

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

February 22, 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman, Robert Fenton called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. at the District office in Mays Landing, NJ.

Chairman, Robert Fenton 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, Robert Fenton led the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Supervisors: Robert Fenton, Joseph Lomax, Cormac Morrissey, and Richard Dovey

Staff: Michael Kent, Glenn Ward, Haley Jackson, Riley Blankenship, Marie Rogowski, Emily Vasquez and Myla Nelson

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Michelle Pedano

MINUTES

A. Minutes of January 25, 2023, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve minutes from the January 25, 2023, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Executive Session Minutes of January 25, 2023, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve the executive session minutes from the January 25, 2023, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – January 2023

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve the District's January 2023 treasurer's

report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$103,035.58. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **PMC Financials – January 2023**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for January 2023, a motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve treasurer’s report, balance sheet and account balance of \$19,692.28. The motion passed unanimously.

B. FY-2024 Budget Committee

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to have Robert Fenton and Cormac Morrissey serve on the FY-24 Budget Committee. The motion passed unanimously. The budget committee will meet with Michael Kent to review and discuss FY-24 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. January 2023 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the January 2023 Application Report except for application 616-22, 667-22, 7-23, 15-23, 51-23 and 54-23. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey approving applications 616-22, 667-22, 7-23, 15-23, 51-23 and 54-23. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

2. January 2023 Re-certifications

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving all applications listed on the January 2023 Re-Certification Application Report except for application 279-19. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving application 279-19. Richard Dovey recused. The motion passed.

B. Farmland Program

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Glenn Ward

-Poster contest information was sent out to all schools. The theme this year is “One Water”.

-Update on 2023 Envirothon. Theme is “Adapting to Climate Change”. Cedar Creek and Absegami High Schools have both registered two (2) teams for the event. Charles Buscaglia, President NJACD is asking the District for support toward Envirothon. The District will be donating \$500.00 as previously budgeted.

Haley Jackson

-Update on Spring newsletter that will be going out later this month.

B. Grants

Michael Kent

-Update on National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Technical Assistant grant. A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to have the District apply for grant when offered. The motion passed unanimously.

Haley Jackson

-Reviewed and discussed the following grant opportunities.

1. NACD/NRCS-Urban and Community Conservation Grant Initiative.
2. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund Grants.
3. USDA-Urban Agricultural and Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program.

C. Meetings/Trainings

Michael Kent

-Update on Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit attended along with Haley Jackson.

-Update on NACD's annual meeting attended. The conference was very productive. Did a great deal of networking.

-Thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend meetings and conferences.

Cormac Morrissey

-Reported on NACD annual meeting. Sessions were interesting and very informative.

-Interested in learning more about carbon credits.

Joseph Lomax

-Thanked the Board for their support for his attendance at the NACD annual meeting.

-Retired from several NACD committees.

-Update on work with National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) and time spent with national leadership.

-Commented on national efforts and the future of several programs.

-Attended Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit. Event was successful and very well attended.

Haley Jackson

-Update on Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit attended. Event was very informative.

Robert Fenton

-Thanked the Board for their support for his attendance at the NACD annual meeting.

-Update on NACD's annual meeting attended. Reported on breakout sessions attended.

-Attended and reported on Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit.

D. Local Working Group

Discussed third local working group meeting that was held at the District office on February 1, 2023. Attendance and dialogue were positive. Michael Kent stated that staff is preparing draft reports that will be sent out to supervisor for review and comments.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

Michael Kent

- Thanked the staff for all their work.
- Sorting through résumés and will be setting up interviews for new site inspector position in the coming weeks.

Glenn Ward

- Update on 251 program and January's monthly application report.
- Reported on interns and tasks they've been working on.

Haley Jackson

- Thanked the Board for the opportunity to work for the District.

Riley Blankenship

- Update on farm monitoring for State Agricultural Development Committee (SACD) and Cape May County.
- Update on work being performed at the NRCS Vineland field office.
- Commented on SADC meeting and Atlantic City open public space meetings attended.
- Reported on Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farming Training (CRAFT) and annual meeting scheduled for March 1, 2023.

Emily Vasquez

- Thankful for the opportunity to intern for the District. Have been learning a great deal.

Myla Nelson

- Gaining a great deal of knowledge reviewing site plans and seeing plans implemented in the field.
- Assisting in preparing current issues portion of Envirothon test.

B. Supervisors

Richard Dovey

- Commented on Local Working Groups meetings. District did a great job.

C. USDA-NRCS

Michelle Pedano

- Distributed and commented on NRCS Monthly Activity report. Busy assessing and ranking applications.
- March 11, 2023 Stockton University will be hosting Pineland Short Course seminar. The cost to attend is \$50.00. A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey authorizing expense for any District staff who wish to attend. The motion passed unanimously.

- Thankful to have Riley Blankenship in the office part-time to assist with workload.
- Update on shifting staffing position throughout NRCS.

D. Public

Opened meeting to public comment.
No comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to go into executive session at 10:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey to end executive session at 10:51 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey to hire a part-time 251 Inspector at a rate not to exceed \$25.00 per hour. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Robert Fenton adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be March 22, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office, Mays Landing, NJ.

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

Marie Rogowski,
Administrative Assistant