

# Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

July 26, 2023

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

Chairman, Robert Fenton called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 Counties 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 (via teleconference)

Staff: Michael Kent, Glenn Ward, Haley Jackson, Lauren Tigue, Riley Blankenship, Daniel Bononcini and Marie Rogowski

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Michelle Pedano

## **MINUTES**

### **A. Minutes of June 28, 2023, Meeting**

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve minutes from the June 28, 2023 meeting. Joseph Lomax abstained from the motion. The motion passed.

### **B. Executive Session Minutes of June 28, 2023, Meeting**

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve the executive session minutes from the June 28, 2023, meeting. Joseph Lomax abstained from the motion. The motion passed.

## **FINANCES**

### **A. Treasurers Reports**

#### 1. District Financials – June 2023

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey to approve the District's June 2023 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$51,956.85. The motion passed unanimously.

2. PMC Financials – June 2023

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for June 2023, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to approve treasurer’s report, balance sheet and account balance of \$23,175.59. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

**1. June 2023 Certifications**

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the June 2023 Application Report. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. June 2023 Re-certifications**

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving all applications listed on the June 2023 Re-Certification Application Report. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Farmland Program**

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving the following conservation plans. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Conservation Plans

- a. Galloway Twp., 76 acres, Drip Irrigation in Blueberries
- b. Galloway Twp., 0.5 acres, Wildlife Habitat Planting

**CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Education**

Haley Jackson

-July 20-22, 2023 the District participated in the Cape May County 4-H Fair. Presented a soil erosion experiment and visitors were able to plant sunflower seeds. The district will also be participating in the Atlantic County 4-H Fair August 11-12, 2023 with the same experiment and giveaway.

-July 27<sup>th</sup>, the District will participate in The Inland Family Success Center summer camp event in Egg Harbor Twp.

-Working on District newsletter.

-Commented on possible collaboration with Upper Twp. Green Team to create a pollinator garden at the rest stop on Garden State Parkway.

-Researching options to upgrade District website.

-Continuing outreach efforts. Looking into homeschooling groups.

**B. Grants/Agreements**

Michael Kent

-Distributed spreadsheet showing status of all grants.

-Update on 2021 NACD Technical Assistance Grant.

-NRCS Conservation Technical Assistance Grant (CTA) went into effect July 1, 2023.

- District was awarded a grant to hire three (3) Conservation Planners with a projected start date of October 2, 2023.
- July 27, 2023 will be attending virtual NJ Dept. of Ag. Animal Waste Management meeting along with Riley Blankenship.
- Reported on NACD/NRCS-Urban and Community Conservation Grant Initiative and work being conducted by Haley Jackson.
- Working with Haley Jackson on the 2023 NACD Technical Assistance (TA) grant proposal. Emphasis will be on outreach.

**C. Meetings**

Michael Kent

- Reported on NACD's Summer Meeting attended July 15-21, 2023 along with Joseph Lomax.
- Registration is open for the NACD Northeast Regional Meeting scheduled for September 16-20, 2023 in Portland Maine. Requested a count for those wanting to attend.

**COMMENTS**

**A. Staff**

**Michael Kent**

- Office has been very busy, and staff are doing an excellent job as the District advances.
- Reported on large subdivision project in Egg Harbor Twp.
- Commented on North Dakota's Conservation District and how they own and operate a farm.

**Glenn Ward**

- Update 251 program and projects throughout the District
- Distributed and commented on 251 quarterly report.
- Update on Daniel Bononcini's training and work being done by Lauren Tigue.

**Haley Jackson**

- Enjoying all the events the District has been participating in and being able to work on educational outreach.

**Riley Blankenship**

- Assisted Atlantic County with their preserved farm monitoring. The District will be taking over inspection starting next year.
- Attending training on herbicide safety and aquaculture in the US.
- Conducting first contract signing today.

**Lauren Tigue**

- Enjoyed working at the Cape May County 4-H Fair.
- Update on 251 work being conducted.

**Daniel Bononcini**

- Continuing to work alongside staff conducting site inspections and plan review and getting to learn the area better.

**B. Supervisors**

**Joseph Lomax**

- Commended staff on hard work and how it is changing the face of the District.

- Avalon Environmental Commission produced a sustainable landscaping and flowering native plant list where the District is named.
- Attended the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Summer meeting. Reported on breakout sessions and sites visited.
- Applauded Haley Jackson on the education documents being created.
- Recently traveled abroad. Commented on Ag. and Ag. production in the regions visited.
- Update on the high volume of ticks and mosquitoes in our area.

***Richard Dovey***

- Enjoying vacation and retirement.
- Update on the NJACD annual conference schedule for November 20, 2023. Looking to hold meeting at the Liberty Science Center. Accommodations forthcoming.

***Cormac Morrissey***

- Happy to see the District posting more on social media.
- Looking forward to the District getting more involved in aquaculture.
- Maurice River Twp. received a grant to install a bike path out to Thompson's Beach.
- Commented on recent visit to Prince Edward Island.

***Robert Fenton***

- Busy clamming. Commented on issues with stingrays in the bay.

**C. *USDA-NRCS***

***Michelle Pedano***

- Distributed NRCS monthly activity report.
- Reported on several programs and their sign-ups and cut-off dates.
- NJ NRCS employees meeting schedule for September 13, 2023.
- NJ Audubon hosting outreach event on Augst 25, 2023 at Hidden Creek Farm.

***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to go into executive session at 9:26 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to end the executive session at 10:45 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

***ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION***

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey authorizing Michael Kent to attend the NACD Employees Association mid-year meeting in Detroit MI on September 11-15, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey authorizing five board members and two staff attend the NACD Northeast Regional meeting in Portland, ME on September 17-20, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey authorizing Joseph Lomax and Michael Kent to attend the National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) meeting in Salt Lake City, UT on October 1-5, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving the amended Fiscal Year-2024 budget. The motion passed unanimously.

***ADJOURNMENT***

Chairman Robert Fenton adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting will be August 23, 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

Executive Session Meeting Minutes  
Cape Atlantic Conservation District  
July 26, 2023

Motion to go into executive session was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey at 9:26 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

**Attendees:**

District Supervisors: Robert Fenton, Joseph Lomax, Cormac Morrissey, and Richard Dovey (via teleconference)

District Staff: Michael Kent

**Personnel Training and Meetings:**

Michael Kent informed the Board that there were several meeting and training opportunities for Board and staff to participate in over the next couple on months. Discussion was had about Board and staff participation.

**FY 2024 Amended Budget:**

Michael Kent presented the Board with an amended FY-24 budget for review and comment.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to end the executive session at 10:45 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Michael Kent