

New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts

Board of Directors Conference Call

Friday August 29, 2014

NOTES

Members Present: Priscilla Hayes, Dennis Dougherty, Ray Cywinski, Joseph Lomax

Also present: Carrie Mosley, Robert Dobbs

The NJACD Board of Directors Conference Call was convened by President Priscilla Hayes at 8:07 am.

The purpose of the conference call was to discuss and reach consensus on deliverables for the 2015 NRCS/NJACD Contribution Agreement. The Board discussed options with Carrie Mosley.

The Board identified the following deliverables for the 2015 Contribution Agreement:

1. Develop Memorandums of Agreement/Understanding between NRCS and 15 SCDs; Working Agreement between Natural Resources Conservation Service, New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts, State Soil Conservation Committee, New Jersey Conservation District Employees Association, and Rutgers University and working agreements defining roles and responsibilities. Robert Dobbs will contact NJ SCDs to seek their input for the agreements. He will also further investigate MOUs, MOAs and other working agreements from other states.
2. Complete Agriculture Conservation Assistance Training Initiative, with New Jersey serving as a target state in a NRCS national pilot project. Training for the program would begin this fall

The Board also discussed potential for expanding Conservation District capacity to provide services in Forestry and Agricultural Assistance, GIS mapping, Watershed Planning, and Implementation of watershed projects. Joe Lomax, Ray Cywinski and Robert Dobbs will meet within a week to develop a survey to ascertain District skills, current capacity, staffing and interest in expanding program services. The 2012 survey of District Staff skills will also be utilized. The survey will be submitted to the entire Board of Directors for review and comment. The survey will be distributed to NJ SCDs in September.

It was decided to provide this survey to New Jersey's Soil Conservation Districts in September and prepare a targeted presentation during the 2014 NJ Conservation Conference.

The Board also discussed the need to identify sources of funding for the association and New Jersey's SCDs to implement expanded programs and services. Potential sources of funding included the NRCS RCCP, Wm. Penn Foundation, fees for services and other sources.

3. Develop a Marketing and Outreach Plan to educate the public, legislators and public officials about New Jersey's Conservation Program and District services. The plan would also promote the statewide Conservation Program to potential funders.

The conference call was adjourned at 9:10 am.

It was agreed to meet via teleconference to further develop the Contribution Agreement on Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Dobbs

