

**Garden State Preservation Trust**  
**May 4, 2011, Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Kenneth Atkinson called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. Executive Director Ralph Siegel read a statement certifying compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and then called the roll. Public members present were: Chairman Atkinson, Michael Murphy, Andrew Buzby, Robert Hughey and Jan Rosenfeld. Ex-officio members present were Agriculture Secretary Douglas Fisher, Amy Cradic (for DEP Commissioner Bob Martin), James Requa (for Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Lori Grifa) and James Petrino (for Treasurer Sidamon-Eristoff.)

**OPENING REMARKS**

Chairman Atkinson welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for making the trip in bad weather. Chairman Atkinson acknowledged the burden of coming to Trenton for a second meeting in four weeks but he said considering the importance of the work being accomplished, "I would have hitch-hiked up here in the rain to be here today."

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2011, BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Siegel noted the official April 6 minutes have already been submitted and approved, having passed the Governor's Veto Period without action. Further, Mr. Siegel noted the appropriations legislation has already been introduced to advance the process of legislative approval of the projects the Board had approved at the April 6 meeting.

Mr. Siegel said today's approval was for the formal minutes that includes the paraphrased transcription of commentary and other meeting detail. These formal minutes would then be kept for the Board's own purposes and posted on the Web site as a more complete record of the April 6 meeting.

Mr. Siegel asked if there were any corrections or clarifications to the formal minutes from the April 6 meeting. There were none.

Moved by Mr. Requa

Seconded by Mr. Murphy

Approved 8-0 by roll call vote.

Mr. Hughey abstained because he was unable to attend the April 6 meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FISCAL REPORT- FARMLAND PRESERVATION**

Mr. Siegel reviewed the State Agriculture Development Committee's recommendation for \$90.6 million for farmland preservation projects for FY2011.

Mr. Siegel said \$69.15 million from the 2009 Farmland Preservation Bond Fund. He noted \$146 million was available but Treasury had authorized the use of only the first half of the authorized funds, \$73 million, with the rest being retained for the next appropriations round.

Mr. Siegel said \$3.85 million would be submitted to the Legislature to fund SADC administration. However, the GSPT's statutory authorization is limited to voting only on projects, not administrative appropriations, so the board members would not vote on that part.

**UNAPPROVED**

In addition, Mr. Siegel said, \$1 million would be reallocated from a cancelled grant in the 2009 Farmland Preservation Bond Fund appropriated two years ago.

Mr. Siegel said cancelled grants and revenue from the sale of fee-simple acquisitions totals \$20.3 million.

Mr. Siegel reviewed the balances of the GSPT Funds and the 2009 Farmland Preservation Bond Fund to show they were adequate to cover cash-flow requirements of these appropriations.

**PRESENTATION OF STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FARMLAND EASEMENT PURCHASE GRANTS  
FOR FY2011**

Chairman Atkinson welcomed SADC Executive Director Susan Payne and her staff to the meeting and invited them to make a presentation to the board to explain their recommendations.

Ms. Payne thanked the board for scheduling the meeting. She introduced planning chief Tim Brill and fiscal officer Bryan Lofberg.

Ms. Payne proceeded with a presentation to explain the SADC's activities. She noted the program recently celebrated the preservation of farm #2,000. She also reviewed the 1,900-acre project to preserve the former Seabrook Farms property in Cumberland County and the recent announcement of a deal to preserve the 1,900-acre Princeton Nurseries property in Mercer and Monmouth counties, with about 900 acres in farmland and the rest in Green Acres. She said it was two years' work to prepare these record deals.

Ms. Payne also announced the acquisition of a 15-acre farm in Passaic County, the first farm to be preserved in that county since the program began in 1983.

Ms. Payne reviewed the SADC's activities in administering the Right-To-Farm program, including setting policies and limits for solar and wind energy production.

Ms. Payne discussed a map showing the loss of 21% of all agricultural land from 1986 to 2007. She said this shows "we have our work cut out for us," and that the program remains as urgent today as when it began. She said 2,011 farms have been preserved totaling 191,500 acres. She said this represents about one quarter of productive farmland in New Jersey, showing preservation has a huge impact on the industry. She made reference to a preservation target of 600,000 acres to secure a permanent place for agriculture in New Jersey.

Ms. Payne said this land has been preserved at a cost of \$1.4 billion, \$938 million of which was funded by the State, about 64% of the total.

