

# Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

June 27, 2024

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Chairman, Robert Fenton called the meeting to order at 8:05 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, Glenn Ward, Lauren Tigue, Connor Smilon, Renee Capetola, Riley Blankenship, Daniel Bononcini, John Hooven, and Marie Rogowski

USDA-NRCS: Michelle Pedano

SSCC: John Showler

## **MINUTES**

### **A. Minutes of May 23, 2024, Meeting**

After Board review, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to approve minutes from the May 23, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Executive Session Minutes of May 23, 2024 Meeting**

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve executive session minutes from the May 23, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **FINANCES**

### **A. Treasurers Reports**

#### **1. District Financials – May 2024**

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve the District's May 2024 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$92,455.70. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **2. PMC Financials – May 2024**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for May 2024, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve treasurer's report, balance sheet and account balance of \$23,459.24. The motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans**

#### **1. May 2024 Certifications**

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the May 2024 Application Report except for 225-24 . The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey approving application 225-24. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

#### **2. May 2024 Re-Certification**

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

### **B. Farmland Program**

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

#### **1. Conservation Plan**

- a. Hammonton, 155 acres, Combustion System Improvements, Pumping Plants & IWM

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**None**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Education**

Glenn Ward

-Update on the District's participation in the Slaybaugh Elementary School Go Green Day that was held June 4, 2024.

-District was asked to participate in the Cape May County 4-H Fair on July 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**B. Grants/Agreements**

Michael Kent

- Update on all current grants.
- Noted new grant opportunities. Discussion tabled until executive session.
- Preparing paperwork for quarterly grant reimbursements.
- District will be filling new CET grant position. A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to authorize Michael Kent to advertise and interview for the position. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Meetings**

- Michael Kent, Joseph Lomax, Cormac Morrissey, and Riley Blankenship all commented on meeting with Mark Dinglasan, Director of the Office of the Food Security Advocate to discuss food security dilemmas.
- Updates from staff and supervisors who attended the State Committee and State Soil Conservation Committee meetings.
- Cormac Morrissey gave an update from a meeting with Michael Kent, Frank Minch, and Joseph Atkinson to address the lack of understating about Soil Conservation Districts.

Michael Kent

- Reported on upcoming NACD and NACDEA conferences.
- Restore America's Estuary Summit schedule for October 6-10, 2024 in Washington, D.C.
- National Association of State Conservation Agencies annual meeting is scheduled for October 6-10, 2024 in Duluth, MN.

**D. Forestry Update**

John Hooven

- Update on forestry education and outreach events attended along with Daniel Bononcini.
- Attended Tree Farm Day along with Michael Kent and Daniel Bononcini.
- Commented on upcoming training events scheduled.
- Working on joining New Jersey Tree Farm Committee.
- Update on New Jersey Forest Service Nursery.
- Commented on NJ Woodlands Stewardship Program.

Daniel Bononcini

- Update on recently attended forestry education and training events.

**E. Agriculture Update**

Riley Blakenship

- Wrapping up all paperwork for farm inspections.
- Animal waste update
- Working on obtaining engineering hours needed to become a certified conservation planner.

**F. Information Technology (IT)**

Michael Kent

- Update on new IT upgrades made at the District.
- Thanked the Board for upgrades.

**COMMENTS**

**A. Staff**

**Michael Kent**

- Staff continues to remain busy as District grows.
- Forestry Notes publication will feature an article about the District.
- Agri-Pulse publication approached the District to publish an article about the District's work with NACD's technical assistance grants.

**Glenn Ward**

- Commented on 251 application report and the larger projects being submitted.
- Commented on the progress of new staff.

**Marie Rogowski**

- Commented on the technology upgrades being made in the office.

**Lauren Tigue**

- Commented on 251 work being completed.
- Looking forward to attending conference in Boston.

**Connor Smilon**

- Commented on 251 work being completed and site inspections being conducted.

**Renee Capetola**

- Continuing to learn the 251 program.
- Attended Nature Fest along with Glenn Ward at Galloway Twp. Reeds Road Elementary School on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Daniel Bononcini**

- Learning a lot working alongside John Hooven.
- Commented on connections being made while attending forestry events.

**John Hooven**

- Working on obtaining Maryland Forester Certification to expedite New Jersey process.
- Commented on plans to conduct a tree identification workshop to be held at the District office.

**Riley Blankenship**

- Update on work being conducted at the NRCS and District offices.

**B. Supervisors**

**Joseph Lomax**

- Commented on review of new DEP rules.
- Recently attended the National Conservation Planning Partnership meeting along with Michael Kent. Discussed work that the Performance Outcome Accountable Committee is conducting.
- Update on topics discussed at the last Executive Board of State Committee meeting.
- Update on District's self-assessments.
- Working with USDA-NRCS PMC on new agreement.

**Richard Dovey**

- Update on State Committee and State Association meetings.
- Update on the NJACD Annual meeting that is scheduled for November 25, 2024 at the Eco-Complex.

**Cormac Morrissey**

- Commented on new DEP rules that will be open for a 90-day public comment starting in July. Discussed the impact the new rules will have on Districts.
- Commented on District staff and planning for longevity.

**Robert Fenton**

- Clamming update. The season has been going well.
- Busy assisting family on the farm.

**C. USDA-NRCS**

**Michelle Pedano**

- Distributed NRCS monthly activity report.
- Reported on programs available, their signup and cutoff dates.
- Commented on new DC that started at the Woodstown field office.

**D. SSCC**

**John Showler**

- Update on new DEP rules and their impact throughout the State.
- Discussed review of off-site stability standards.
- Commented on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and issues on North Jersey farms.
- State engineering position has been filled.

**E. 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 10:07 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to end the executive session at 11:45 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to hire Sharon McKenna as the new Education Outreach Coordinator. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to pursue NFWF grant opportunity. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to authorize district staff and supervisors to attend the Restore America's Estuary

Summit October 6-10, 2024 in Washington D.C. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve the amended FY-2024 budget. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey to approve the amended FY-2025 budget. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 a.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday July 25, 2024, 8:00am at the District Office in Mays Landing, NJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Marie Rogowski  
Office Administrator