

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

April 22, 2015

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman, Richard Dovey called the meeting to order at 8:32 A.M. at the USDA-NRCS Plant Material Center in Cape May Court House.

ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Supervisors: Richard Dovey, Daniel Galletta, Allen Carter, Jr. and Joseph Lomax

Staff: David Reilly, Michael Kent, Glenn Ward and Marie Rogowski

NRCS: Nicholas Saumweber

PMC: Chris Miller

Supervisor Absent: Robert Fenton

MINUTES

A motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve minutes from the March 25, 2015 meeting. Daniel Galletta abstained from this motion.

FINANCES

A. Treasurer's Report-February 2015

After review of the March 2015 Treasurer's Report a motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Daniel Galletta to approve Treasurer's Report and Expenses in the amount of \$81,945.13.

After review of the Plant Material Center account monthly report for March 2015, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Daniel Galletta to approve report.

After review of the Drill account monthly report for March 2015, a motion was made by Daniel Galletta and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve report.

B. Cape Bank 10 Month CD

10 month CD with Cape Bank was not renewed and funds were transferred to Parke Bank on April 21, 2015. Cape Bank will contact David Reilly if better rates become available.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. March 2015 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Daniel Galletta approving all Plan Certifications listed on the March 2015 Application Report except for applications 52-15, 78-15, 87-15, 91-15, 92-15, 103-15, 105-15, 109-15 and 110-15.

Joseph Lomax stepped out of meeting so a motion could be made on recused applications.

A motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Daniel Galletta approving applications 52-15, 78-15, 87-15, 91-15, 92-15, 103-15, 105-15, 109-15 and 110-15. Joseph Lomax recused since plans were submitted by past or current clients.

B. Farmland Program (Board Action Required)

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter, Jr. to approve all of the following Conservation Plans and CREP Application/Contract.

1. Conservation Plans

- a. Lower Twp. – 61 acres, Fish & Wildlife Management Plan
- b. Galloway Twp. – 277 acres, Cover Crop & Conservation Cover
- c. Buena Boro – 66.5 acres, CREP program plan for waterway
- d. Mullica Twp. – 20 acres, Blueberry Irrigation

2. CREP Application/Contract

- a. Buena Boro – 66.5 acres

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Douglas A. Fisher, NJ Secretary of Agriculture

Received letter from Mr. Fisher asking all Districts to have H&H data entry for the original contract dates of Jan. 1, 1986 thru Dec. 21, 2010 completed by June 30, 2015. Michael Kent informed Board that the District is 50% complete and would be able to meet June 30, 2015 deadline.

After discussion a motion was made by Daniel Galletta and seconded by Joseph Lomax to draft response letter informing Mr. Fisher that the District will make every effort to meet target date.

B. Frank Minch, NJ Dept. of Ag.

Received letter from Mr. Minch asking District's to review EEO Nondiscrimination Policy. David Reilly distributed copies of District policy along with State of New Jersey Policy to board for review. After discussion item was tabled until next meeting giving Board time to review both policies.

C. Jack Sworaski, Chairman SJRC&D

David Reilly received copy of agreement between SJRC&D and US Fish & Wildlife from Mr. Sworaski. Now that agreement is in place David Reilly will close drill bank account and transfer funds to SJRC&D. A motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Daniel Galletta to close drill account and transfer \$7,423.69.

D. Deborah Cole, Atlantic County 4H Agent

Received letter from Ms. Cole asking District if we would like to place ad in 4H Yearbook. A motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Joseph Lomax to purchase half page ad in Atlantic County 4-H Yearbook for \$100.00.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

David Reilly informed Board that the District was contacted by a student at Stockton University inquiring about a summer internship. David Reilly and Michael Kent met with student and feels she would be an asset to the District. A motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Joseph Lomax to proceed with summer internship.

Michael Kent reported that on April 16, 2015 he assisted high school students in the FFA annual event held at Rutgers University.

Glenn Ward reported on the following:

1st and 2nd place poster contest winners from the District were chosen March 26th. Gift cards and congratulatory certificates were sent out to winners. 1st place winner's posters from each grade category were sent to Trenton to be judged for the state level competition. An awards ceremony is scheduled for May 19th in Trenton to recognize the State winners.

The South Jersey Envirothon training session took place on April 17th at the Gloucester Municipal complex. 6 schools attended with 2 from Atlantic County and 1 from Cape May County. The others came from Ocean, Mercer, Burlington and Gloucester Counties. A total of 51 students attended representing 10 teams.

Cape May Earth Day event took place on April 18th. The event was attended by Marie Rogowski, Kevin Hesson and Glenn Ward. The District display emphasized backyard conservation. Persons who visited the display were given chance to win a cutting board and cheese knife when they signed up to receive the District newsletter. Children who visited the display made paper pots and planted sunflower seeds. Approximately 400 people stopped at the display.

