

New Jersey Agricultural Education Advisory Council
2015 Agriculture Convention
Tropicana Hotel and Casino
Pageant A-C meeting room
(Located on the 4th floor in the South Tower of the Tropicana)
Wednesday, February 4, 2015
1:30 – 3:30 pm

DRAFT AGENDA

- I. **Call to order** – Chairman Bill Walker
- II. **Introduction of members and guests**
- III. **Approval of minutes from May 2014 meeting**
- IV. **Chair’s Report**
- V. **State FFA Report– Kristianne Dowd**
- VI. **Old Business:**
 - A. Review Advisory Council Membership Reflecting Industry Representation - All
 - B. Review of Post-Secondary Articulation Agreements
 - C. NJ Dept. of Education CASE Info Session at Allentown H.S. – David McNair
 - D. State Ag Education/CASE Update – Nancy Trivette
 - 1. Food Science and Safety course
 - 2. Ag Power and Technology field test 2015
 - 3. Ag Development and Research field test 2015 in NJ
 - 4. CASE State Implementation Planning meeting results
- VII. **New Business:**
 - A. Industry Outlook – All
 - B. Establish a Nominating Committee to Propose New Officers
 - C. Other critical issues from members
- VIII. **Meeting Adjournment**

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 1-3:00 pm at Monmouth University (State FFA Convention)

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Meeting Minutes

IX. Call to order – Chairman Bill Walker

Mr. Walker called the meeting to order at 1:42 pm in Pageant Room C of the Tropicana Hotel and Casino.

X. Introduction of members and guests

Members and guests included: Annaliese English (Helena Chemical), Richard Belcher (NJDA, Conservation Education), Kristianne Dowd (NJ FFA President), Dr. Steven Fischer (Bergen Community College), Rachel Lyons (State 4-H), Debra McCluskey (NJDA - OAE), Erin Noble (NJDA – OAE, FFA Specialist), Jenna Pinhas (NJ FFA Secretary), Jacque Roszel (Horse Park of NJ), David Specca (Rutgers – EcoComplex), Nancy Trivette (NJDA – OAE – State Program Leader, and Bill Walker (NJDA, Div. of Markets).

XI. Approval of minutes from May 2014 meeting

A motion to accept the minutes as distributed was made by Mr. Roszel and seconded by Dr. Fischer. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. Chair's Report

Mr. Walker mentioned he brings his marketing and communication skills to the table; the need to focus students into the 'bigger world picture' of the broad scope of agriculture, agriculture is not just farming. There is a need to market the technology side of agriculture and communicate the importance of Ag Science degrees for the future.

Mr. Walker discussed the latest edition of *New Jersey Agriculture* distributed to meeting attendees. He recommends sharing with co-workers. He would like to see the magazine distributed to all schools; at least one copy in every classroom. The magazine obviously highlights agriculture in NJ; other great resources include reports from the Secretary of Agriculture to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture as well as important monthly and current 'hot topic' issues.

Finally, Mr. Walker stressed the NJ Farm Bureau free memberships for current FFA students.

XIII. State FFA Report– Kristianne Dowd

Miss Dowd reported a new team was elected right after the last meeting. That team immediately jumped into focusing on their skills, starting with themselves followed by the team and facilitation.

She discussed the most recent and upcoming events including: two state officers' trip to South Africa; record attendance at the recent State Officer Candidate School (55 attendees versus

average of 40); gearing up for FFA Week (National FFA Officer will visit and tour NJ's chapters); upcoming Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day (ALLD); and State FFA Convention.

Miss Dowd also discussed the past National Convention (end of October) with more than 64,000 attendees (new record). She mentioned NJ was very well represented and brought home several top performances in the AgriScience Fair.

Miss Pinhas also mentioned the International Leadership for State Officers trip.

XIV. Old Business:

A. Review Advisory Council Membership Reflecting Industry Representation

Mr. Walker referred to the Council membership list; specifying the vacancies and the need for those to be filled. He asked for anyone with potential members to forward to Mrs. Trivette.

Mrs. Trivette seconded Mr. Walker's comments; there is a strong need for support for the industry pathways listed.

Dr. Fischer, Bergen Co. College, stated he will reach out to Landscape Contractors to help facilitate finding a volunteer.

B. Review of Post-Secondary Articulation Agreements

Mrs. Trivette stated, currently, there are twenty-one (21) schools certified for CASE and many have or in the process of having articulation agreements with several colleges and/or universities. For example, Rutgers is giving up to 11.5 credits for CASE coursework. The process is very similar to established AP courses; students, upon course completion/end of course assessment earning a specific grade (generally B or greater) will have credits applied to the college students' transcript. There are variables and limitations set by the college/university. Mrs. Trivette further explained that DOE encourages articulation with post-secondary institutions to meet program of study requirements.

