

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

September 28, 2022

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman, Allen Carter, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:08 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, Glenn Ward, Chelsea Steffes and Marie Rogowski

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Michelle Pedano

State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC): John Showler

MINUTES

A. Minutes of August 24, 2022, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve minutes from the August 24, 2022, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Executive Session Minutes of August 24, 2022, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve executive session minutes from the August 24, 2022, meeting. The motion passes unanimously.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – August 2022

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve the District's August 2022 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$49,404.95. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **PMC Financials – August 2022**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for August 2022, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve treasurer's report, balance sheet and account balance of \$23,532.23. The motion passed unanimously.

B. NRCS Conservation Planning Field Days

Chris Miller provided the District with meal estimates for the multi-day event.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to allocate up to \$4,500.00 to be paid from PMC account for the NRCS Conservation Planning Field Days.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. August 2022 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton approving all Plan Certifications listed on the August 2022 Application Report. The motion passed unanimously.

2. August 2022 Re-certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving all applications listed on the August 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 Agreements.

- a. A Meaningful Purpose, Inc.-78.84 acres Egg Harbor Twp.
- b. Farm 319-0.55 acres, Egg Harbor City
- c. Mary Faith-20 acres, Estell Manor
- d. The Hansen Foundation-10.62 acres, Galloway Twp.
- e. Go Green Galloway-56 acres, Galloway Twp.
- f. South Bay Shellfish Co-3 acres, Middle Twp.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Local Working Group

Michael Kent reported that he is in the beginning stages of preparing for a Local Working Group meeting to be held early in the new year. More details will be provided as plans progress.

D. Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit

Summit is scheduled for January 30-February 1, 2023 at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City. The event is looking for sponsors. A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to have the District and PMC co-sponsor a table and pay sponsorship fee of \$500.00. Sponsorship will be paid from the PMC account. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Chelsea Steffes

-Finalizing District's Fall/Winter newsletter that will go out soon.

B. Grants

Michael Kent

-Civil Engineer Technician (CET) grant being filled by Ashley Hines has ended. Her last day with the District was September 9, 2022.

-Zachary Nixon's who was working under the NACD Technical Assistant (TA) grant had his last day with the District on September 9, 2022. Interviews are being conducted this afternoon along with Michelle Pedano to fill vacancy. A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Robert Fenton authorizing Michael Kent to move forward with the hiring of NACD TA grant replacement.

-Will be meeting with Maria Collazo, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist to discuss closing of the CET grant and future grant opportunities.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

Marie Rogowski

-Office remains busy with large number of applications being submitted.

Chelsea Steffes

-Continuing to remain busy with field work and plan review. Increased number of larger projects are being submitted to the District.

-Working with fall intern Sarah Champion and District's part-time employee Joseph Girnius.

Glenn Ward

-Update on 251 program and larger projects coming into the District.

-Update on fall intern Sarah Champion.

-Flyer for spring internship will be going out later this week.

Michael Kent

-Thanked the Board for their support in attending the NACD Northeast Regional meeting.

-Discussed participating in Northeast Conservation Districts Employees Association. Board was in favor of Michael participating.

-Update on conversation with Louise Davis regarding Districts branching out.

-Thanked the staff for all their hard work.

Supervisors

Robert Fenton

-Shellfish meeting update. Word is getting out about Ocean County SCD grant.

-Busy attending meetings.

-Attended and commented on NACD Northeast Regional meeting.

Joseph Lomax

-Thanked the Board for their support in attending NACD Northeast Regional meeting. Update on breakout sessions attended.

-Update on NACD meetings and work being completed by various committees.

-Participating on Strategic Planning Committee along with Michael Kent to evaluate statewide issues.

Richard Dovey

-ACUA staffing update.

-Update on capital projects in the works.

-ACUA was awarded a grant to purchase electric trash truck.

-Hosting annual electric vehicle showcase event this afternoon.

Cormac Morrissey

-Update on tour and meetings attended during the NACD Northeast Regional meeting.

-Update on Emergency Flood Hazzard Rules.

-Commented on new home construction regarding interest rates and new flood zone issues.

-Commented on the efforts set forth by District staff in preparing newsletter.

Allen Carter, Jr.

-Commented on rain events. Some parts of the State are under drought conditions.

-Update on New Jersey vegetable farmers.

-Commented on visits to dredge material site in Tuckahoe.

-Reported on recent Farm Bureau meeting and upcoming conferences.

-Implosion taking place today at the Beesley's Point powerplant.

-Reported on Rutgers survey conducted in Salem County on food costs.

-Update on new Cape May County Ag, Agent, Dr. Claudia Gil Arroyo.

B. USDA-NRCS

Michelle Pedano

-Distributed and commented on NRCS Monthly Activity report.

-Arelis Ortiz selected as NJ NRCS Assistant State Conservation for Field Operations. No start date announced.

-Update on various NRCS programs, their sign-up and cut-off dates.

-Commented on employee training to be held at the PMC on October 18-20, 2022.

C. SSCC

John Showler

-Update on State Standards for solar fields.

-Update on Protection Against Climate Threats (PACT) rules.

-Commented on rain intensity events.

-Announcement is out to hire a second State Engineer.

-Update on H&H training. Will record additional modules to be posted online.

-Update on 251 programs.

-Update on Ag. experiment station.

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 10:05 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Robert Fenton to end executive session at 10:32 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 renew Farm Bureau Bank CDAR's for 12 months at an interest rate of 2.75%. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to cash out an ORG CD with Farm Bureau Bank, pay early withdrawal fee of \$986.00 and purchase a 14-month ORG CD with Farm Bureau Bank at an interest rate of 3%. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to authorize five supervisors and 2 staff to attend NACD Annual Meeting February 11-15, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The next meeting will be October 26, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center, Cape May Court House, NJ.

Unless otherwise indicated, all actions were taken by unanimous vote of all members present.

Marie Rogowski,
Administrative Assistant