

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

June 22, 2022

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman, Allen Carter, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.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, Chelsea Steffes, Marie Rogowski and Joseph Girnius

USDA-NRCS: Julie Hawkins and Michelle Pedano

SSCC: Frank Minch

Public: William Angstadt

MINUTES

A. Minutes of May 25, 2022, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Robert Fenton and seconded by Richard Dovey to approve minutes from the May 25, 2022, meeting. Joseph Lomax abstained from motion. The motion passed.

B. Executive Session Minutes of May 25, 2022, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve executive session minutes from the May 25, 2022, meeting. Joseph Lomax abstained from motion. The motion passed.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – May 2022

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve the District's May 2022 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$59,681.42. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **PMC Financials – May 2022**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for May 2022, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve treasurer's report, balance sheet and account balance of \$23,596.63. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Budget Adjustments FY-2022**

Michael Kent reviewed FY-2022 budget. After discussion, a motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve adjustments to the FY-2022 end of year budget in the following categories.

Funds totaling \$14,350.00 will be transferred out of category 7007-Refund SE&SC Fees, and transferred to categories 5031-Automobile Insurance (\$2,600.00); 5037-Liability Insurance (\$100.00); 5038-Property Insurance (\$50.00); 5055-Professional Development (\$500.00); 5702-Vehicle Repairs/Maintenance/Reg. (\$900.00); 6200-PERS Annual Contribution (\$10,200.00). The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. May 2022 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the May 2022 Application Report except for applications 276-22 and 278-22. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton approving applications 276-22 and 278-22. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

2. May 2022 Re-certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton approving application 441-18 listed on the May 2022 Re-Certification Application Report. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Farmland Program

1. Conservation Plans

After board review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving the following Conservation Plans.

- a. Mullica Twp., 4.7 acres, Cover Crop, Pollinator Habitat, High Tunnel
- b. Hamilton Twp., 9.9 acres, Brush Management, Pollinator Habitat, Roof Runoff Structure.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Senate Bill No. 2639

Frank Minch reported on Senate Bill No. 2639 sponsored by Senator Christopher Connors, and its impact on the Districts if passed.

D. Flood Hazard Areas Emergency Rules

Frank Minch reported that Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is in the process of adopting new rules. Updated rules are currently being reviewed to evaluate their impact on future projects and development.

E. Mileage Reimbursement

Effective July 1, 2022 the Federal mileage rate will increase. A motion was made by Robert Fenton and seconded by Richard Dovey to have the District follow the Federal mileage reimbursement rate. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees (NACDE)

The District received Thank You letter for donation to the NACDE.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Chelsea Steffes

-Reported that on June 7th the District utilized soil tunnel at the Galloway Twp. Middle Schools Nature Fest.

-The Inland Family Success Center in Egg Harbor Twp., has invited the District to participate in a 1 day summer camp event they are preparing to hold in August.

Joseph Girnius

-On June 1st and 10th the District utilized soil tunnel at a Somers Point school event for 5th & 6th graders. Event was held at Kennedy Park in Somers Point.

Glenn Ward

-Update on outreach efforts by the District.

B. Grants

Michael Kent

-Update on Civil Engineer Technician (CET) grant being filled by Ashley Hines at the NRCS Woodstown field office and NACD Technical Assistance grant being filled by Zachary Nixon at the NRCS Vineland and Columbus field offices.

C. Personnel

Board discussed search for new employee. A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to suspend search. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

Marie Rogowski

-Update on daily office activity.

Joseph Girnius

-Reported on transition from intern to part-time employee. Thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Chelsea Steffes

-Update on 251 activities. Requests for final inspections has increased significantly.

Glenn Ward

-Update on 251 applications received and activity throughout the District.

-Contacted by Mr. Ralph Cooper, Upper Twp., Green Team Chair to discuss partnering with the District on beautification projects in Cape May County.

Michael Kent

- Commented on NRCS State Technical and State Committee meetings attended.
- Will be attending the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Summer and National Conservation Partnership Planning (NCP) Meetings July 16-19, 2022 along with Joseph Lomax.
- District is moving forward looking for and creating new outreach/partnership opportunities.

B. Supervisors

Richard Dovey

- Reported on ACUA labor shortage and its impact on daily operations.
- Update on trash collection agreements.
- Update on agreement with South Jersey Industries to convert landfill gases to pipeline quality gas.
- Reported on pilot program to turn wind energy into hydrogen.

Robert Fenton

- Commented on farming and fishing activities.
- Busy attending meetings.

Joseph Lomax

- Commented on National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Conservation Clip blog written by Chelsea Steffes.
- Noted the importance of relationships with other agencies and its positive outcome for all involved.
- Update on work being conducted by the National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP).
- NACD is reviewing policy book and national employee handbook is nearing completion.

Cormac Morrissey

- Attending meeting on June 28th to review DEP Flood hazard and stormwater rules.
- Pineland rules for stormwater management are now in effect.
- Commented on radio broadcast that talked about recycling liquid waste to be used as fertilizer.

Allen Carter, Jr.

- Fertilizer pricing update.
- Update on agricultural labor issues.
- Agricultural crops pricing update.
- Reported that Farm Bureau will have staff in attendance at the State Board meeting being held today.
- Farm Bureau deer initiative update.
- Commented on beautification projects in Cape May County.
- Update on activities at Tuckahoe Turf farm.
- Update on wildfire in Wharton State Park.

C. USDA-NRCS

Michelle Pedano

- Distributed and commented on NRCS Monthly Activity report.
- Update on service center staffing.
- Thanked Allen Carter, Jr. for participating in NRCS Civil Rights Review.
- Update on programs, their sign-up and cut-off dates.

D. SSCC

Frank Minch

- Discussions taking place for solar standards.
- Update on soil and water cost share.
- Deer fencing easement program update.
- Update on DEP enforcement for blueberry growers.
- Update on Avian Influenza. State is keeping an eye on poultry producers.

E. Rutgers Cooperative Extension

-Allen Carter, Jr. reported that over the next 24 months a large number of Extension Agents are eligible for retirement.

F. Public

Opened meeting to public comment.
No comments from public.

NRCS STATE CONSERVATIONIST

Julie Hawkins, NRCS State Conservationist and Board discussed programs and future ventures with the District.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m. The next meeting will be July 27, 2022, 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