Ms. Payne explained the planning-incentive grant rules for the counties requiring comprehensive preservation plans to identify the resources. In exchange for this, the counties qualify for highly flexible block grants to use for projects as they select. She said 17 of 18 counties active in farmland preservation have submitted plans and have had them approved. She said work continues on the plan for the last county, Atlantic. She said these county plans have targeted 3,500 farms totaling 200,000 acres.

Ms. Payne reviewed the recommendation for \$90,569,760 for farmland preservation projects for FY2011, with \$39 million (43% of the funds) to the counties and \$23 million (25% of the funds) to planning-incentive grants at the municipal level.

**UNAPPROVED**

She said this shows it is a grassroots program. She also noted the \$8.8 million in grants for nonprofits, the largest ever.

Ms. Payne said it was a top priority to work diligently with county and municipal partners and with nonprofits to make sure the funds allocated to them are spent in a timely manner on good projects. She said this process includes canceling or retracting unused grants so they can be reallocated to new projects. She explained the recommendation for FY2011 includes \$20 million in funds previously appropriated from the GSPT Trust Fund and \$1 million from the 2007 Bond Fund that are now being reallocated to new projects.

Ms. Payne said each county will get a base grant. These total \$24 million. She said there is another \$15 million in a competitive grant pool the counties may draw from once they have expended their base grants. She said this creates an incentive for the active counties to stay focused and to work quickly to preserve farms.

Ms. Payne said the nonprofit grants were allocated according to the performance of each nonprofit agency in expending previous grants, plus the number of farms and acres they were proposing to preserve with the new grant.

Chairman Atkinson asked if the competitive grant pool was the same as in the last appropriations. Ms. Payne said that it was.

**RESOLUTION #11-014 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE COUNTY EASEMENT PURCHASE GRANT  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR ATLANTIC,  
BURLINGTON, CAMDEN, CAPE MAY, HUNTERDON, MERCER,  
MIDDLESEX, MONMOUTH, MORRIS, OCEAN, PASSAIC, SOMERSET,  
SUSSEX AND WARREN COUNTIES FROM THE 2009 REFERENDUM  
FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOND FUND PL 2009 C.117.**

Mr. Siegel explained there were a large number of separate resolutions for a variety of reasons: 1) To have an independent resolution for each source of funding, and 2) To accommodate the needs of Chairman Atkinson and Mr. Buzby to recuse themselves from voting on projects in Gloucester and Salem counties. Mr. Siegel also said it had been traditional for the GSPT to approve a separate resolution for each separate Farmland Preservation Program component: state grants, county grants, municipal grants and nonprofit grants.

Chairman Atkinson called for action on the resolutions and directed Mr. Siegel to conduct the votes.

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve Resolution #11-014.

Moved by Secretary Fisher

Seconded by Mr. Hughey

Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.

## UNAPPROVED

**RESOLUTION #11-015 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE COUNTY EASEMENT PURCHASE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR GLOUCESTER AND SALEM COUNTIES FROM THE 2009 REFERENDUM FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOND FUND PL 2009 C.117.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Rosenfeld  
Seconded by Mr. Murphy  
Approved 7-0 by roll call vote.

Chairman Atkinson and Mr. Buzby recused themselves from this vote.

**RESOLUTION #11-016 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE COUNTY EASEMENT PURCHASE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR ATLANTIC, BURLINGTON, CAMDEN, CAPE MAY, HUNTERDON, MERCER, MIDDLESEX, MONMOUTH, MORRIS, OCEAN, PASSAIC, SOMERSET, SUSSEX AND WARREN COUNTIES FROM THE REALLOCATION OF CANCELLED GRANTS FROM THE 2007 REFERENDUM FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOND FUND PL 2007 C.119.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Rosenfeld  
Seconded by Mr. Requa  
Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #11-017 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE COUNTY EASEMENT PURCHASE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR GLOUCESTER AND SALEM COUNTIES FROM THE REALLOCATION OF CANCELLED GRANTS THE 2007 REFERENDUM FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOND FUND PL 2007 C.119.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Secretary Fisher  
Seconded by Mr. Hughey  
Approved 7-0 by roll call vote.

Chairman Atkinson and Mr. Buzby recused themselves from this vote.

