

**Minutes of the May 28, 2019**  
**Somerset County Agriculture Development Board**  
**Somerset County Administration Building**  
**20 Grove Street, Somerville, NJ**  
**3<sup>rd</sup>. Fl. Freeholder's Meeting Room**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the May 28, 2019 Somerset County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) Meeting began at 8:00 AM at the Somerset County Administration Building, 20 Grove Street, Somerville, NJ in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Freeholder's Conference Room.

**Members in Attendance**

Mark Kirby, Chairman  
W. Peter Staats, Vice Chairman  
J. Johnson, Secretary  
Edward Seidel  
Laura DePrado  
Frank Calo

**Members Absent**

Richard Norz

**Somerset County Staff**

Anthony McCracken, Assistant Director  
Cathy Bunting, Administrative Assistant  
Tom Boccino, SC Park Commission  
Angela Jupin, Deputy County Counsel

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the April 22, 2019 meeting minutes was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and carried.

**There was no public comment.**

**I-1) Somerset County Preservation Plan – Update**

Tony McCracken explained that there would be a June 6, 2019 Steering Committee meeting on June 6, 2019 and that the next public would be held on June 26, 2019.

**I-2) SADC Meeting – Update**

Amy Mandelbaum from the SADC emailed the Board an update of project statuses and events. She was unable to attend the meeting so the Board reviewed the update.

### **I-3) County/State Boards of Agriculture - Update**

**County:** Ed Seidel informed the Board that the Farm Bureau is researching on farming hemp.  
**State:** Mark Kirby informed that Board that Debbie Norz has received her final confirmation from the Senate to serve on the State Board of Agriculture. He stated that she would most likely be sworn in during their reorganization in July.

He also explained that the State Board of Ag continues to push to obtain approval for the other appointments that are waiting for the Governor's signature.

Mr. Kirby also informed the Board that he was informed that the SADC will be releasing a new soil disturbance plan. The Board agreed to watch for more information to become available.

### **I-4) Staff Comments**

There were no staff comments.

### **D-1) Potential Projects**

**Achterman Farm (Hillsborough):** An information sheet and map on the Achterman Farm in Hillsborough was shared with the Board for their review. Mr. McCracken explained that the property is below the minimum acre requirement but that the application would be reviewed when it is received.

### **D-2) Other Business**

Board members asked if there was any update on obtaining a new member for the Board. Mr. McCracken explained that the Freeholder's Office has received resumes and that Walter would follow up for a status update.

### **D-3) Doyle (Hillsborough)**

The Board was informed that the appraisal process is progressing on the Doyle property and that an update would be provided in closed session.

### **D-4) Grande (Branchburg)**

The Board was informed that the Grande Farm has been submitted to the SADC for Green Light approval. All other details were discussed in closed session.

### **D-5) Dorn (Neshanic Station)**

The Board was informed that the Dorn property has been submitted to the SADC for Green Light approval. No other details were available.

#### **D-6) Gund Farm (Franklin)**

Mr. McCracken informed the Board that surveys are currently being done on the Gund property and that he has not gotten an update on the status of them.

Mark Kirby asked if the property owner obtained access to their non-severable exception. Mr. McCracken explained that he provided the owners with information on the SADC's policy on access to exception areas and explained that they should always minimize the impact on the farm.

#### **D-7) Hunter Farms (Montgomery)**

This item was discussed in Closed Session.

#### **D-8) Closed Session**

A motion to enter closed session was made by Laura DePrado and was seconded by Peter Staats. The motion was passed and the Board entered Closed Session.

J. Johnson was not present for any discussions regarding Hunter Farms.

A motion to exit closed session was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Ed Seidel. The motion was passed and the Board returned to open session.

#### **D-9) Results and Actions from Closed Session**

**Doyle:** A motion authorizing staff to send the Doyle appraisals to the SADC once the second is received was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and carried.

**Chubb/Ace:** A motion to approve the drafted resolution authorizing the CADB to cost share for the Chubb/Ace property was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and carried.

**Grande:** Ed Seidel made a motion to allow staff to amend the green light approval request for the Grande Property. Staff will report that the property owners will be removing a portion of the wetlands in the exception area to meet the tillable acre requirements. The motion was seconded by Laura DePrado and the motion was passed and carried.

#### **D-10) Winters/formerly Carden**

Mr. McCracken informed the Board that utility company JCP&L wants to cut across the Winters property to give access to utilities where the property owners requests that they use the existing driveway.

He explained that because JCP&L does not want to use the driveway he had contacted the SADC for more information. The SADC explained that it is possible to put utilities through the preserved land but in order to do so they would need to place an easement over the existing preservation easement and they would review it.

Peter Staats made a motion to recommend that the property owners utilize the existing driveway for utility access and that if JCP& L refuses, any other action be approved by the SADC before any plans begin. The motion was seconded by Laura DePrado and was passed and carried.

**D-11) Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Laura DePrado and was seconded by J. Johnson. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

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J. Johnson  
Secretary/Treasurer