

MINUTES OF THE MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING HELD MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026
IN THE EXTENSION SERVICE BUILDING
1440 PARKSIDE AVENUE, EWING, N.J.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman D’Amico called this meeting to order at 19:32 .

II. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Chairman D’Amico announced that pursuant to the Sunshine Law, notice of all 2026 meetings was posted in the Trenton Times on December 18, 2025 and posted on the County Planning Department’s website.

III. FLAG SALUTE

IV. ROLL CALL

a. Voting Members:

Mr. Frank D’Amico, Chair – present
Mr. James Evans, Vice-Chair – present
Mr. Scott Ellis – present
Ms. Theodora Wang – present
Ms. Christine Cirkus –present
Mr. Greg McLaughlin –present

B. Non-voting Members:

Ms. Meredith Melendez/Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension – present
Mr. William Agress, County Planning Board Liaison – not present

C. Others Present:

Ms. Cindy Taylor, Mercer County Land Preservation Coordinator
Ms. Diane Kottas, Mercer County CADB Administrator, Board Secretary
Mr. Alex Gluck, Board Counsel, Dilworth Paxon
Mr. Ed Silver, Court Reporter
Mr. Sean Pizzio, SADC
Mr. Kenneth Shives, Lawrence Township
Mr. Martin Blank, Lawrence Township
Mrs. Laura Blank, Lawrence Township
Mrs. Lucia Stout Huebner, Hopewell Township
Mr. Rodger Jany, West Windsor Township

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Wang and seconded by Mr. Ellis, the minutes of the February 2, 2026 meeting were approved unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS) : None

VII. PUBLIC HEARING : WILLOW GATE FARM LLC RIGHT TO FARM COMPLAINT
Official transcript from Silver Reporting Services in progress.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE: None

IX. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

- a. **SADC:** Mr. Pizzio provided an update on recent SADC business.
- b. **Land Development:** None
- c. **Farmland Preservation Updates:** Appraisal reports for the Hoffman farm have been submitted to the SADC.

X. OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Kottas reported on the following:

- a. **Chowdhury Farm:** the Court-appointed temporary administrator of the estate of Kenneth Henick requested a 30-day extension to submit a restoration plan. Request approved by Staff.
- b. **Bent Iron Brewery SOE application:** the application has been temporarily withdrawn. No requested documentation has been received. Issue of compliance will be checked at the 2026 monitoring visit in June.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **D'Amico Farm Division of Premises application:** Chair D'Amico and Mr. Ellis recused themselves and left the room. Board reviewed the application for a Division of Premises request from the D'Amico family. Staff presented supporting evidence for the agricultural viability and agricultural purpose tests. The Board unanimously approved the application.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

XIII. DISCUSSION: None

XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

XV. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman D'Amico adjourned the meeting at 21:43. The next scheduled meeting of the MCADB is April 6, 2026 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Kottas

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Secretary to the Board