

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

December 18, 2019

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman, Allen Carter, Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. at the District office in Mays Landing, NJ

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. stated that in review of the Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 PL 1975 adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by mail to The Press of Atlantic City and Gazettes of Atlantic and Cape May County specifying time and place this meeting is to be held.

FLAG SALUTE

Chairman, Allen Carter, Jr. led the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Supervisors: Allen Carter, Jr., Robert Fenton, Joseph Lomax, Richard Dovey and Cormac Morrissey

Staff: Michael Kent, Glenn Ward, Marie Rogowski, Rebecca Watson, Briana Nagengast and Luis Almeyda

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Michelle Pedano

MINUTES

A. Minutes of November 20, 2019 meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve minutes from the November 20, 2019 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

A. Treasurer's Reports – November 2019

After review of the District's November 2019 Treasurer's Report, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve treasurer's report and expenses in the amount of \$68,031.88. The motion passed unanimously.

After review of the Plant Materials Center (PMC) monthly expense report for November 2019, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve treasurer's report and expenses in the amount of \$131.00. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Fiscal Year 2019 Audit

Copy of the Districts FY-2019 Audit was previously distributed to board for review. After discussion a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to accept audit as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Copy of audit will be posted on District website.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. November 2019 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the November 2019 Application Report except for applications 489-19, 494-19 and 500-19. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton approving applications 489-19, 494-19 and 500-19. Joseph Lomax recused having conflicts of interest. Joseph Lomax abstained from motion. The motion passed.

2. November 2019 Re-certification

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving applications listed on the November 2019 Re-Certification Application Report. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Farmland Program-NONE

C. Atlantic County Agricultural Development Board (ACADB)

Received notice stating David Reilly's appointment to the Atlantic County Agricultural Development Board will expire December 31, 2019. After discussion a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to reappoint David Reilly as the District representative to the ACADB. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Ocean County SCD-Shared Service Agreement

Ocean County Soil Conservation District would like to extend the current shared services agreement with the District that expires December 31, 2019. The proposed extension would run from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 with no changes to the terms of the agreement as previously approved. After board discussion a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to extend agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Spring 2020 Intern Program

David Reilly and Michael Kent conducted several interviews for the Spring 2020 Internship Program. Three interns have been chosen for spring semester. A motion was made by Robert Fenton and seconded by Richard Dovey to ratify the staff selection of Jacqueline Hall, Hannah Maugeri and Zachary Nixon. The motion passed unanimously.

F. 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting Schedule

Copy of the 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting Schedule was distributed for review. A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve schedule as presented. Dates will be posted on District website and advertised as required. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Glenn Ward reported that Envirothon and poster contest information is being prepared and will be mailed to schools with-in the District by mid-January.

B. NACD Urban Ag. Grant.

Joseph Lomax reported that he and David Reilly have discussed the NACD Urban Ag. Grant opportunity and a different innovative approach in which the District may take. There was also discussion of possibly partnering with another district to broaden the area in which the District may service if awarded grant. After board discussion a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to support the submission of grant application by the January 10, 2020 deadline with concept of which Joseph Lomax discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

Michael Kent

- Reported on 251 activity throughout the District.
- Update on NRCS training.

Briana Nagengast

- Continues to work on farm inspections and processing applications.

Rebecca Watson

- Assigned to work on a special project with Nicholas Saumweber and Nancy Paolini to assist Hackettstown field office with backlog of Forestry Conservation Activity Plan applications.

Luis Almeyda

- Continues to assist the PMC staff with seed sorting and cleaning.

B. Supervisors

Joseph Lomax

- Retiring from NACD Board of Directors. Raymond Cywinski will be the replacement.
- Will remain as Chairman of the Coastal Resource Policy Group and member of the Human Resources Committee to complete work revising by-laws.
- Reported on State Soil Conservation Committee activities and the consolidation of the Sussex and Warren Soil Conservation Districts.
- Reported on annual meeting held at the Eco-Complex on December 2, 2019. Beneficial having supervisors and staff come together.
- With upcoming changes and business opportunities, the District's Strategic Plan needs to be finalized.

Robert Fenton

-Reported on annual meeting held at the Eco-Complex on December 2, 2019.

Richard Dovey

-Commented on annual meeting held on December 2, 2019. Not enough time to accomplish all goals set forth. Likes that meeting dates for upcoming year have been scheduled in advance.

Cormac Morrissey

-Commented on Department of Transportation (DOT) grant to do dredging at Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Michael Kent reported that an application for the project has been submitted to the District.

-Commented on drainage ditch issues on farms and county roads.

Allen Carter, Jr.

-Had a good turnout at annual meeting on December 2, 2019 at the Eco-complex.

-Chaired recent Farm Bureau meeting. Reported that sod production is down 30% for the year.

-Farm Bureau President is in Washington DC working on merging the States resolutions with National resolutions.

-Will be attending Farm Bureau's annual convention, January 17-22, 2020 in Austin Texas.

C. NRCS

Michelle Pedano

-Currently serving as Acting District Conservationist.

-Gearing up for all the Farm Bill policy changes.

-Conservation Desktop/Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART) Training sessions scheduled for January 14-15, 2020 and January 22-23, 2020.

-Prescribed burning standards have been updated. Training is scheduled for January 28-29, 2020 at the Eco-Complex.

-Will be on the planning committee for South Jersey Vegetable Growers meeting to be held February 25, 2020 at the Salem Co. Rutgers Extension office.

-Presented NRCS monthly activity report.

D. Public

Opened meeting to public comment.

No comments from public.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday January 22, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office in Mays Landing, NJ.

Marie Rogowski
Administrative Assistant