

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

December 14, 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman, Robert Fenton called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.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, Richard Dovey and Allen Carter

Staff: Michael Kent, Glenn Ward, Haley Jackson, Lauren Tigue, Riley Blankenship, Daniel Bononcini, and Marie Rogowski

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Michelle Pedano

Public: William Brash

MINUTES

A. Minutes of November 16, 2023, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve minutes from the November 16, 2023 meeting. Allen Carter abstained. The motion passed.

B. Executive Session Minutes of November 16, 2023 Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve executive session minutes from the November 16, 2023 meeting. Allen Carter abstained. The motion passed.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – November 2023

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve the District's November 2023

treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$70,216.12. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **PMC Financials – November 2023**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for November 2023, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve treasurer's report, balance sheet and account balance of \$23,000.56. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. November 2023 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the November 2023 Application Report except for 575-23. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Allen Carter approving application 575-23. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

B. Farmland Program

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

1. Conservation Agreement

- a. Surf & Turf Organic Farms, LLC, 38 acres, Galloway Township
- b. B. Tice Farms, many acres in both Atlantic & Cape May Counties
- c. Locust Ridge Honey & Produce, Michael Lehman, 19.96 acres, Mullica Township
- d. Cola Vineyards, LLC, 8.81 acres, Buena Vista Township

For full transparency, Robert Fenton informed the Board that his son is the owner of Surf & Turf Organic Farms.

C. FY-2023 Audit

Audit was previously emailed to the Board for review. After discussion a motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Richard Dovey to accept audit as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. 7th Annual Watershed Conference

Discussed District attending conference schedule for February 23, 2024. Discussion and motion were tabled until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Haley Jackson

-Update on District website.

-December/January newsletter will be going out shortly.

- Commented on Urban Ag. Focus Group meeting held on December 13th along with Riley Blankenship.
- Update on homeschooling group presentations being conducted.

B. Grants/Agreements

Michael Kent

- Distributed and commented on spreadsheet listing all District grants and obligations.
- Stated that three (3) people were hired to fill the NJ NRCS Conservation Planning positions.

C. Meetings

Michael Kent

- Distributed and commented on list of all upcoming meetings.
- Stated that registration and accommodations for all attending the 2024 NACD Annual Meeting has been confirmed.

D. Forestry Update

Tabled until executive session.

E. Agriculture Update

Riley Blakenship

- Reported on work being completed at the District and NRCS field office.
- Replacing Michael Kent as District representative on the Cape May and Atlantic Counties Boards of Agricultural. Update on meetings attended.
- Will be attending training for preserved farms inspections.
- Commented on Delaware River Watershed Ag. Networking Roundtable attended November 28-29, 2023 along with Michael Kent.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

Michael Kent

- Stated the New Jersey Conservation District Employees Association is back with Matthew D'Alessandro serving as President.

Glenn Ward

- Reported on 251 program.
- Fall intern has completed all requirements. Commented on the 2 spring interns that will start in January.

Lauren Tigue

- Reported on 251 work being completed.
- Looking forward to assisting Haley Jackson with education presentation.
- Working with Joseph Lomax on subaqueous soils update.

Daniel Bononcini

- Update on 251 work being conducted.

B. Supervisors

Allen Carter

- Gave Farm Bureau update.
- Update on search for NJ Department of Agriculture Secretary.

Richard Dovey

- Commented on NJACD meeting that was held November 20, 2023. Will be serving as Chairman and Cormac Morrissey will serve as South Representative.
- State Committee meeting update.

Joseph Lomax

- New Jersey Agricultural Convention & Trade Show is scheduled for February 6-8, 2024 at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City. After discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Allen Carter to authorize staff and board who wish to attend. The motion passed unanimously.
- Commented on District internal review.
- Atlantic Cape Community College drone program has moved to the Cape May County campus.
- Commented on District succession planning.

Cormac Morrissey

- Reported on NJACD meeting and presentation by Michael Kent.
- Commented on stormwater standards.
- Commented on flood protection rules.

C. USDA-NRCS

Michelle Pedano

- Distributed and commented on NRCS monthly activity report.
- Reported on program signup and cutoff dates.

F. Public

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Joseph Lomax to go into executive session at 5:00pm. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Joseph Lomax to end the executive session at 6:02pm and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday January 25, 2024, 8:00am at the District office in Mays Landing, NJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Marie Rogowski
Administrative Assistant

Executive Session Meeting Minutes
Cape Atlantic Conservation District
December 14, 2023

Motion to go into executive session was made by Rick Dovey and seconded by Joe Lomax at 5:00 pm The motion passed unanimously.

Attendees:

District Supervisors: Robert Fenton, Joe Lomax, Rick Dovey, Allen Carter, and Cormac Morrissey

District Staff: Michael Kent

Forestry Position:

The Board discussed the hiring of a full-time forester. The Board discussed different options on how to fill the forestry position.

Michael will investigate different options and will present recommendations at the next Board meeting.

A motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Joe Lomax to end the executive session at 6:02 p.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Michael Kent