

# Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

July 22, 2020

## ***MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT***

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr., called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m. via video and teleconference.

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, Cormac Morrissey and Richard Dovey

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Michelle Pedano

## ***MINUTES***

### ***A. Minutes of June 24, 2020 meeting***

Copy of minutes were email to Board prior to meeting. After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve minutes from the June 24, 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***B. Executive Session Minutes of June 24, 2020 meeting***

Copy of minutes were email to Board prior to meeting. After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve executive session minutes from the June 24, 2020 meeting with one correction as noted by Joseph Lomax. The motion passed unanimously.

## ***FINANCES***

### ***A. Treasurers Reports – June 2020***

June 2020 District and Plant Materials Center (PMC) Treasurer's reports were emailed to the Board for review.

After review and discussion a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve the Districts June 2020 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$57,745.10. The motion passed unanimously.

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for June 2020, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve treasurer's report, balance sheet and account balance of \$29,725.20. The motion passed unanimously.

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

### ***A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans***

#### ***1. June 2020 Certifications***

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the June 2020 Application Report except for applications 81-20, 202-20 and 246-20. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey approving applications 81-20, 202-20 and 246-20. Joseph Lomax recused having a conflict of interest. Joseph Lomax abstained from motion. The motion passed.

### ***B. Farmland Program***

#### ***1. Conservation Plans***

After board review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton approving the following Conservation Plan;

- a. Middle Township, 0.8 acres – Agricultural Energy Management for Aquaculture Operation

The motion passed unanimously.

### ***C. COVID-19 Operations Policy***

Draft copy of District's interim guideline procedures were emailed to the Board for review. After discussion a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to accept draft guidelines as presented with name of document being changed to Interim Operational Guidelines. The motion passed unanimously.

Joseph Lomax recommended guidelines be finalized within the next 30 days and presented at next meeting to be adopted.

### ***D. NRCS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)***

Copy of MOA was emailed to Board for review and comments. After review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve MOA with additions as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***E. State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) Request for Authorization (RFA) & 251 Surcharge Funds***

Draft copy of letter to Governor was emailed to Board for review. After discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to send draft letter to State Association for review before sending to Governor's office.

## ***CORRESPONDENCE***

***None***

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Education**

Glenn Ward

-Quiet summer. All events have been cancelled.

## **COMMENTS**

### **A. Staff**

#### **David Reilly**

-Thanked staff for their continued work efforts.

-Continuing to work with Michael Kent on all training elements.

-Commented on Fee Schedule update.

-Started the FY-20 audit process with Nightlinger, Colavita & Volpa, P.A.

-Rebecca Watson started her new position with NRCS on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

-Luis Almeyda's transfer to the NRCS Vineland field office is on hold until staff are given authorization to return to work in building.

-Will work with Michael Kent and Joseph Lomax to prepare Letter of Intent to submit to Restore America's Estuaries Coastal Grant Program.

#### **Michael Kent**

-Commented on 251 applications received and quarterly report that was emailed to the Board.

-Continuing to work diligently with David Reilly to transition into new position.

#### **Marie Rogowski**

-Working from home remains status quo.

-Commented on Board quarterly mileage reimbursement.

#### **Glenn Ward**

-Reported on work detail with Ocean County SCD.

-Commented on working from home and scheduling field inspections.

### **B. Supervisors**

#### **Joseph Lomax**

-Thanked David Reilly and Michael Kent for preparing Training Plan.

-Would like to see fee schedule change paperwork completed prior to David Reilly's retirement.

-Reported that Cape May County has established a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee. There could be value to having a District representative attend these meetings.

-NACD is currently in the process of reorganizing By-Laws.

#### **Cormac Morrissey**

-Senator VanDrew will be in Maurice Township along with DEP and Army Corps of Engineers looking at protection measures. Inquired about non-profit involvement or Ocean County SCD initiative.

-Inquired about recording district meetings.

-Commented on District's computer hardware and software. Discussed the possibility of the District purchasing a drone.

-Commented on cleaning policy and social distancing for monthly meetings.

**Allen Carter, Jr.**

- Update on Farm Bureau activity.
- Commented on hard hit commodities due to Covid-19
- Commented on deer population and ongoing advertisements outlining their destruction in the agricultural community.
- Ongoing issues with pesticide bans.
- Issues with plastic bags being used at farm stands.
- Commented on Rutgers budget cuts.

**C. NRCS**

**Michelle Pedano**

- Commented on NRCS monthly activity report that was emailed to staff and board.
- New State Conservationist, Julie Hawkins will be starting on July 20, 2020.
- NRCS Chief Lohr to visit Vineland/Woodstown are July 27-28, 2020.
- Program assistant, Jean Griffie to retire September 30, 2020.

**D. Public**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday August 26, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office in Mays Landing, NJ.

Marie Rogowski,  
Administrative Assistant