

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

March 27, 2025

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, Richard Dovey and Allen Carter

Staff: Michael Kent, Lauren Tigue, Renee Capetola, Connor Smilon, John Hooven, Tyler Savage, Sharon McKenna, Riley Blankenship, and Marie Rogowski

USDA-NRCS: Zachary Lenzi

SSCC: John Showler

MINUTES

A. Minutes of February 20, 2025 Meeting

Tabled until next meeting.

B. Executive Session Minutes of February 20, 2025 Meeting

Tabled until next meeting.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – February 2025

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Richard Dovey to approve the District's February 2025 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$98,936.11. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **PMC Financials – February 2025**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for February 2025, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve treasurer's report, balance sheet and account balance of \$28,632.90. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Annual Pension Contribution

Michael Kent informed the board that the District received annual pension contributions invoice. Payment will be made as previously budgeted and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. February 2025 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter approving all Plan Certifications listed on the February 2025 Application Report. The motion passed unanimously.

2. February 2025 Re-Certification

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter approving all applications listed on the February 2025 Re-Certification Application Report except for 334-17. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Richard Dovey approving application 334-17 . Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

3. Tabled Application from February Meeting

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Allen Carter approving application 19-25 . Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

4. 251 Updates

Lauren Tigue

-Commented on number of applications coming into the District.

B. NRCS

1. Farmland Program

A. Conservation Agreement

1. Dana Wramage, Hamilton Twp. 9 acres

B. Conservation Plan

1. Galloway Twp., 11 acres, High Tunnel System

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

2. Monthly Report

Zachary Lenzi distributed and commented on monthly activity report.

C. District Website

Michael Kent gave update on the status of the District's new website. A beta version will be emailed to the Board for review before going live.

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Sharon McKenna

- Commented on monthly activity report outlining work that is being completed.
- Thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend outreach events.

B. Grants/Agreements

Michael Kent

- District was awarded NFWF grant. Grant is currently on hold due to federal funding.
- Update on the status of active grants.

C. Meetings

RC&D Local Working Group (LWG) Training.

- Michael Kent gave update on presentation given at event.

NACD Fly-In

- Robert Fenton, Joseph Lomax, and Richard Dovey attended NACD Fly-In and reported on the day's events.

NJACD Regional Supervisor Meeting

- South Jersey meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2025. After discussion, a motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Joseph Lomax to authorize Board and one staff member to attend meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Forestry Update

John Hooven

- Distributed and commented on summary of forestry activities.
- Grant application to The Society of American Foresters has been submitted for education and outreach for the forestry department.

Tyler Savage

- Thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend New Jersey Forestry Association (NJFA) 50th Annual meeting. Prepared and commented on report from the day's events.
- Distributed and commented on Sustainable Jersey Heat Island Assessment and Mitigation Plan proposal. After discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to support the gathering of pricing and contract information to present to future clients. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Agriculture Update

Riley Blankenship

- Distributed and commented on monthly activity report.

Zachary Lenzi

- Stated that NRCS is no longer providing engineering services to landowners.

F. Coastal Zone Soil Survey

Joseph Lomax

- Commented on status of soil survey.

G. District Employee Handbook

Michael Kent

-Minor edits being finalized. Motion to adopt handbook was made at last month's meeting.

H. District Merger

Michael Kent

-Update on the status of opening legislation to allow for additional supervisors.

-Merger process is moving forward.

I. Local Working Group

-Final reports are complete and have been sent to NRCS, all participants and State Technical Committee.

-Looking into getting focus groups together to discuss concerns from LWG.

COMMENTS

A. Supervisors

Joseph Lomax

-Congratulated John Showler on his retirement and years of service.

-Commented on District Supervisors' workload. Busy staying ahead of issues emerging.

-Update on NJ DEP Resilient Environmental and Landscapes (REAL) rule.

-Update on National Native Seed Conference attended.

-Commented on conference hosted for the Delaware Bayshore with the American Littoral Society.

Richard Dovey

-Commented on the significant role District Supervisors played in NACD Fly-in.

-Congratulated John Showler on his upcoming retirement.

-Commended John Hooven and Tyler Savage for work with Sustainable New Jersey.

Allen Carter

-1-year anniversary for Secretary of Agriculture Edward Wengryn.

-Update on meetings attended in Washington DC.

-Commented on a list of topics NJ Farm Bureau is working on.

B. SSCC

John Showler

-Commented on upcoming Regional Supervisor meetings.

-Update on DEP REAL Rules. Frank Minch has a meeting scheduled next week to discuss impacts.

-Commented on State budget cuts and hiring freeze.

-Update on the Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in New Jersey.

-Will be retiring June 1, 2025.

C. Staff

Michael Kent

-Frank Minch is looking for locations for legislator tours. Reach out with suggestions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to go into executive session at 10:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to end the executive session at 11:00 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action items.

ADJOURNMENT

Robert Fenton adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday April 24, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cape May, Cape May Court House, NJ.

Marie Rogowski
Office Administrator

Executive Session Meeting Minutes
Cape Atlantic Conservation District
March 27, 2025

Motion to go into executive session was made by Joe Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey at 10:00am. The motion passed unanimously.

Attendees:

District Supervisors: Robert Fenton, Joseph Lomax, Richard Dovey, and Allen Carter

District Staff: Michael Kent

Personnel:

Discussion was had about the current pause of Federal funding associated with District grants and agreements and which staff members were associated with each grant and agreement.

Merger:

Discussion was had about the progress and process of the proposed merger between the Cape Atlantic and Camden districts.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to end the executive session at 11:00 pm and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Michael Kent