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3 MINUTES OF THE MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
4 MEETING HELD MONDAY JUNE 5, 2017
5 IN THE EXTENSION SERVICE BUILDING
6 930 SPRUCE STREET, TRENTON, N.J.
7 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
8



9 I. CALL TO ORDER

10 Chairman Steve Jany called this meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

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12 II. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

13 Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was given to the Trenton Times,
14 Trentonian, Mercer County Clerk, and posted in the Mercer County Administration Building.
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16 III. ROLL CALL

17 A. Voting Members:

Steve Jany, Chairman – Present	Scott Ellis – Present
Frank D’Amico, Vice-Chairman – Absent	Kelly Mooij – Present
Kristine Walsh - Present	Gary Mount – Present
	Laurie Emde – Present

18 B. Non-Voting Members:

19 Bill Agress/County Planning Board Liaison – Present
20 Meredith Melendez/Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension – Present
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22 C. Others Present:

Dan Pace, MCADB Secretary

23 IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

24 On a motion by Mr. Mount and seconded by Ms. Walsh, the minutes of the March 6, 2017 regular
25 meeting was unanimously approved with Ms. Walsh and Ms. Emde abstaining.
26

27 V. PUBLIC COMMENT

28 None
29

30 VI. CORRESPONDENCE

31 None
32

33 VII. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

34 A. SADC:

- 35 • Mr. Knox commented on:
- 36 ○ Deer fencing: 32 applications conditionally approved – pending legislative
 - 37 appropriation of 50% cost-share funding.
 - 38 ○ FY 2018 Non-Profit Funding Round: Four non-profit organizations applied and had
 - 39 projects approved. Ms. Mooij commented that more outreach was needed to non-
 - 40 profits.
 - 41 ○ Current Mercer County state cost-share funding allocation balance of approximately
 - 42 \$429,000.00 after McNulty and Gaskill are preserved (but before Chowdhury); plus
 - 43 an additional \$1m to be appropriated as a base grant for FY 2017.
 - 44 ○ The SADC is publishing a Guidance Document for applicants to the new Federal
 - 45 Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) cost-share program formally known as the Farm
 - 46 and Ranch Lands Protection Program.

- Quaker Valley Farms (DenHollender) will be back before the State Supreme Court in the fall and the New Jersey Farm Bureau has filed a Friend of the Court brief supporting Quaker Valley.
- Stargate Farms, Monmouth County: Additional ag labor housing request was approved by the Committee after considerable deliberation regarding this equine facility because the amount of production activity was in question.
- Hionis Greenhouses, Hunterdon County, vs. Neighborhood Group: SADC approved staff asking for interlocutory review from the Office of Administrative Law judge.

B. Land Development Activity: None

C. Status of Farmland Preservation Applications:

2016 PIG:

- Gaskill et al on Sawmill Road: As previously mentioned, the applicants are not moving forward with their responsibilities. Mr. Pace sent a letter requesting a status, by today, of the various items the family needs to pursue. The letter also said that the County would begin investigating its option to terminate the contract and recover its costs for the survey and Title work. No status report was received. Board members suggested to advise the family what those costs actually would be.
- McNulty farm in Hopewell: SADC cost-share should be completed this month. The farm will then be auctioned - perhaps as early as this fall – along with at least two and possibly three other farms the county owns or soon will own.

2018 PIG:

- Chowdhury: The owners have signed an agreement to sell, in-fee, to the County this 32-acre targeted farm on Sawmill Road in Hamilton. SADC Greenlight approval has been given and appraisals were sent to the SADC for certification of value for cost-share. Title is clean and survey is almost concluded. Mr. Knox asked if the County would close on the property prior to receiving the State cost-share. Mr. Pace said that would probably be the case as it was for McNulty and other farms purchased in fee by the County.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- PennEast pipeline: There have been no further revisions to the proposed route in Hopewell Township. PennEast formally received Environmental Impact Statement approval from FERC on April 7th. Final approval from FERC and other agencies are still required.
- Monitoring: Last regular visits are on June 7th to Hopewell East. Issues to date requiring return monitoring are:
 - BAPS: Tire dumping
 - Coast Nursey: Probable non-ag use for land development operation based upon their website for “Coast Land Development”.
 - Schoenholtz: Construction debris throughout exception area.
 - Liang: trash
 - Mady: Possible residential use within a trailer on the property.

Radvany: Mr. Pace and Ms. Floyd visited the farm and met with Mr. Radvany. He was found in compliance except for the need to put in writing, as required by the Agreement between himself and the County, his assertion that the landscaping material still on-site belongs to him.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Pace briefly described to Board members several preserved privately owned farms that are currently for sale or have recently been sold.

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XI. OTHER BUSINESS
None

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
None was required.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM. The next scheduled meeting of the MCADB is August 7, 2017 – if needed.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Pace
MCADB, Secretary

Date adopted: *Oct. 2, 2017*

Attachments, if any, are made a part of the permanent record and are filed in the Minute Book, and are located in the Mercer County Planning Division Office. All copies are available upon request.