

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

August 24, 2022

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman, Allen Carter, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:03 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, Richard Dovey, Joseph Lomax and Cormac Morrissey

Staff: Michael Kent, Chelsea Steffes, Marie Rogowski and Joseph Girnius

USDA-NRCS: Michelle Pedano, Chris Miller

Public: William Angstadt

MINUTES

A. Minutes of July 27, 2022, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Robert Fenton and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve minutes from the July 27, 2022, meeting. The Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – July 2022

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve the District's July 2022 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$50,578.63. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **PMC Financials – July 2022**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for July 2022, a motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve treasurer’s report, balance sheet and account balance of \$23,532.02. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. July 2022 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the July 2022 Application Report except for applications 334-22 and 336-22. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving application 334-22. Cormac Morrissey recused. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Robert Fenton approving application 336-22. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

2. July 2022 Re-certifications

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

B. Farmland Program

1. Conservation Agreement

After board review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton approving the following Conservation Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

- a. Cape May Farms, LLC – 1.2 acres, Lower Twp.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Chelsea Steffes

-On August 22, 2022 the District participated in The Inland Family Success Center summer camp event in Egg Harbor Twp. Children were very engaged and enjoyed presentation.

-Working on District’s Fall/Winter newsletter that will go out next month.

B. Grants

Michael Kent

-Update on grants being filled by Ashley Hines and Zachary Nixon. Their last day with the District will be September 9, 2022.

-Ocean County SCD and partners were awarded funding for NJ Coastal Aquaculture Project from UDSA-NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The

District is one of the partners and will participate on the advisory committee as well as assist in other rolls.

C. Meeting Updates

Michael Kent

- August 11, 2022 attended Zoom meeting hosted by Senator Cory Booker and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin. Discussion was on hunger, nutrition, and health.
- Attending a Sustainable New Jersey meeting this evening along with Joseph Girnius at Reeds Farm in Egg Harbor Twp.
- NACD Regional Meeting is August 28-31, 2022 in Cambridge Maryland. Will be attending along with Robert Fenton, Joseph Lomax and Cormac Morrissey.
- Commented on Partnership for Delaware Estuary annual gala fundraiser taking place October 13, 2022, and bi-annual Science & Environmental Summit scheduled for January 30-February 1, 2023 at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City.

Joseph Lomax

- Commented on National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) annual meeting scheduled for October 23-26, 2022 in Nashville Tennessee. After discussion a motion was made by Robert Fenton and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to authorize Michael Kent to attend meeting if essential. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

Chelsea Steffes

- 251 update. Busy with plan review and field work.
- Additional update on information and articles going into the District's Fall/Winter newsletter.

Joseph Girnius

- Continuing to support District staff with plan review and site inspections.
- Thanked the Board for the opportunity to work throughout the summer.

B. Supervisors

Richard Dovey

- ACUA staffing update
- Update on trash collection agreements.
- South Jersey Industries to announce project with ACUA to convert landfill gases to pipeline quality gas.
- Reported on demonstration project that will take wind energy from ACUA wind farm and convert to green hydrogen.

Robert Fenton

- Update on fishing activities. Reported on damage from large number of stingrays.
- Update on farming activities. Reported on issues from lack of rain.

Cormac Morrissey

- Update on Emergency Flood Hazzard Rules. Compiled comments being sent out for review.
- Commented on sites visited along the Maurice River regarding coastal shore protection.

Joseph Lomax

- Update on NACD meetings and work being completed by various committees.
- Was asked to participate on a Strategic Planning Committee along with Michael Kent to review statewide issues.
- Commented on the passing of Dennis Dougherty.
- Commented on boat tour taken to witness the purple martins staging.

Allen Carter, Jr.

- Commented on recent Farm Bureau meeting and upcoming conferences.
- Update from Cape May County 4H Fair.
- DEP representatives will be revisiting dredge material site in Tuckahoe, NJ prior to meeting with Pinelands.

C. USDA-NRCS

Michelle Pedano

- Distributed and commented on NRCS Monthly Activity report.
- Update on outreach event hosted by NJ Audubon on September 8, 2022.
- Update on various NRCS programs, their sign-up and cut-off dates.

Chris Miller

- Plant Materials Center (PMC) will host multi-state NRCS new employee training October 18-20, 2022. Details are still being finalized. Additional information will be provided at September meeting.
- PMC will be participating in the Coastal & Estuarine Summit that will be held December 4-8, 2022 in New Orleans. Update on two PMC sessions to be held at summit.

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 10:08 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Robert Fenton to end executive session at 10:30 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to interview candidates to fill NACD Technical Assistance (TA) grant position. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to have Michael Kent and Joseph Lomax create job description for new education, outreach and grant coordinator position. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m. The next meeting will be September 28, 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