussions regarding the new Farm Bill and budget recommendations for federal conservation agencies. Mr. Race reported on conferences with counterpart state conservation agencies and also noted there was very good attendance from New Jersey.

2. REVIEW OF SWCS URBAN CONSERVATION 2000 CONFERENCE

Mr. Race reviewed this Conference held February 26-27 at Seattle Washington. As one of the kickoff speakers, he presented an overview of the evolution of soil erosion control and stormwater management at the state and local levels in the nation. The Conference was sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Society and numerous other groups and was held to develop guidance and uniform national standards. He stated that it is quite apparent that New Jersey's program is more comprehensive than most, if not all, other states with the conservation agencies exercising regulatory control from plan approval through final completion. Messers. Lomax and Roehrich also attended and expressed their views on the Conference. They recommended that NACD reassume leadership in the urban conservation area and that New Jersey consider hosting a national conference to showcase our comprehensive program.

3. SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

- a. **Stafford Township Ordinance** - Mr. Sadley reported that Stafford Township in Ocean County has requested approval of an ordinance to control erosion on disturbances less than 5,000 square feet. Because the Ocean SCD is responsible for all other projects in the township, staff has advised that these controls should be implemented by the District and that a de minimus threshold must be established to exclude minor activities. The township was also advised that development of critical areas, such as those in close proximity to a "blue line" stream or on slopes greater than 10% may be appropriate criteria for application of the smaller site controls. This information was provided for updating and no action was taken.
- b. **Neptune Township** - Progress continues with Neptune Township in Monmouth County to transfer erosion control jurisdiction to the Freehold District, however the Township wants to retain control of "projects by governmental entities". Staff will advise that such projects must be handled the same as private sector projects and will likely be under the Freehold district jurisdiction. Staff is continuing to work with the District and Township to resolve the issue.

- c. **Personnel Training Seminar - March 13-14** - Mr. Sadley reviewed the program for the 7th Annual Conservation Program Personnel Seminar sponsored by the SSCC, NJACD, NJSCD Employees Association and NRCS scheduled for March 13-14 at the Cherry Hill Sheraton Inn. Sessions for management, technical, administrative and clerical staff are planned with erosion control products exhibitors to be present. Members agreed that the program is very comprehensive.

Mr. Birkhead discussed the Watershed Modeling session scheduled for the Seminar which will feature a watershed based stormwater model under development by the SSCC, Camden SCD and DEP. The model utilizing previously collected project data in the watershed, is being provided to enable developers to determine impacts of proposed development in the watershed. The process in many instances may reduce engineering costs for plan development and expedite plan review. Mr. Birkhead stated that DEP officials have tentatively agreed to cooperatively help calibrate the model and accept the process for determining project compliance with DEP permit requirements. An interagency agreement will be developed to clarify the process.

- d. **DOT Program Status** - Mr. Renelli discussed the DOT Design-Build Process, a pilot program for shortening the time frame for design and construction of DOT roadways. The process involves transferring project design responsibility to the construction contractor. The DOT will continue to certify projects and enforce compliance as with other projects. Mr. Walsh reported that the Federal Highway Administration has conducted a review of 15 NJDOT projects and has evaluated the erosion control program as satisfactory. It was also noted that DOT regional offices are being realigned and revised contact information will be provided.

Mr. Race advised that DEP stormwater program staff have requested a meeting to discuss the DOT program. Committee staff will set up such a meeting.

- e. **Policy and Procedures Manual** - Mr. Race reported that copies of the Interim Ch. 251 Administrative Policy and Procedures Manual have been printed and are being distributed to district offices. Copies were distributed to committee members.
- f. **NJBA Conference** - Ms. Wittenberg reported that the New Jersey Builders Association Annual Conference will be held on March 21-22, 1996 in Atlantic City. Staff will participate in a session on stormwater management.

4. **STORMWATER DISCHARGE PROGRAM**

- a. **Summary of Approvals for January-February 1996** - Stormwater discharge authorization requests processed during January and February showed 85 requests received with 93 authorizations issued with \$17,200 in fees received. A copy of the summary is attached to these minutes.

- b. **Proposed Amendments - General Permit** - DEP has published proposed amendments for the Construction General Permit. Changes include eliminating requirements for newspaper publication and notarized application, establishing the operating entity as the responsible agent; and authorizing sites less than 5 acres as eligible projects to request authorization under the permit. Committee members expressed support for these changes.

5. STATE COST SHARE PROGRAM

- a. **New Applications** - Action was taken on 11 applications for State Cost Share funding through the conservation provisions of the Farmland Preservation Program as follows.

