

# Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

October 27, 2021

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

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension office on Cape May Court House, 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, Cormac Morrissey, Joseph Lomax, and Richard Dovey

Staff: Michael Kent, Glenn Ward, Chelsea Steffes, Rachel Thornton, and Marie Rogowski

United States Department of Agricultural-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) : Michelle Pedano

## **MINUTES**

### **A. Minutes of September 22, 2021, Meeting**

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2021, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **FINANCES**

### **A. Treasurers Reports**

#### 1. District Financials – September 2021

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve the District's September 2021 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$67,712.07. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **PMC Financials – September 2021**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for September 2021, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve treasurer’s report, balance sheet and account balance of \$12,548.19. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

**1. September 2021 Certifications**

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the September 2021 Application Report except for application 385-21 and 402-21. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey approving applications 385-21 and 402-21. Joseph Lomax recused having a conflict of interest. The motion passed.

**2. September 2021 Re-certifications**

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving application listed on the September 2021 Re-Certification Application Report except for application 231-88. Cormac Morrissey abstained from motion. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving application 231-88. Joseph Lomax recused having a conflict of interest. The motion passed.

**B. Farmland Program**

After review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve the following Conservation Agreements:

1. GEI Oyster Farms, LLC, Somers Point, New EQIP Application
2. Matthew Schwert, 26 acres, Dennis Twp., New EQIP Application
3. Abundance Hospitality, LLC, 23.3 acres, Middle Twp, New EQUIP Application

The motion passed unanimously.

**C. State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) Agreement**

Michael Kent reported that the District has renewed its SADC Preserved Farmland Monitoring agreement for FY-2022.

**D. Ocean County Soil Conservation District (SCD) Shared Service Agreement**

Updated shared service agreement was distributed to the Board. Action will be taken at next meeting giving Board time to review and comment on agreement.

**E. NRCS Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Training**

District employees Ashley Hines and Zachary Nixon will need to attend training on November 15-19, 2021, in Clinton, NJ. After Board discussion a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to authorize hotel stay for 4 nights and a \$50.00 daily food stipend for each. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. NACD Annual Meeting**

NACD Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 12-16, 2022, in Orlando, Florida. Deadline for early bird registration is December 15, 2021. Any Board member wishing to attend will need to notify Michael Kent by November 17, 2021, meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Education**

Glenn Ward

- District has begun ramping up education outreach.
- Electronic version of the Districts Fall/Winter Newsletter will be sent out in the next day or two.
- District intern has started working on current issues test for next year's Envirothon.

Chelsea Steffes

- Distributed and commented on education survey results. Staff and Board discussed next steps to encourage more educators to participate in survey.

### **B. Grants**

Michael Kent

- Update on grants being filled by Zachary Nixon and Ashley Hines.

## **COMMENTS**

### **A. Staff**

#### **Chelsea Steffes**

- Remaining busy with plan review and site inspections.
- Continuing to work on education outreach.

#### **Rachel Thornton**

- Continuing plan review and site inspections for active projects.
- Meeting with Municipal Construction Officials and staff to reestablish working relationships.
- Working on creating a Facebook page for Coastal Resources Conservancy Inc. (CRCI) and updating District webpage.

#### **Glenn Ward**

- Commented on District's website and Facebook page.
- Reported on work detail with Ocean County SCD.
- Commented on 251 Quarterly Report that was Distributed to Board.
- Commented on meetings with Construction Officials conducted with Rachel Thornton.

#### **Michael Kent**

- Attended Partnership of Delaware Estuary Gala on October 7<sup>th</sup>, along with Robert Fenton.
- Attended the Offshore Wind Symposium in Atlantic City on October 5<sup>th</sup>, along with Richard Dovey and Joseph Lomax.
- Attended the Partnership of Delaware Estuary, Living Shorelines workshop on October 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Will be attending the NACD Northeast Regional Meeting October 31<sup>st</sup>-November 3, 2021, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

**B. Supervisors**

**Robert Fenton**

- Commented on Partnership of Delaware Estuary Gala attended on October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Clamming season wrapping up. Bay looks healthy for next year's fishing season.

**Cormac Morrissey**

- MS4 update.
- Requested to go into executive session at end of meeting.

**Joseph Lomax**

- Commented on Partnership of Delaware Estuary, Living Shorelines workshop attended October 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Comment on successional planning for State Soil Conservation Committee.
- CRCI brainstorming session was successful.
- NJ Shade Tree Foundation update.
- National Association of Conservation Districts update.

**Richard Dovey**

- Commented on CRCI meeting. Bill Angstadt ran a good meeting.
- Attended the Offshore Wind Symposium in Atlantic City on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Reported on ACUA staffing issues.

**Allen Carter, Jr.**

- Labor workforce update.
- Largest vegetable farmer in New Jersey will not be farming next season.
- Farm Bureau update.
- Reported on importing of fill dirt on farms.
- Turf grass and products pricing and supply update.
- Reported on tornado damage on farms.

**C. USDA-NRCS**

**Michelle Pedano**

- Distributed and reported on NRCS monthly activity report.
- USDA services centers staffing remain at 50%.
- Reported on program sign-ups and cutoff dates.
- Commented on NRCS Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Training for staff.

**D. Public**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to go into executive session at 10:22 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to end executive session at 10:40 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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

None

***ADJOURNMENT***

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday November 17, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. at the District office, Mays Landing, NJ.

Marie Rogowski,  
Administrative Assistant

Executive Session Meeting Minutes  
Cape Atlantic Conservation District  
October 27, 2021

Motion to go into executive session was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax at 10:22a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

**Attendees:**

District Supervisors: Allen Carter, Robert Fenton, Joseph Lomax, Richard Dovey and Cormac Morrissey

District Staff: Michael Kent

**Review of Health Benefits for District Employees:**

Cormac Morrissey suggested to the board that the District explore the idea of having an opt out of health benefits option for those employees that may be entitled to benefits from other means such as a spouse, partner or parent. The District may consider a monetary stipend (to be determined) if said employee opts out of the health benefits.

Michael Kent will research options and report to the Board at the next District meeting.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to end executive session at 10:40a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Michael Kent