

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

September 28, 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman, Robert Fenton called the meeting to order at 8:15 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 (via teleconference), Richard Dovey and Allen Carter, Jr.

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

State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC): John Showler

MINUTES

A. Minutes of August 23, 2023, Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Rick Dovey to approve minutes from the August 23, 2023 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – August 2023

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Allen Carter, Jr. and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve the District's August 2023 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$77,977.98. The motion passed unanimously.

2. PMC Financials – August 2023

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for August 2023, a motion was made by Rick Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve treasurer's report, balance sheet and account balance of \$23,175.99. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Certificates of Deposit

CD is set to expire in October. After board discussion, a motion was made by Allen Carter Jr. and seconded by Rick Dovey approving the acquisition of 3 CDs with one \$50,000 CD from Farm Bureau Bank and others to be chosen by Michael Kent based on the highest interest rate available. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. August 2023 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the August 2023 Application Report except for 335-23 and 375-23. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Allen Carter Jr. approving applications 335-23 and 375-23. Joseph Lomax recused and Cormac Morrissey abstained. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Allen Carter Jr. and seconded by Richard Dovey denying application 179-23. The motion passed unanimously.

2. August 2023 Re-certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter Jr approving all applications listed on the August 2023 Re-Certification Application Report except for 329-19 and 467-18. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter Jr. approving applications 329-19 and 467-18. The motion passed. Richard Dovey abstained. The motion passed.

B. Farmland Program

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Allen Carter Jr. approving the following conservation agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Conservation Agreement

- a. Morris Gbolo, 11.26 acres, Buena Vista Township

C. District Review

An in-house checklist or self-evaluation was suggested by Joseph Lomax to identify any District deficiencies and provide feedback to the State Committee. Richard Dovey and Joseph Lomax volunteered to assist with assessment.

D. PMC Invoice

Yearly NJDA nursery inspection invoice in the amount of \$176.00. After Board discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to pay the invoice out of the PMC account. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. NJ Farmland Preservation News

Received copy of NJ Farmland Preservation News. Distributed copies to board members.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Haley Jackson

- Preparing October/November newsletter.
- Continuing to work on updating District website.
- Keeping up with classroom presentations.
- Exploring grant and professional credit opportunities.
- District staff was invited to participate in the Cape May Technical High School advisory board meeting.
- Update on NACD Urban and Community Grant research.

B. Grants/Agreements

Michael Kent

- Update on NJDA grant for Animal Waste Management. Signed and awaiting approval.
- Update on NRCS grant to hire three (3) Conservation Planners.
- Update on NRCS Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Grant.
- Reported on NACD Technical Assistance (TA) Grants.
- Update on NACD Urban and Community Grant.
- Update on SADC inspections agreement. After Board discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax approving the agreement in the amount of \$12,636.18. The motion passed unanimously.
- Update on NRCS exploration for a certified forester position.

C. Meetings

Michael Kent

- Reported on NACD Mid-year meeting held in Detroit.
- Reported on NACD Northeast meeting held in Portland Maine. Voted in as northeast representative of the employees' association.
- Update on the upcoming NCPP meeting in Utah.
- Update on the upcoming Partnership for Delaware Estuary dinner in Philadelphia.
- Update on preparing for Local Working Group.
- Update on NJACD meeting set for November 20th at the Rutgers Eco-Complex.
- Update on NACD annual meeting in San Diego February 10-14th, 2024.

Joseph Lomax

- Suggested staff attend NJ Shade Tree Federation meeting. After Board discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter Jr. to send four District members to meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Reported on meeting with Virginia Tech post doctorate SEALOW project.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

Michael Kent

- Thanked the board for allowing him to attend meetings.
- Thanked staff for the work being done at the District.

Glenn Ward

- Update on 251 program. Larger plans are being submitted that include solar projects.
- Update on Lauren Tigue and Daniel Bononcini's progress.
- Update on present and Spring 2024 intern.

Riley Blankenship

- Update on work being conducted at the District and NRCS.
- Reported on the Atlantic County Board of Agriculture meeting.
- Update on upcoming Atlantic and Cape May County Board of Agriculture meetings.
- Attending Yale Climate Smart forestry webinar classes.
- Reported on site visits with Department of Agriculture for animal waste program.
- Update on NRCS Conservation Planner Course 2.

Haley Jackson

- Keeping busy with all the education outreach events scheduled.
- Reported on Northeast NACD meeting.
- Reported on classroom presentation.

Lauren Tigie

- Update on 251 work being conducted.

Daniel Bononcini

- Continuing to work alongside staff conducting plan review.
- Assigned municipalities for site inspections.

B. Supervisors

Joseph Lomax

- Thanked District staff for work being done.
- District invited to present at NCPP meeting.
- Updated on Kimbles Beach road project.
- Update on NJ State Fish and Game regulations.

Richard Dovey

- Thanked the board for attending the Northeast NACD meeting.
- Reported on the Northeast NACD meeting.

Cormac Morrissey

- Commented on Kimbles Beach road project.
- Commented on the DEP stormwater rules.
- Update on FEMA grant and possible District involvement.

Allen Carter, Jr

- Reported on Cape May County 4-H fair.
- Update on Farm Bill.
- Commented on possible Federal government shutdown.
- Reported on State senate position candidates.
- Updated on Governor's office Secretary of Agriculture position and applications.
- Reported on soil protection standard rules.
- Attended and reported on Eastern Fresh Growers assembly.
- Update on Resolutions Conference to be held in Trenton.
- Attended and reported on the Eastern Pro Pack LLC.

Robert Fenton

- Thanked the board for attending the Northeast NACD meeting in Portland.
- Reported on the Northeast NACD meeting.

C. USDA-NRCS

Riley Blankenship

- Distributed NRCS monthly activity report.
- Reported on several programs and their sign-ups and cut-off dates.

- Monitoring possible Federal shutdown.

D. SSCC

John Showler

- Updated on Chapter 251 rules sunseting in December 2024.
- Commented on updating standards.
- Update on state engineer position.
- Commented on NJDEP rules.

E. Public

Opened meeting to public comment.
No comments from public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter Jr. to go into executive session at 10:55a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Allen and seconded by Richard to end the executive session at 11:28a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Allen Carter, Jr. to authorize two Supervisors and one staff member to attend Restore Americas Estuary conference in Texas. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to reimburse Michael Kent for travel expenses. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Allen Carter, Jr. to authorize five Supervisors and three staff members to attend NACD's 2024 Annual conference in San Diego, CA. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Robert Fenton adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting will be October 26, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center, Cape May Courthouse, NJ.

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

Glenn Ward
Assistant Manager

Executive Session Meeting Minutes
Cape Atlantic Conservation District
September 28, 2023

Motion to go into executive session was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter at 10:55 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Attendees:

District Supervisors: Robert Fenton, Joseph Lomax, Allen Carter, Jr., Richard Dovey, and Cormac Morrissey (via teleconference)

District Staff: Michael Kent

Personnel Training and Meetings:

Michael informed the Board that the Restore America's Estuaries and the NACD annual meeting registrations were out. Discussion was had about Board and staff participation.

Meeting Reimbursements:

Discussion was had about meeting reimbursements for supervisors and staff.

Personnel:

Discussion was had about present and future personnel to meet the District's goals.

A motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Rick Dovey to end executive session at 11:28 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Michael Kent