

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

August 25, 2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. via video conference.

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, Chelsea Steffes, Rachel Thornton, and Marie Rogowski

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

MINUTES

A. Minutes of July 28, 2021, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2021, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Executive Session Minutes of July 28, 2021 Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve executive session minutes from the July 28, 2021 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports – July 2021

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to approve the District's July 2021 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$43,391.30. The motion passed unanimously.

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for July 2021, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve treasurer's report, balance sheet and account balance of \$12,547.98. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. July 2021 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the June 2021 Application Report. The motion passed unanimously.

2. July 2021 Re-certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving all applications listed on the July 2021 Re-Certification Application Report except for applications 385-14 and 303-14. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton approving applications 385-14 and 303-14. Joseph Lomax recused having a conflict of interest. Cormac Morrissey abstained from motion. The motion passed.

Chelsea Steffes reported on larger projects coming into the District.

B. Farmland Program

After board review and discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve the following Conservation Plans and Conservation Agreement:

1. Conservation Plans

- a. Hammonton, 8.6 acres, Conservation Stewardship Program
- b. Woodbine, 9 acres, High Tunnel, Cover Crop, Critical Area Planting & Herbaceous Wind Barriers

2. Conservation Agreement

- a. Louis G. Ambert-Perez, Cannatopia Gardens LLC, Mullica Twp. – 5 acres

The motion passed unanimously.

C. COVID-19

District's updated Covid-19 Interim Guidelines were previously emailed to the Board for review. A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to adopt updated guidelines subject to changes discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

Michael Kent stated that the State Soil Conservation Committee's (SSCC) return to the office has been postponed until October 18, 2021. An email from Frank Minch stated that he had no information on new mandates recently issued by the Governor. Information will be forwarded to the Districts when available.

D. New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts (NJACD) Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for annual NJACD awards. Nominees should be forwarded to Michael Kent so that he may submit information by deadline.

Michael Kent stated that Glenn Ward will be receiving his 15 years of service award and Richard Dovey, 30 years of service.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Rachel Thornton reported on the following:

- Winner of the 2021 National Envirothon was New York. New Jersey placed 13th out of 41 teams.
- 2022 National Envirothon will be held July 24-30, 2022 at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Theme will be "Waste to Resources".

B. Grants

Michael Kent reported on the following:

- Civil Engineer Technician (CET) grant that expires June 30, 2022 is eligible for a one year no-cost extension with some modifications. After discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to accept grant modifications and one year no-cost extension. The motion passed unanimously.
- PMC Seasonal Employee Dustin Welsh grant will end on August 28, 2021 with no extension.
- Zachary Nixon and Ashley Hines are doing well in their assigned positions.
- Results for the USDA Urban Agriculture Grant should be announced by the end of the month. There was staff and board discussion on grant participation and recommendations on how to handle future grants.

C. FY-2021 Audit

Michael Kent reported that the in-house portion of the FY-2021 was completed on August 11-13, 2021.

D. New Vehicles

Michael Kent reported payment was made and the District has taken delivery 2 new vehicles. Thanked the Board for authorizing purchase.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

Marie Rogowski

-Thanked Allen Carter, Jr. for hosting last months meeting and for tour of Tuckahoe Turf Farms.

Rachel Thornton

- Continuing plan review on larger projects.
- Reviewing stormwater reports and their association with the larger projects submitted to the District.
- Began conducting independent site inspections.

Chelsea Steffes

-Performing more site inspections to determine project status.

Michael Kent

-Sponsorship payment for the Partnership for Delaware Estuary Gala event has been submitted. Robert Fenton will attend event with Michael Kent.

- Will be assisting at the Tour de Farms event on September 11, 2021 along with Chelsea Steffes and Rachel Thornton.
- Coastal Resources Conservancy Inc. meeting schedule for September 3, 2021 at 3pm at the District office.

B. Supervisors

Joseph Lomax

- Reported on NACD Summer Board Meeting held in Chicago on July 24-27, 2021.
- NACD Annual meeting is scheduled for early February in Orlando, FL.
- Will begin reviewing and updating District HR policies.
- Commended Richard Dovey for recent articles in The Press of Atlantic City.

Richard Dovey

- Reported on staffing shortages.

Robert Fenton

- Enjoyed tour of Tuckahoe Turf Farms.
- Reported on fishing activity.

Cormac Morrissey

- Pinelands will be releasing updated Coastal Water Rules for review and comments.
- Offered to meet with staff to discuss new stormwater regulations.

Allen Carter, Jr.

- Reported on Farm Bureau meeting attended August 24, 2021.
- Commented on Infrastructure Bill in Washington.
- Commented on Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling's farm visit.
- Turf grass update. Reported on major crop loss.

C. USDA-NRCS

Michelle Pedano

- Distributed and commented on NRCS activity report.
- USDA services centers remain at 50% in-person staffing.
- Reported on program sign-ups and cutoff dates.

D. Public

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday September 22, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. at the District office in Mays Landing, NJ.

Marie Rogowski,
Administrative Assistant