County	Name	Purpose	Amount	Approved on Motion by
Atlantic	J. Cappuccio	Irrigation System	\$5,888.00	Lomax/Roehrich
Atlantic	E. Meranshian	Irrigation System	\$8,160.00	Roehrich/McNeill
Atlantic	L. Ingemi	Irrigation System	\$8,800.00	Traino/Lomax
Hunterdon	Schaefer Farm	Irrigation System	\$5,082.50	Roehrich/Lomax
Atlantic	A. Berenato	Irrigation System	\$12,500.00	McNeill/Traino
Atlantic	F. Rizzotte	Land Grading	\$8,000.00	Roehrich/Lomax
Cumberland	F & R Cruzan	Irrigation System	\$11,950.00	McNeill/Ward
Cumberland	R. Czelada	Irrigation System	\$18,842.50	Lomax/Roehrich
Atlantic	P.N & M Macrie	Irrigation System Pending final certification of second eight year program	\$15,104.00	Traino/Lomax
Warren	L. Donaldson	Irrigation System Conditioned upon certification of eight year program	\$20,444.50	Roehrich/Lomax
Warren	S. Ellis	Irrigation System	\$3,420.00	Lomax/Roehrich

Approved project costs are \$276,149.00 with state cost share amounts approved for \$126,351.50

These applications will be forwarded to the SADC with a recommendation for funding approval. Copies will be maintained as part of the minutes of this meeting and kept on file at the office of the Secretary of the Committee.

- b. **Other** - Mr. Race advised that the amount of State Cost Share funds remaining available from dedicated balances in the 1981 and 1989 bond issues is approximately \$7,000. He indicated that the SADC should take action to allocate additional funding for cost sharing for conservation practices. There was a consensus that the SADC be requested to take the necessary actions to provide adequate funds. Rollover balances in the 1981 Bond Fund are immediately available. Funds from the 89 and 92 Bond Funds must be appropriated. Staff will work with Mr. Applegate to provide the necessary balances.

An amendment to the Warren SCD average cost schedule was reviewed. Upon verification of required cooperating agency approvals it was moved by Mr. Traino, seconded by Mr. Roehrich and approved to accept the cost schedule for file and as the basis for cost estimates for projects submitted by the district.

6. DISTRICT LEGAL ASSISTANCE CONCERNS

Mr. Race advised that in addition to the letter from the Freehold District which was reviewed at a previous meeting, several other districts have expressed concern regarding liability exposure and legal representation. He stated that an advisory group is being established to evaluate the earlier amendments sponsored by former Senator Costa and to develop appropriate amendments. It was also noted that there will be a discussion at the Personnel Training Seminar regarding insurance coverage for district liability exposure.

7. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- a. **New Jersey Flower and Garden Show** - Mr. Belcher reported that the Conservation Partnership Display was judged as first place in the educational exhibit category at the Flower and Garden Show held March 1-10 in Somerset, New Jersey. The exhibit was captioned "Protecting Our Streams With Plants" and featured bioengineering stabilization of streams in residential areas. There was a very favorable public response to the exhibit.
- b. **Educational Booklets Available** - A special brochure entitled "Protecting Our Streams With Plants" was printed by the SSCC for the Flower and Garden Show. Copies are available to districts for public distribution. Mr. Belcher also advised that supplies of several other educational booklets are also available.
- c. **Committee Report** - Minutes of the last meeting of The Conservation Partnership Information and Education Committee were distributed. The committee has identified programs and conferences where educational input has been and can be provided. Ms. McNeill stated that the Committee is continuing to develop a more detailed plan of work.

- d. **Envirothon Update** - Mr. Yarus reported that 19 high school teams are registered to participate in the May 18, 1996 Envirothon to be held at Pakim Pond in Lebanon State Forest in Burlington County. He suggested that this rapid program growth may require that regional events may be needed. The Envirothon is sponsored by the Conservation Partnership with additional input from DEP.

8. STATUS, FARM BILL CONSERVATION PROPOSALS

Mr. Race reported that the NJACD has contacted all Members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation urging support for the conservation provisions in S1541 and HR 2854 and opposition to the proposals in HR2542 which would reverse gains made in the recent USDA Reorganization. Mr. Maresch distributed and reviewed a side by side comparison of the Senate and House Bill. It was agreed the conservation provisions should be supported. Mr. Ward stated that some congressmen may be opposed to some of the other provisions of the Farm Bill related to agricultural subsidies.

9. STATUS, MOU WITH SCD, SSCC, USDA

Mr. Race and Mr. Maresch advised that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman has signed the revised Mutual Agreements proposed for each of the N.J. Soil Conservation Districts and the Governor. It was agreed to ask Governor Whitman to sign each of the agreements as quickly as possible.

10. STATUS, AERDI DISTRICT CONSERVATION PLANS REPORT

Mr. Race advised that all reports have now been received from Conservation Districts describing the extent of agricultural lands with and without conservation plans, identifying regulatory constraints to agricultural operations and rural/urban interface problems. Funding support for this project was provided by the SSCC from the Agricultural Economic Recovery Development Initiative (AERDI). Mr. Palatine, who has been compiling these reports, stated that responses show 4,200 farms have conservation plans involving 279,982 acres of land and 5,367 farms involving 534,798 acres do not have conservation plans. He distributed a summary of these reports including a compilation of regulatory constraints to agricultural operations as viewed by district leaders. The information will be further developed into a final report for presentation to the Committee and Department. It is anticipated the data will be utilized in development of strategic plans and for workload analysis.

