

Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board Meeting
Rt 12 County Complex Building 1 Assembly Room
April 13, 2023 @ 8:00 pm

Members in Attendance:

Dave Bond – Chairman
Bob Hoffman – Vice-Chair
Susan Blew
Bill Bowlby
Alex Hammerstone
Dave Kyle
Forest Locandro
John Perehynys
Marc Phillips

CADB Staff Present:

Katrina Campbell, Esq. County Counsel
Katherine Fullerton, Supervising Planner
Bob Hornby, CADB Administrator
Megan Muehlbauer, NJAES
Shana Taylor – Deputy County
Administrator

This meeting was held in person with respect to Public Health guidelines.

Open Public Meeting Act:

Chairman Dave Bond opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Act:

"This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. Adequate notice has been provided by prominently posting and maintaining so posted throughout the year on the first floor of the County Administration Building, Main St., Flemington, New Jersey a public place reserved for such announcements, and by mailing on or before January 17, 2023, to The Hunterdon Democrat, Star Ledger, The Trenton Times, The Courier News and The Express Times newspapers and TAP Into it newspaper and designated by the Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board to receive such notices, and by filing with the Hunterdon County Clerk a schedule of the times and dates of such meetings."

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Absent: Christian Bench, Liz Schmid & Kevin Milz.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Minutes of the March 9th CADB Meeting** – Susan Blew made a MOTION to approve, Bill Bowlby SECONDED, Christian Bench, Dave Bond ABSTAINED. All in favor by voice vote.

Communications and Administrative Business:

- **CADB Staff Update** – Bob Hornby stated that Readington Township will be auctioning the preserved Saums Farm, the auction will be May 8 – 10th.
- **Active Applications**
 - **Amwell Valley Conservancy** (East and West Amwell Twps.) - Appraisals sent to SADC and are under review.
 - **Barnes Farm** (Kingwood Twp.) –Waiting to start the survey to confirm with landowner’s bank that they will be able to refinance when they preserve

- **Monitoring Update:**

- Kevin is not in attendance but stated earlier that he has monitored 235 farms so far this year.
- Bob has been working with a farm in Delaware Township, they have brought in a lot of wood from outside over the last two years that they are grinding on site, they have also brought in a lot of topsoil. Working with Soil Conservation District. Bob fielded questions from the Board.

State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) Updates:

Bob Hornby read an email on behalf of SADC

- SADC continues to draft a proposed Soil Protection rule. The current, revised proposal includes several changes to expand the ability of all farms to qualify for waivers to go to a 15% or 6-acre, maximum disturbance limit when utilizing a stewardship approach of increased conservation protections in connection with obtaining a waiver. The PowerPoint presentation is posted on the SADC website.
- SADC has a new inhouse attorney, Kristine Walsh, has a B.S. in Agriculture and previously served on the Mercer County CADB.

Chair Comments:

- None at this time

New Business:

- **Special Occasion Events (SOE)** – County Counsel Katrina Campbell gave a detailed overview of the drafted guidance documents provided by SADC. She then fielded questions and comments from the Board.
- Bob Hoffman made a MOTION to request the BOCC delegate authority for Special Occasion Events to the CADB, John Perekhyns SECONDED, All in favor by Voice Vote.

Old Business:

- None at this Time

Right To Farm Matters:

- None at this Time

Public Comment:

- None at this Time

Adjournment:

- MOTION to Adjourn made by John Perekhyns, Alex Hammerstone SECONDED. All in favor at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted:

Bob Hornby, CADB Administrator

Prepared with the assistance of Colleen Runge, Planning Department Clerk