## UNAPPROVED

**RESOLUTION #11-018 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE COUNTY EASEMENT PURCHASE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR ATLANTIC, BURLINGTON, CAMDEN, CAPE MAY, HUNTERDON, MERCER, MIDDLESEX, MONMOUTH, MORRIS, OCEAN, PASSAIC, SOMERSET, SUSSEX AND WARREN COUNTIES FROM THE REALLOCATION OF CANCELLED GRANTS FROM THE GARDEN STATE FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Mr. Petrino

Seconded by Mr. Murphy

Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #11-019 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE COUNTY EASEMENT PURCHASE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR GLOUCESTER AND SALEM COUNTIES FROM THE REALLOCATION OF CANCELLED GRANTS FROM THE GARDEN STATE FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Rosenfeld

Seconded by Mr. Petrino

Approved 7-0 by roll call vote.

Chairman Atkinson and Mr. Buzby recused themselves from this vote.

**RESOLUTION #11-020 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE STATE ACQUISITION GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FROM THE 2009 REFERENDUM FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOND FUND PL 2009 C.117.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Rosenfeld

Seconded by Mr. Murphy

Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.

**UNAPPROVED**

**RESOLUTION #11-021 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE STATE ACQUISITION GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FROM THE REALLOCATION OF CANCELLED GRANTS AND FROM AUCTION SALE PROCEEDS FROM THE GARDEN STATE FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Mr. Murphy  
Seconded by Mr. Petrino  
Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #11-022 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR NONPROFIT GRANTS AND FOR MUNICIPAL PIG GRANTS IN ATLANTIC, BURLINGTON, CAMDEN, CAPE MAY, HUNTERDON, MERCER, MIDDLESEX, MONMOUTH, MORRIS, OCEAN, PASSAIC, SOMERSET, SUSSEX AND WARREN COUNTIES FROM THE 2009 REFERENDUM FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOND FUND PL 2009 C.117.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Mr. Hughey  
Seconded by Mr. Requa  
Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #11-023 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR MUNICIPAL PIG GRANTS IN GLOUCESTER AND SALEM COUNTIES FROM THE 2009 REFERENDUM FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOND FUND PL 2009 C.117.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Rosenfeld  
Seconded by Mr. Murphy  
Approved 7-0 by roll call vote.

Chairman Atkinson and Mr. Buzby recused themselves from this vote.

## UNAPPROVED

**RESOLUTION #11-024 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR NONPROFIT GRANTS FROM THE REALLOCATION OF CANCELLED GRANTS FROM THE 2007 REFERENDUM FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOND FUND PL 2007 C.119.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Mr. Hughey  
Seconded by Mr. Requa  
Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #11-025 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR NONPROFIT GRANTS AND FOR MUNICIPAL PIG GRANTS IN ATLANTIC, BURLINGTON, CAMDEN, CAPE MAY, HUNTERDON, MERCER, MIDDLESEX, MONMOUTH, MORRIS, OCEAN, PASSAIC, SOMERSET, SUSSEX AND WARREN COUNTIES FROM THE REALLOCATION OF CANCELLED GRANTS FROM THE GARDEN STATE FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Mr. Hughey  
Seconded by Mr. Petrino  
Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #11-026 TO APPROVE THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR MUNICIPAL PIG GRANTS IN GLOUCESTER AND SALEM COUNTIES FROM THE REALLOCATION OF CANCELLED GRANTS FROM THE GARDEN STATE FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Mr. Hughey  
Seconded by Mr. Requa  
Approved 7-0 by roll call vote.

Chairman Atkinson and Mr. Buzby recused themselves from this vote.

Secretary Fisher left the meeting at 11:50 a.m. He was replaced on the board by Ms. Payne as his ex-officio representative.

**UNAPPROVED****EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FISCAL REPORT- NJ HISTORIC TRUST**

Mr. Siegel reviewed the New Jersey Historic Trust's recommendation for \$10.25 million for historic preservation projects for FY2011.

Mr. Siegel said \$2.1 million was being taken from the 2007 Historic Preservation Bond Fund and \$8.1 million was being drawn from the 2009 Historic Preservation Bond Fund. He noted the trust was using most of the funds available from the 2009 Bond Fund even though Farmland Preservation Program and the Green Acres programs were limited to using 50% of the 2009 funds.

**PRESENTATION OF N.J. HISTORIC TRUST RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS FOR FY2011**

Chairman Atkinson welcomed New Jersey Historic Trust Executive Director Dorothy Guzzo to the meeting and invited her to make a presentation to the board to explain her board's recommendations.

Ms. Guzzo thanked the board for meeting to consider the recommendations. She said the historic trust invited applications for grants last June and in December received 120 applications seeking a total of \$23 million. She said this \$10.2 million grant recommendation combined capital grants with the smaller historic site management (HSM) grants. She said traditionally these two types of grants had been handled in separate grant rounds in alternating years, but that the historic trust decided to combine them this time.

