

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

November 21, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman, Robert Fenton called the meeting to order at 8:01 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.

Staff: Glenn Ward, Lauren Tigue, Connor Smilon, Renee Capetola, Riley Blankenship, John Hooven, Sharon McKenna, and Marie Rogowski

USDA-NRCS: Zachary Lenzi

MINUTES

A. Minutes of October 24, 2024, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to approve minutes from the October 24, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Executive Session Minutes of October 24, 2024 Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve executive session minutes from the October 24, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – October 2024

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve the District's October 2024 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$96,450.33 The motion passed unanimously.

2. **PMC Financials – October 2024**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for October 2024, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve treasurer's report, balance sheet and account balance of \$24,964.36. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. October 2024 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the October 2024 Application Report except for 452-24 and 481-24. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey approving applications 452-24 and 481-24. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

2. October 2024 Re-Certification

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all applications listed on the October 2024 Re-Certification Application Report except for 137-06 and 321-17. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving applications 137-06 and 321-17. Cormac Morrissey recused. The motion passed.

3. October 2024 Denied Application

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey to approve denied application listed on the October 2024 Application Report. The motion passed unanimously.

4. 251 Updates

Glenn Ward

-Update on the 251 program and large number of applications being submitted to the District.

Lauren Tigue

-Continuing to remain busy with plan review and site inspections.

B. Farmland Program

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving the following conservation agreements. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Conservation Agreements

- a. DC Fresh Farms, LLC – 20 acres, Buena Borough (Minotola)
- b. Nora Langweiler (Naked Flower Farm) – 1 acre, Egg Harbor Twp.
- c. David E. Laws (Piney Pastures Ranch, LLC) – 20 acres, Galloway Twp.
- d. Working Dog Farms, LLC – 20 acres, Galloway Twp.

C. Shared Service Agreement

Tabled until executive session.

D. Resolution

Tabled until executive session.

E. FY-2025 RCPP

There may be potential opportunities for the District to apply for RCPP grants in 2025. After discussion there was Board consensus to allow the District to explore future grant opportunities.

F. Open Public Meeting

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to hold Open Public Meeting on December 17, 2024 from 3:00-3:30pm to discuss District operations.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Sharon McKenna

- Update on continued Local Working Groups meeting outreach.
- Work continues with site selection and approvals for the pollinator project.
- Update on the 2025 Envirothon and poster contest.
- Commented on previously attended and upcoming events/meetings.

B. Grants/Agreements

Glenn Ward

Distributed report outlining status of all District grants.

C. Meetings

Glenn Ward

- Distributed and commented on list of previously attended, upcoming meetings, conferences, and events.

Richard Dovey

- Attended and reported on League of Municipalities conference.

Sharon McKenna

- Attended 2 days of the League of Municipalities conference. Reported on the day's events.

John Hooven

- Attended League of Municipalities conference. Thank the Board for supporting his attendance.

D. Forestry Update

John Hooven

- Distributed summary of forestry activities.
- Provided updates on field activities and community forestry outreach.
- Discussed becoming an NRCS technical service provider.

E. Agriculture Update

Riley Blakenship

- Distributed summary of agricultural activities.
- Commented on training events attended.
- Update on Conservation Planner status.
- Update on preserved farm inspections for 2025.

F. Coastal Zone Soil Survey

Joseph Lomax

- Discussed planning a follow up meeting with NRCS along with other key players.

G. District Employee Handbook

Glenn Ward

- Revisions have been completed. The handbook will be forwarded to the District Solicitor for final review before the Board acts at the next meeting.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

Glenn Ward

- Office remains very busy.
- Update on interns for the spring semester.
- Inquired about NRCS speakers' series.

Marie Rogowski

- Distributed Draft 2025 meeting schedule for review. Motion to approve will take place at the next meeting.

John Hooven

- Updated on Society of American Foresters (SAF) event attended in Cumberland, Maryland.
- Working with Rutgers Forestry Club to update their status with SAF National.
- Update on presentation scheduled for December 7, 2024 with Friends of Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.
- Discussed taking supervisors and staff out for forestry lesson.
 - Supervisors discussed forming a subcommittee to discuss additional site visits for staff, supervisors, and legislators.

Riley Blankenship

- Discussed thoughts for public land management issues.
 - Joseph Lomax suggested seeking a grant opportunity to hold a symposium to discuss technical assistance available.
 - Cormac Morrissey suggested creating initiative memo.

B. Supervisors

Joseph Lomax

- Update on meeting with the American Littoral Society regarding shoreline restoration. Looking to schedule a follow-up meeting and have the District attend.
- Commented on meeting attended along with Michael Kent at Plant Materials Center regarding native materials.
- Commented on preparing for the spring fly-in.

Cormac Morrissey

-Discussed the possibility of the District hosting a booth at next year's League of Municipalities conference.

Richard Dovey

-Update on the upcoming NJACD Annual meeting scheduled for November 25, 2024.
-Commented on meeting with Julie Hawkins, Robert Fenton, and Michael Kent to discuss easement purchase program.
-Attended meeting where stakeholders are working on initiative to have the Mullica River designated as a scenic river with the National Park Service.
-Elected city council for Egg Harbor City.

Robert Fenton

-Allen Carter Jr. has been re-elected Farm Bureau president.
-Update on Farm Bureau conference.
-Busy attended many meetings and conferences.

C. USDA-NRCS

Zachary Lenzi

-Distributed and commented on NRCS monthly activity report.

D. Public

Opened meeting to public comment.
No comments from the 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 Cormac Morrissey to end the executive session at 11:05 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving the resolution for the intent to merge the Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District and the Camden County Soil Conservation District. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey approving the shared services agreement between the Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District and the Camden County Soil Conservation District. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m. The next meeting will be held Tuesday December 17, 2024, 3:30 a.m. at the District Office, Mays Landing, NJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Marie Rogowski
Office Administrator