The Atlantic County Earth Day celebration is coming up on April 26th. Dave Reilly, Michael Kent, Glenn Ward and two interns will be setting up the District display on Friday April 24th. Persons who visit the display will be given the chance to win a cutting board and cheese knife when they signed up to receive the District newsletter.

Final preparations are being made for the Envirothon, which takes place on May 2nd. Linda Horner of Cape May County Rutgers Extension has been sent a copy of the insurance rider needed for the event. There was no additional charge to the District for the rider. 38 teams are signed up with 25 of them camping overnight on Friday May 1st. As part of Friday night's activities, an animal conservation program called "Zoo 2 You" will be presented by staff from the Cape May County zoo. Glenn thanked Joseph Lomax for his contribution to the Envirothon. Guest speakers at the opening ceremonies will include Allen Carter, Jr., Senator Jeff Van Drew and Assemblyman Robert Andrzejczak. A DEP representative will also speak at the opening ceremony.

B. Update – New Jersey Conservation District Workgroups.

Joseph Lomax stated that work continues on reducing Policy and Procedures Manual to a more manageable document. Draft copy should be presented at next state committee meeting.

C. Update – CIG Project

David Reilly reported that staff site documentation visits have started. During first site visits it was noted that vegetation was growing beneath sock due to the settlement of the compost within the sock. It was decided to cut slits into socks to allow vegetation to come through.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

David Reilly

-Supervisor nominating committee met on April 20, 2015 to review re-nominations for Richard Dovey and Daniel Galletta. All went well and paperwork has been forwarded to Frank Minch.

-April 29, 2015 at 2PM there will be a webinar about the Delaware watershed cropland. District will be signing up and staff will be attending.

-April 27, 2015 will be attending meeting with Pineland Commission to discuss "Right to Farm" issues.

-District assisted State Forestry Service with its annual tree giveaway. District office was serving as a pick-up location for 18 municipalities.

-David noted that today was Administrative Professionals Day and thanked Marie Rogowski for her hard work and dedication.

Michael Kent

-Updated Board on Garden State Parkway project. Recently met with project manager on-site to discuss stabilization concerns at MP 41 and 44.

-Interns will be completing internship next week. They were a big help with the H&H data entry. Interns will be assisting at Atlantic County's Earth Day at the ACUA on April 26, 2015 and at the Envirothon on May 1-2, 2015. Former intern Ryan Kiska has contacted the District offering to volunteer at Envirothon.

-District received a 40 acre solar project in Buena Vista Township. John Showler, State Engineer, met David Reilly on-site to review project. A second on-site meeting will be scheduled with staff and plan preparer to discuss revisions needed to plans prior to certification.

B. Supervisors

Joseph Lomax

-NACD Northeast Regional Meeting will be held August 2-4, 2015 at the Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center, Davis, WV. Registration is now available.

-NACD Summer Board Meeting will be held July 11-13, 2015 in Spokane, WA.

-Jeremy Peters has been hired as NACD's CEO.

-NACD continues to search for a location for the 2016 Northeast Regional Meeting. Joseph Lomax suggested hosting event at the Seaview Marriott.

Daniel Galletta

-Glad to be back. Commented on the amount of activity that occurred over the past few months.

Richard Dovey

-Updated the Board on the status of efforts to privatize water systems in Atlantic County.

-Thanked District for once again participating in the ACUA's Earth Day event to be held on April 26, 2015.

C. USDA-NRCS PMC

Chris Miller

-Commented on the passing of coworker James Futrell.

-Commented on budget. Center will be receiving additional funds to hire seasonal help.

-Will be attending PMC Managers Meeting next week in Forth Worth, TX.

-Discussed anniversary celebration. Event may have to be held in October. Will continue to work throughout the summer to prepare center for event.

-Working on renewing PMC's land lease with the State that ends June 2015.

D. NRCS

Nicholas Saumweber

-Distributed NRCS Monthly Report for review and comments.

-Updated board and staff on all 2015 applications.

-Ag. Field Day will be April 25, 2015. NRCS Rainfall Simulator will be on display.

E. Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Jenny Carleo – Cape May County

Jenny Carleo was unable to attend meeting. Allen Carter, Jr. reported that Jenny Carleo is working with Cape May County Office of Emergency Management on agriculture disaster preparation.

F. Public

Opened meeting to public comment.
No comments from public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter, Jr. to adjourn meeting at 10:25 A.M. The next meeting will be held May 27, 2015 at 8:00 AM at the District Office in Mays Landing, NJ.

Unless otherwise indicated, all actions were taken by unanimous vote of all members present.

Marie Rogowski,
Administrative Assistant