Ms. Guzzo said all of the grants undergo a rigorous evaluation with outside professionals and the requirement for the applicant to match the state grant with local funds. She said grants were approved according to four criteria: 1) significance of the resource 2) appropriateness of the project 3) benefit of the project, and 4) the applicants' ability to oversee and complete the project.

Ms. Guzzo said the HSM grants this year also had a focus on heritage tourism and on linkages between funded historic sites. She said larger capital grants had a priority on industrial sites, sites adjacent to preserved properties and statewide geographic distribution of the funds with a special eye for "compelling projects" that had not received funding previously.

Ms. Guzzo said the recommendation is to fund 58 grants for a total of \$10,250,780. She broke these down as 25 HSM grants totaling \$796,621; four HSM Heritage Tourism initiatives for \$149,375; 12 Capital Level I grants (up to \$150,000) totaling \$1,429,513 and 17 Capital Level II grants (up to \$750,000) totaling \$7,875,271.

Ms. Guzzo reviewed the specific projects. She said she was pleased the grants were in almost every county and represented a diverse collection of resources, "a little bit of everything."

Ms. Guzzo said since 1990 the Historic Trust has awarded \$125 million in 635 matching grants in the preservation of 441 landmark properties across the state.

Ms. Payne asked about specific projects adjacent to preserved land. Ms. Guzzo discussed the Case Dvoor Farmstead in Raritan Township, the Amzi Stephens Homestead in Stephens State Park, Mount Olive, and the Sunnyside Farm in Mount Laurel.

**UNAPPROVED**

Mr. Hughey asked if the Department of Environmental Protection goes through the same competitive process to receive its grants. Ms. Guzzo said they did.

Mr. Petrino asked if there was a test on whether the applicants were ready to expend their funds in a timely manner. Ms. Guzzo said a test for this has been used in past grant rounds but not this time. She said many HSM grants are aimed at helping applicants design and prepare construction plans for historic sites.

Following a presentation from the New Jersey Historic Trust director Dorothy Guzzo, Mr. Siegel asked for leeway on the board to raise the allotment from the 2007 Historic Trust Bond Fund to \$2.43 million without changing the total project appropriation at \$10.25 million.

Mr. Siegel said this would amount to a possible shift of \$300,000 from the 2009 Historic Preservation Bond Fund to the 2007 Historic Preservation Bond Fund. He said he was asking for this because it was not clear what sum remained in the 2007 Bond Fund that was still available for appropriation. He said he wanted to make sure they were finished with the 2007 Bond Fund before tapping into the funds from the 2009 Historic Preservation Bond Fund.

Chairman Atkinson supported the change to make sure there was flexibility to use the maximum funds available.

Ms. Rosenfeld and Mr. Requa asked for clarification and Mr. Siegel reviewed the matter. Mr. Petrino consulted the GSPT attorney, Deputy Attorney General Cliff Rones, on the question. Mr. Rones reiterated that legislation could reduce the sum approved by the GSPT and that a permissive resolution to permit flexibility appeared to be in order.

Chairman Atkinson directed Mr. Siegel to conduct the votes.

**RESOLUTION #11-027 TO APPROVE THE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEVEL II & I CAPITAL GRANTS AND HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT GRANTS FOR FY2011 FROM THE 2009 HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOND FUND PL 2009 C.117.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve Resolution #11-027.

Moved by Mr. Requa

Seconded by Ms. Payne

Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #11-028 TO APPROVE THE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEVEL II & I CAPITAL GRANTS AND HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT GRANTS FOR FY2011 FROM THE 2007 HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOND FUND PL 2007 C.119.**

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve Resolution #11-028.

Moved by Ms. Payne

Seconded by Mr. Petrino

Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.

**UNAPPROVED****EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Siegel reminded board members of the May 15 deadline for financial disclosure required of all board members. He reviewed a press release from the Governor's office on the historic trust grants and a letter signed by the Governor announcing the Green Acres grants. He referred to these as written evidence of support for the projects approved by the GSPT in April.

Mr. Siegel said Green Acres appropriations bills had been introduced and were on track for approval before the summer break, and that he and Ms. Payne would work to make sure SADC appropriations got introduced quickly and were on the same approval track. He said the summer recess in an election year could create a long delay so it was important to get their bills through the Senate and Assembly before July 1.

