

# Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

March 25, 2015

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman, Richard Dovey called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. at the District office in Mays Landing, NJ

## **ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Supervisors: Richard Dovey, Joseph Lomax, Allen Carter, Jr. and Robert Fenton

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

NRCS: Nicholas Saumweber

Supervisor Absent: Daniel Galletta

## **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve minutes from the February 25, 2015 meeting.

## **FINANCES**

### **A. Treasurer's Report-February 2015**

After review of the February 2015 Treasurer's Report a motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve Treasurer's Report and Expenses in the amount of \$38,832.40.

Robert Fenton arrived at 8:10 a.m. after board action on minutes, treasurer's report and expenses.

After review of the Plant Material Center and Drill accounts monthly reports for February 2015, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter, Jr. to approve reports.

David Reilly reported that the 12 month CDARS account has been renewed with Cape Bank and that \$100,000.00 was transferred to the main operating account.

### **B. Cape Bank 10 Month CD**

A 10 month CD with Cape Bank is up for renewal April 18, 2015. After discussion, a motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Joseph

Lomax to transfer funds to Parke Bank if Cape Bank cannot match or offer better interest rate.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

#### **1. February 2015 Certifications**

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton approving all Plan Certifications listed on the February 2015 Application Report except for applications 43-15, 48-15 and 65-15.

Joseph Lomax stepped out of meeting so a motion could be made on recused applications.

A motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Robert Fenton approving applications 43-15, 48-15 and 65-15. Joseph Lomax recused since plans were submitted by past or current clients.

### **B. Farmland Program (Board Action Required)**

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve all of the following Conservation Agreements, Conservation Plans and CREP Application/Contract.

#### **1. Conservation Agreements**

- a. Robert Boselli, Galloway Twp.-17.41 acres of Evergreen Trees
- b. Robert Edmunds, Patcong Farms, Egg Harbor Twp.,-413 acres of grain
- c. Kirk Sparks, Hamilton Twp., - 15 acres of forestry

#### **2. Conservation Plans**

- a. Hamilton Twp., 15 acres - EQIP Contract- Conservation Forestry
- b. Hammonton, 72 acres - Grassed Waterway

#### **3. CREP Application/Contract**

- a. Hammonton, 72 acres – Service Road Farm

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **A. Richard Belcher, NJ Envirothon Coordinator**

Received letter from Mr. Belcher thanking District for offering to host the 2015 NJ Envirothon and asks that the District add an additional Event Rider to our existing insurance policy. A motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Joseph Lomax to authorize payment up to \$400.00 for Event Rider policy.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Education**

Glenn Ward reported on the following:

**Envirothon**

Glenn Ward reported that 38 teams have registered for the 2015 NJ Envirothon with the majority camping out over night on May 1<sup>st</sup>. A total of five teams from Atlantic and Cape May counties are registered. Financial contributions are around \$11,000 which is approximately half the operating budget for an Envirothon event.

The southern training session for the Envirothon is Friday April 17 with 48 students signed up. This represents 4 schools and 8 teams of students.

The next meeting of the Envirothon planning committee is being held on Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> on site at the Cape May County Rutgers Extension office.

**Poster Contest**

The dead line for submission of posters for the State Conservation Poster Contest is today. The District has received a good amount of entries. Judging for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners will be done by Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> with 1<sup>st</sup> place posters being sent onto the state competition.

**Earth Day**

Office staff is gearing up for the upcoming Earth Day celebrations in both Atlantic and Cape May counties. Cape May County Earth Day is Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> and Atlantic County Earth Day is Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the District's display will be conservation and soil health.

**B. Update – New Jersey Conservation District Workgroups.**

Joseph Lomax updated board and staff on the Annual Audit Manual for NJ Soil Conservation Districts. Review period has been extended for an additional 30 days. David Reilly reported that he received all comments from Supervisors and they will be forwarded to Review Committee. David Reilly also stated that audit manual was sent to District auditor for review. Tom Dark, Nightlinger, Colavito & Volpa, P.A. will also forward any comments to Review Committee.

Joseph Lomax reported that the Policy and Procedures subcommittee is working on streamlining existing document to make it more manageable. Draft copy will be available soon.

David Reilly reported that the Training Sub-committee is still searching for Supervisor to serve as co-chair.

**C. Update – CIG Project**

David Reilly reported that the staff will begin site documentation visits the week of April 6, 2015.

Joseph Lomax suggested sending a letter to all farms thanking them for their participation and informing them of upcoming site visits.

**COMMENTS**

**A. Staff**

**Michael Kent**

- Updated Board on 251 projects. Received two applications for U.S. Coast Guard projects in Atlantic City and Cape May. Also, Garden State Parkway project is moving along. Recently had meeting with project manager to review site.
- H&H data entry has been moving forward with help from the interns.
- Interns have been doing a great job. Will be assisting staff at both Earth Day events and Envirothon.

***David Reilly***

- Spoke with Diana Rutala, Atlantic County Deputy Administrator. The District's grant for \$20,000.00 had been approved.
- SJRC&D had finalized agreement with US Fish & Wildlife to maintain No Till Drill. Once District receives copy of agreement, bank funds will then be transferred to SJRC&D account.
- Stated that registration for Joseph Lomax and Robert Fenton to attend Regional Supervisor meeting is complete.
- Attending County Agriculture Development Board Administrators meeting on March 27, 2015 to review pilot program for special events at preserved wineries.
- Commented on NFWF grant application that was submitted. Thanked Joseph Lomax, Nicholas Saumweber and staff for their help in preparing grant. Announcements should be out mid May.

**B. *Supervisors***

***Joseph Lomax***

- Thanked staff for all their work in preparing NFWF grant in such a short time frame.
- NACD CEO, John Larson, has stepped down. Jeremy Peters is acting as NACD's Interim CEO until a replacement is hired.
- 2016 North East Regional Meeting looking for venue to host conference. Joseph Lomax suggested we look into hosting, possibly at the Seaview Marriott.
- Inquired about date for PMC anniversary event. Item will be added to April's agenda for further discussion.

***Robert Fenton***

- Preparing greenhouses and gearing up to start planting.

***Allen Carter, Jr.***

- Attended Atlantic County Board of Agriculture Legislators Appreciation Dinner on March 18, 2015.
- Delivered sod to Met Life Stadium.
- Discussed issues with the Red Knot in Cape May County.
- State Board of Ag. sub-committee met to discuss the topic of soil disturbance on preserved farms.

***Richard Dovey***

- Attended Atlantic County Board of Agriculture Legislators Appreciation Dinner on March 18, 2015. Speakers had a big impact on the Legislators and their views of the farming community.
- Thanked everyone who participated in preparing NFWF grant application.
- Discussed issues at the ACUA and throughout the state to privatize water systems.

**C. NRCS**

**Nicholas Saumweber**

- Thanked staff for work on NFWF grant.
- Distributed NRCS Monthly Report for review and comments.
- Updated board and staff on 2015 EQIP and AMA applications.
- CSP applications now being accepted. Application signup deadline is September 30, 2015. Renewal signup deadlines are March 31<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.
- Chris Miller will be hosting Coastal Area Restoration Science and Technology Webinar April 24, 2015 at 2:00PM.

**D. Public**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Joseph Lomax to adjourn meeting at 9:25 A.M. The next meeting will be held April 22, 2015 8:30 AM at the USDA-PMC office in Cape May Court House, NJ.

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

Marie Rogowski,  
Administrative Assistant