

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

March 23, 2022

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman, Allen Carter, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:05 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, Rachel Thornton, Marie Rogowski and Zachary Nixon

NRCS: Michelle Pedano

MINUTES

A. Minutes of February 23, 2022 Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2022, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Executive Session Minutes of February 23, 2022 Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve the executive session minutes from the February 23, 2022, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – February 2022

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve the District's February 2022 treasurer's

report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$51,202.07. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **PMC Financials – February 2022**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for February 2022, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve treasurer’s report, balance sheet and account balance of \$12,417.72. The motion passed unanimously.

B. FY-2021 Audit

A copy of FY-2021 Audit was previously distributed to the Board for review. A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to accept audit as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Joseph Lomax stated that there were no issues with audit, reflecting the excellent job staff is doing.

C. Farm Bureau Bank CD

A 12-month CD with Farm Bureau Bank is due for renewal March 27, 2022. Michael Kent stated that the CD was rolled over for a term of one year at .75%.

D. Budget Committee

Richard Dovey and Cormac Morrissey will serve on the FY-23 Budget Committee. The budget committee will meet with Michael Kent to review and discuss FY-23 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. February 2022 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the February 2022 Application Report except for application 501-21. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving applications 501-21. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

2. February 2022 Re-certifications

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax approving application listed on the February 2022 Re-Certification Application Report. The motion passed unanimously.

3. District 251 Analysis Report

Glenn Ward distributed and reported on District 251 Data Analysis Report that was prepared by Joseph Girnius, District Intern.

B. Farmland Program

1. Conservation Plans

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

- a. Egg Harbor Township, 107.98 acres, Forest Stewardship Plan

The motion passed unanimously.

C. *Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable*

Ocean County Soil Conservation District and Ocean County Parks and Recreation will be hosting their annual Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable. Cost to attend is \$25.00 per person. After discussion a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to support staff and supervisors that wish to attend. The motion passed unanimously.

D. *District Apparel*

New district apparel is needed for staff and supervisors. A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to research cost of new apparel to be presented at next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. *Atlantic County 4-H Sponsorship*

Atlantic County 4-H Association is seeking support for their 2022 4-H Yearbook. A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to purchase a half page ad for \$100.00 as budgeted. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. *Education*

Chelsea Steffes

- Update on District Newsletter that was sent out via email. Newsletter is also on website and Facebook page.
- Commented on Districts Poster Contest. Deadline for submittals is March 25th.

Glenn Ward

- Attended Envirothon planning meeting. At the present time six schools have registered. Absegami High School has signed up to participate.
- Stated that Envirothon team presentation judges are needed.

B. *Grants*

Michael Kent

- Update on Civil Engineer Technician (CET) grant being filled by Ashley Hines at the NRCS Woodstown office.

Zachary Nixon

- Working under NACD Technical Assistance grant at the Vineland field office. Update on daily activities and projects being worked on.

COMMENTS

A. *Staff*

Rachel Thornton

- Staying busy with plan review and site inspections.
- Working with District Intern, Joseph Girnius and taking him out in the field to conduct site inspections.
- Continuing to grow relations with builders and construction officials.

Chelsea Steffes

- Update on 251 activities.
- Finishing up SACD Farm Monitoring inspections and will be starting Cape May County preserved farm inspections.

Marie Rogowski

- Office remains busy with large number of applications being submitted.

Glenn Ward

- Gave update on 251 applications received and activity throughout the District.
- Update on staff continuing to make connections with builders and municipal staff.
- Preparing for Earth Day events.
- Update on staff training with John Showler.

Michael Kent

- Participating in NRCS New Jersey strategic planning meeting. Will be invited to participate in second meeting later this summer.
- Atlantic County COVID status update. Building remains closed, mask mandate lifted.
- Reminder that NJACD Annual Partnership Meeting will be on Monday March 28, 2022 at the Freehold District.

B. Supervisors

Robert Fenton

- Busy with projects on the farm and getting boat ready for the season.

Joseph Lomax

- Update on the recently released State Forestry Summary.
- Reported on upcoming meeting with Richard Dovey and Michel Kent to review Districts strategic plan.
- Update on the NACD Coastal Resources Policy Group.
- Invited to participate in the National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPD).

Cormac Morrissey

- Attended a webinar hosted by DEP. They are collecting information in preparation of updating flood maps.
- Commented on housing shortages.

Richard Dovey

- Commented on upcoming meeting with Joseph Lomax and Michel Kent to review Districts strategic plan.
- Looking forward to attending Annual NJACD Annual Partnership Meeting on Monday March 28th.
- Update on ACUA staffing.
- Update on trash transfer facility in Pleasantville.
- Reported on polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS).

Allen Carter, Jr.

- Update from State Sod Growers Convention attended.
- Update from Turf Producers International Conference attended.
- Robert Andrzejczak seated as Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director.
- Commented on wind energy leasing parcels that were not bid on.
- Commented on a right-to-farm issue on a parcel of land in Upper Township.
- Reported on deer fencing funds available for non-preserved farms.

-Rutgers is currently seeking Dean replacement and funds are available to update Experiment Station.

-Reported on visit to a Florida orange producer and the new genetically modified trees being grown to combat insect damage.

C. USDA-NRCS

Michelle Pedano

-Distributed and commented on NRCS Monthly Activity report.

-Reported on NRCS Service Center in-person staffing.

-Reported on various programs and sign-up deadlines.

-Reported that Nicholas Saumweber is on a work detail in Texas.

D. Public

Opened meeting to public comment.

No comments from public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to go into executive session at 9:55 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to end executive session at 10:45 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action items from executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m. The next meeting will be April 27, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the USDA-NRCS Plant Material Center, Cape May Court House, NJ.

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

Marie Rogowski,
Administrative Assistant