

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

May 23, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman, Robert Fenton called the meeting to order at 8:03 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: Michael Kent, Lauren Tigue, Connor Smilon, Renee Capetola, Riley Blankenship, and Marie Rogowski

USDA-NRCS: Michelle Pedano

MINUTES

A. Minutes of April 25, 2024, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve minutes from the April 25, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Executive Session Minutes of April 25, 2024 Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve executive session minutes from the April 25, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – April 2024

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve the District's April 2024 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$129,759.87. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **PMC Financials – April 2024**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for April 2024, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve treasurer’s report, balance sheet and account balance of \$23,003.66. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. April 2024 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the April 2024 Application Report except for 106-24, 116-24, 160-24, 174-24, 180-24, 189-24, 195-24, 196-24 and 210-24 . The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving applications 106-24, 160-24, 174-24, 180-24, 189-24 and 210-24. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax approving applications 116-24, 195-24 and 196-24. Cormac Morrissey recused. The motion passed.

2. April 2024 Re-Certification

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving application 467-20 listed on the April 2024 Re-Certification Application Report. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving application 442-20 listed on the April 2024 Re-Certification Application Report. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

B. Farmland Program

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

- 1. Conservation Plan
 - a. Northfield, 8 acres, Bivalve Aquaculture Gear & Biofouling Control
 - b. Hammonton, 10 acres, Drip Irrigation & IWM
- 2. Conservation Plan & State Cost Share Application
 - a. Dennis Twp., 24 acres, Center Pivot

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Michael Kent

-May 30, 2024 the District will be participating in Galloway’s Nature Fest at Reeds Road Elementary School.

- June 4, 2024 the District will be participating in Slabaugh Elementary School Go Green Day.
- Advertisement for Outreach Coordinator will be going out.

Lauren Tigue

- Update on Envirothon that was held May 18th.

B. Grants/Agreements

Michael Kent

- Distributed and commented on report listing all current District grants and obligations.
- District has entered into a new five-year agreement to hire a Civil Engineer Technician (CET) partner employee to work out of the Woodstown field office.
- Update on forestry work and possible grants available.

C. Meetings

Michael Kent

- Distributed and commented on list of upcoming meetings.
- State Technical Committee Meeting scheduled for June 12, 2024 9am-4pm.
- Update on meeting with Food Security Advocacy group.
- Commented on upcoming NACD/Northeast Summer Meeting.
- Commented on upcoming NACDEA Summer Board Meeting.

D. Forestry Update

Michael Kent

- Stated that John Hooven will be starting June 3, 2024
- Forestry consultants will continue to work with staff.
- Update on Daniel Bononcini and the work he has been performing.

E. Agriculture Update

Riley Blakenship

- Commented on work being conducted at the NRCS field office.
- Finishing up SADC annual preserved farm monitoring site visits.
- Starting farm inspections for Cape May County.
- Commented on cedar swamp restoration.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

Michael Kent

- Office remains busy. Staff continues to adapt as the District evolves. Thanked the staff for all their hard work.
- Commented on new opportunities that continue to present themselves.

Marie Rogowski

- Office remains busy. Commented on number of 251 applications being submitted to the District.

Renee Capetola

- Continuing to learn the District's day-to-day operations.
- Enjoying getting to know coworkers and getting out in the field and meeting builders.

Connor Smilon

- Was assigned municipalities for 251 inspections. Getting out in the field to get a better understanding of the area.
- Commented to the day spent with Riley Blankenship conducting farm inspections.

Riley Blankenship

- May 28th will be attending tour of Stockton University's farm to visit sugar maple operation.
- June 2nd will be participating in an outreach event at Enlighten Farm, Galloway Twp.

B. Supervisors

Joseph Lomax

- Updated on dolphin stranded in Middle Twp. creek.
- Commented on the large number of horseshoe crab coming ashore and US Fish & Wildlife tagging.
- Subaqueous mapping on hold. Work will continue for next year's filing.
- Working on format for District's business plan. Will share with the Board when complete.
- Looking forward to conducting interviews for the outreach position.
- Commented on DEP webinars being held.
- Served as a judge for the presentation portion of the Envirothon. Commented on the day's event.
- Commented on hosting horseshoe crabs and pinelands fieldtrips.

Richard Dovey

- Update on NJACD regional meetings held.
- NJACD Annual meeting will be held November 25, 2024 at the Eco-Complex.
- Attended Envirothon. Commented on the day's event. Complimented Freehold District for organizing event.

Cormac Morrissey

- Commented on a conversation with Frank Minch about how there is a lack of understanding about Soil Conservation Districts. Discussed how our District may get involved.

Robert Fenton

- Busy attending meetings.
- Clamming update. The season has been going well.

C. USDA-NRCS

Michelle Pedano

- Distributed NRCS monthly activity report.
- Reported on programs available, their signup and cutoff dates.
- NRCS NJ Urban Grant opportunity open until June 7, 2024.

D. Public

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to go into executive session at 9:17 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to end the executive session at 10:49 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 approve the Fiscal Year 2025 budget with changes as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday June 27, 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
May 23, 2024

The motion to go into executive session was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey at 9:17 am. The motion passed unanimously.

Attendees:

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

District Staff: Michael Kent

Proposed FY 25 Budget:

The budget committee presented and discussed the proposed FY 25 budget. Recommendations and changes were made to the proposed budget to reflect the needs of the District for FY 25.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to end the executive session at 10:49 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Michael Kent