There was a discussion on the possibility of a multi-year agreement. Mrs. Trivette shared that DOE requires annual agreements. There was discussion about the possibility of an online check-off system which would be helpful since the annual renewal of the articulation agreement is cumbersome for all.

C. NJ Dept. of Education CASE Info Session at Allentown H.S.

Due to the inclement weather, Mrs. Trivette stated last week's CASE Info session was postponed and will happen February 5th. The object is to talk with Districts that do not already have agricultural education or CASE. Nancy Trivette, NJDA, David McNair, DOE, and Dale Cruzan and Denise Emmons CASE teachers from Allentown High School will present along with one of their students. Nancy furthered mentioned the challenge of having enough Certified Ag Teachers to serve New Jersey's upcoming needs as well as expected growth in programs.

D. State Ag Education/CASE Update

Mrs. Trivette referred to several of the handouts; the USA Today article (5 Highest Paying Degrees of 2015) and an article from AgCareers.com (8 Reason Why Ag Careers Are

Needed More Than Ever) before inviting Erin Noble to give a State FFA program update.

Mrs. Noble gave an update regarding FFA including ALLD at the end of February the need for a Dairy & Horse Coordinator and a Landscape Design Coordinator for this year. She discussed the 'World Food Prize' and Global Youth Institute and the possibility of conducting a statewide program as a precursor to the national event. Mr. Walker mentioned that 1 in 7 of US citizens receive food assistance. Hunger 'at home' is also a real problem.

Mrs. Trivette then emphasized the increasing membership for FFA students and stated that CASE numbers are also growing.

1. The *Food Science and Safety* course is being field tested in five schools and is receiving positive marks.
2. The *Ag Power and Technology* field test course will occur in the summer of 2015. The capstone course, *Ag Development and Research* field test course will also occur in the summer of 2015 at Upper Freehold Regional School District (Allentown), NJ
3. A pilot CASE State Implementation Planning meeting was hosted in NJ. . The meeting was a great networking session to discuss the development and impacts of the program. Stakeholders included secondary CASE certified teachers, post-secondary partners, business and industry, State Alumni and State Foundation representatives, OAE, DOE and NJDA staff.

XV. **New Business:**

A. **Industry Outlook reports:**

Mrs. English, Helena Chemical, reported that farmers are reaching out to start planning their growing season. She mentioned that she may be one of a few in NJ providing services with specialized GIS/GPS equipment for soil mapping but it is an emerging industry. Her client base is growing as the farming community is seeing the benefits of using this technology.

Mrs. Lyons, State 4-H reported that there are approximately 60,000 NJ youth involved in 4-h and 12,000 in clubs. 4-H is going through change; all positive, and looking at non-formal education for the future. She mentioned it would be good if the groups could collaborate on various activities, such as the World Food Prize. Mrs. Lyons mentioned the county by county struggle of utilizing various social media avenues.

Mr. Specca, RU EcoComplex reported the international movement on Food, Energy, and Water Nexus. This is a growing trend which the students may have heard, but they should start implementing the terminology. He also mentioned a food waste recycling program using a digester. Many states are banning food waste from landfills. As a result of a bill in progress many Ag technology jobs could be created.

Mr. Belcher, Conservation Education, discussed the 2015 Envirothon's theme, Urban Community Forestry Aquatics and upcoming Soil Conservation poster contest.

Mr. Roszel, NJ Horse Park, reported the racing industry is still in a decline. Other states have incentives to help boost racing purses. NJ government is not in the 'racing' business

and that has caused a trickle-down effect industry wide; many horse related entities have left the state to pursue greener pastures in neighboring states. The economy hasn't helped, but that is not the bigger picture in this particular case.

B. Establish a Nominating Committee to Propose New Officers

Mr. Walker stated the need to form a nominating committee. He enjoys being a part of the board however; the By-Laws specify a time frame for the Chairman. Obviously he'll chair until a replacement is found, but a nominating committee should be formed. Mr. Roszel volunteered for the nominating committee.

C. Other critical issues from members

Mrs. Noble mentioned the need for volunteers for the State Convention as well as a Horticulture & Floral Design Coordinator. Please forward name(s) of any potential volunteers to her.

XVI. Meeting Adjournment was adjourned at 3:34 pm

Submitted:

Debra McCluskey
OAE Administrative Assistant

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 1-3:00 pm at Monmouth University (State FFA Convention)