Mr. Siegel reminded board members to fill out W-9 forms to qualify for their per-diem reimbursement. He reminded board members the GSPT audit was distributed in the April 6 meeting books. He said he had neglected to mention that at the time.

**RESOLUTION #11-029 OF THE GARDEN STATE PRESERVATION TRUST TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 OFFICE BUDGET AND TO AMEND THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2012 OFFICE BUDGET FOR THE GARDEN STATE PRESERVATION TRUST**

Mr. Siegel explained the amendment to the GSPT Office Budget in order to add an allocation for benefits in the "Salary & Wages" line item, as requested by the Treasury Division of Administration.

Ms. Rosenfeld asked why action was being taken for the FY2011 budget that would expire in 50 days. Mr. Siegel said this ratification had little importance since so little of the budget year was left, but that it was good to amend the proposed budget for FY2012 to reflect this new item.

Ms. Payne asked if the GSPT trust funds were the source for this budget. Mr. Siegel said yes. She asked if spending on benefits was a permitted use. He said it was because it was considered part of salary and wages.

Ms. Payne said she was concerned that this kind of change in her administrative budget would have a profound effect. Mr. Siegel said these changes were being requested by the Treasury Department for the agencies it administers, including the GSPT office. He said it may not apply outside the department.

Mr. Siegel asked for motions to approve the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Rosenfeld

Seconded by Mr. Petrino

Approved 8-0 by roll call vote.

Ms. Payne abstained.

**UNAPPROVED****RESOLUTION #11-030 TO RESEARCH INDEPENDENT COMPUTER SERVICES FOR GSPT OFFICE OPERATIONS CURRENTLY PROVIDED BY TREASURY OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY**

After discussion, the board chose to take no action on Resolution #11-030.

**APPROVAL OF SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2011, MEETING**

Brandon Minde of the Governor's Counsels Office-Authorities Unit said action to review and approve the minutes of this meeting was not necessary in order to begin the Governor's 14-day veto period. Mr. Siegel said he had been informed years ago the Governor's veto period cannot begin until official minutes of board actions are forwarded to the Counsels Office. He said the GSPT might not meet again this year to approve such minutes. Mr. Minde said it was adequate for Mr. Siegel to write up a set of minutes of the meeting, attest to them as accurate and submit them to begin the 14-day veto clock. He said it was not necessary for Mr. Siegel to concern himself with a board vote.

After this discussion, the issue of the minutes as deemed resolved and so the board took no action.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

Chairman Atkinson discussed a proposal for the GSPT to conduct a special conference with nonprofit agencies and local governments to hear about future funding needs for conservation.

Ms. Payne said the funding issue is sensitive because of the State's difficult fiscal condition. She said the SADC could not participate in such a conference. She said the Governor's Office has directed SADC and DEP to work together on a plan.

Chairman Atkinson said he did not want the conference to stray into advocacy but simply be conducted to collect opinions, testimony and information.

Ms. Cradic agreed there needs to be a strategic conservation plan with priorities, but she said DEP was not ready for a public workshop or a conference on that issue right now. She said the issue of future funding was being researched internally.

Chairman Atkinson invited Tom Gilbert of the Trust for Public Land and the Keep-It-Green Coalition to offer his views on this question. He said there was an important role for such an event for state agencies to share details about accomplishments and planning, similar to the presentation Ms. Payne had made the GSPT board earlier in the meeting, and for nonprofit conservation agencies to respond by explain their plans and goals.

Mr. Hughey said it seemed to him from listening to the discussion that the conference might be premature. He said, "We all know where these meetings go," namely into a discussion of "what do we need and where can we get it." He said this question was a matter of careful timing, and it did not seem to him that timing was now.

Chairman Atkinson asked if other board members had comments. None did. He recognized Mr. Siegel for his hard work preparing for the past two meetings.

## UNAPPROVED

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Atkinson asked if there was public comment.

John S. Watson Jr. of the D&R Greenway Land Trust, a former board member, praised the board for its approvals because these projects will go a long way toward sustaining agriculture in New Jersey.

### ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Atkinson asked for motions to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Mr. Hughey  
Seconded by Mr. Murphy  
Approved 9-0 by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Siegel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ralph Siegel  
executive director  
board secretary  
March 7, 2012

Others in attendance representing agencies:

OLS staff Carrie Anne Calvo-Hahn; Richard Boornazian of the Office of Green Acres; Thea Sheridan of the Assembly Republican staff; Nicole Goger of the New Jersey Farm Bureau; assorted legislative staff members.