11. STATUS, URBAN/COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Roehrich reported that a field tour demonstrating the UCAP Program accomplishments is planned for May 13. Congressional representatives and state and local leaders will participate. As agreed at the previous meeting, arrangement are being made for the State Committee to participate and hold its May meeting at an appropriate stop on the tour.

12. STATUS, HEADLANDS FILTER STRIP PROGRAM

A summary report was distributed showing that 27 applications have been approved in the headlands filter strip program which have or will establish 159 acres in grass filter strips in the Upper Cohansey Watershed in Cumberland County. Runoff from 3,800 acres of farmland will be directed through the filter strips to prevent sediment and nutrient runoff and improve water quality.

13. NE REGION PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN

Copies of the initial draft plan were distributed to Committee members. It has also been distributed to the leadership of each state and coordinated comments are needed by April 12. Based upon those comments a review group will develop a second draft by the end of April. It was moved by Mr. Lomax, seconded by Mr. Roehrich and approved to establish a review group jointly with the partners to develop comments.

It was agreed that Rutgers Cooperative Extension should be asked to participate in the development of the plan. A copy will be sent to Zane Helsel

14. DISTRICT OPERATIONS REVIEW

Development of an advisory group to evaluate the Review Process is still pending. The review concept was approved by the Committee at the January meeting.

15. PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATION

A discussion on the proposed Proficiency Certification Program is part of the Personnel Training Seminar on March 14. Arrangements have been made for a representative from the Berks County Soil Conservation District to describe their experiences with the N.I.C.E.T. certification program.

16. CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP - COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ROLE

Mr. Race advised that Dr. Helsel has suggested that a meeting be held in the near future to establish guidance on how Cooperative Extension will work with the Conservation Partnership. Committee members were strongly supportive of this action.

17. STATUS, COASTAL ZONE NPS

Dr. Van Abs reported that final comments are expected soon from EPA and NOAA on the New Jersey proposed NPS plan for the Coastal Zone. He also advised that the State/Federal NPS Coordinating Committee will meet on March 27 to discuss FY97 NPS federal funding and guidance. Funding for New Jersey is expected to be the same as FY96. States will be given greater flexibility in determining use of funds.

Good progress was reported on the North Jersey RC&D projects and Barnegat Bay project.

NEW BUSINESS

1. SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENTS PROCESS

Mr. Race advised that all districts have been notified of supervisor terms expiring on June 30 and other vacancies to be filled. Copies of the Committee Supervisor Appointment Policy and Requirements have been sent to all districts. No nominations have been received as of this meeting.

2. PROPOSAL - USDA GRANTS TO DISTRICTS

As followup to proposals by NRCS to establish grant funding for district operations Mr. Race reviewed a proposal approved by the National Association of State Conservation Agencies. In that proposal, funding established by NRCS would be allocated to each state in proportion to the CO-01 allocation. Funding would be provided to the State Conservation Agency which would reallocate it to each district. A minimum of \$5,000 would go to each district with additional funds allocated on a formula determined by the State Partnership. The purpose would be to strengthen the partnership and increase local level involvement and availability of technical assistance.

3. NACD SPRING LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

It was announced that the NACD Spring Legislative Conference will be held on March 24-26 in Washington, DC. It will include legislative seminar and afford the opportunity to visit with congressional representatives regarding conservation programs. Mr. Lomax presented more detail on the scheduled Conference.

4. PROPOSED AGREEMENT - AGRICULTURAL WELLS-CONTAMINATION SITES

A proposed agreement between the Department of Agriculture and DEP to establish protocol for the potential closure of agricultural wells near contamination sites was distributed for review. It would establish lines of communication and coordination to assure against inappropriate closures. The agreement will also involve partner agencies in the review of proposed well sites such as NRCS and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. It was moved by Mr. Lomax, seconded by Mr. Roehrich and approved to amend the draft to reflect this.

5. "THE LEADER IN YOU - SATELLITE TRAINING PROGRAM

Mr. Maresch announced that a training program entitled "The Leader in You" will be broadcast during 8 sessions during March to June for Conservation Partners at satellite downlink locations. Participation was encouraged.

6. AGENCY AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Heckman announced that several RCE publications are available including the "History of Soil Science" by Dr. Tedrow; tip sheets on Fertilizing the Home Lawns, Vegetable Gardens, Lead in Urban Garden Soil and others.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on April 8, 1996

It was moved by Mr. Roehrich, seconded by Mr. Lomax and approved to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were taken by unanimous vote of the members attending.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel R. Race". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

Samuel R. Race, Secretary