

March 22, 2007 SADC Meeting Highlights

Secretary's Report

With the Jersey Fresh season approaching, the N.J. Department of Agriculture will be reaching out to various supermarket chains to promote Jersey Fresh products. A total of 95 community farmers markets are expected to be in operation this year, an increase over 84 from last year.

Secretary Kuperus noted the 2nd annual Farmland Preservation Summit earlier in the month was well-attended and resulted in good discussions about many issues that will affect the future of the program.

Executive Director's Report

A series of hearings are being held regarding post-Garden State Preservation Trust funding.

Dr. Daniel Rossi who represents Executive Dean Robert M. Goodman of the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences on the SADC, has accepted a position as Executive Director of the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Directors. Executive Dean Goodman has appointed Brian Schilling as his new designee.

A summary of public comments on the proposed new farmland preservation rules has been provided to Committee members. The Process Review Committee will be reconvened to review those comments and consider any changes that may be required to the draft rules in response to those comments.

Ethics

Committee members are required to file financial disclosure statements by May 15th pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 1 (2006) and attend mandatory ethics training in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:13D-21.1 and Executive Order #41 (2005).

County Pinelands 2007 Round

The SADC granted final approval to seven Atlantic County farms under the 2007 County Pinelands Easement Purchase Funding Round. The final approvals were granted for the Carmen and Mary Jane Merlino farm in Mullica Township, the Paul and Nick Macrie farm (County Line Blueberry) in Hammonton, the Mildred Wuillermin farm in Hammonton Town, Variety Farms (Terri Sliwecki) in Mullica Township, the Anthony Merlino farm in Mullica Township, the Anthony J. Berenato farm in Hammonton Town and the Edward Wuillermin, Jr., farm in Hammonton Town.

Policy P-49: Placing Septic Systems Outside Non-Severable Exception Areas

The Committee reviewed a draft policy prompted by requests from county agriculture development boards and landowners regarding whether septic systems can be placed outside of an exception area. The Committee directed staff to clarify issues raised regarding what constitutes a hardship that would permit placement of a septic system outside a non-severable exception area, and return to the Committee for further consideration.

2008 County Easement Purchase Funding Round: Request for Appropriation of Funds

The SADC approved an appropriation request of \$45 million for the 2008 round county easement purchase program, which would leave a balance of \$34-35 million of new Garden State Preservation Trust monies for state and nonprofit acquisitions.