

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

April 24, 2025

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman, Robert Fenton called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. at the Rutger Cooperative Ext. office in Cape May Court House, 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, Allen Carter, Cormac Morrissey (via phone), Richard Dovey (via phone).

Staff: Michael Kent, Glenn Ward, John Hooven, Tyler Savage, Sharon McKenna, Riley Blankenship, and Marie Rogowski

USDA-NRCS: Michelle Pedano, Chris Miller

Rutger Coop. Ext.: Claudia Gilarroyo

MINUTES

A. Minutes of February 20, 2025 Meeting

After Board review a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve minutes from the February 20, 2025 meeting. Richard Dovey and Allen Carter abstained. The motion passed.

B. Executive Session Minutes of February 20, 2025 Meeting

After Board review a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve executive session minutes from the February 20, 2025 meeting. Richard Dovey and Allen Carter abstained. The motion passed.

C. Minutes of March 27, 2025 Meeting

After Board review a motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve minutes from the March 27, 2025 meeting. Cormac Morrissey abstained. The motion passed.

D. Executive Session Minutes of March 27, 2025 Meeting

After Board review a motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve executive session minutes from the March 27, 2025 meeting. Cormac Morrissey abstained. The motion passed.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – March 2025

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve the District's March 2025 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$102,156.34. The motion passed unanimously.

2. PMC Financials – March 2025

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for March 2025, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter to approve treasurer's report, balance sheet and account balance of \$23,563.43. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. March 2025 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter approving all Plan Certifications listed on the March 2025 Application Report. Except for 63-25, 101-25 and 104-25 The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Richard Dovey approving applications 63-25, 101-25 and 104-25. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

2. March 2025 Re-Certification

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all applications listed on the March 2025 Re-Certification Application Report except for 231-88. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Richard Dovey approving application 231-88. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

3. 251 Updates

Glenn Ward

-Distributed and commented on 251 Quarterly Report.

-Commented on number of larger projects coming into the District.

B. NRCS

1. Farmland Program

A. Conservation Plan

1. Mullica Township, 14.58 Acres, Forest Stewardship Plan

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Allen Carter and seconded by Joseph Lomax approving conservation plan. The motion passed unanimously.

2. NRCS Monthly Report

Michelle Pedano

- Distributed and commented on monthly activity report.
- Update on new NRCS Chief Aubrey Bettencourt.
- Update on staffing concerns.
- Commented on grant announcements coming out.

Chris Miller

- Update on the Plant Materials Center (PMC).
- Commented on beachgrass donated to the Borough of Avalon.
- Commented on seed donations to the District for Earth Day event.
- Planning 60th Anniversary event in September for the PMC.

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Sharon McKenna

- Commented on monthly activity report outlining work that is being completed.
- Discussed internship program with Cape May Technical High School seniors. After discussion there was board consensus to explore intern opportunities with Cape May Technical High School.

Glenn Ward

- Update on new district website. Link was emailed to the Board to view prior to going live.

Michael Kent

- Commented on new district website. There was board consensus to go live with website to be able to fully update any issues.

B. Grants/Agreements

Michael Kent

- Tabled until executive session.

C. Meetings

Joseph Lomax

- State Committee meeting update.

D. Forestry Update

John Hooven

- Distributed and commented on summary of forestry activities.
- Update on the Kurt Gottschalk Science Fund grant. Award recipients should be announced in early summer.

Tyler Savage

- Update on continued training and work being completed.
- Commented on Sustainable Jersey Heat Island Assessment and Mitigation Plan proposals.
- Commented on proposed municipal forestry management plan preparation.

E. Agriculture Update

Riley Blankenship

- Distributed and commented on monthly activity report.
- Update on NRCS Conservation Planner status.
- Update on the status of preserved farm monitoring.

F. Coastal Zone Soil Survey

Joseph Lomax

- Project continues to move forward. Meeting scheduled for later today.

G. District Merger

Michael Kent

- Merger process continues to move forward.
- Paperwork needs to be submitted to the state committee for approval.
- Update on the status of opening legislation to allow for additional supervisors.
- Distributed and commented on merger resolution to go into effect July 1, 2025. After board discussion there was a roll call vote to move forward with the resolution. Votes were as follows:

Robert Fenton	YES
Joseph Lomax	YES
Allen Carter	YES
Cormac Morrissey	YES
Richard Dovey	YES

I. District Website

- See comments under Education.

COMMENTS

A. Supervisors

Richard Dovey

- Update from recent State Committee and State Association meetings.
- Update from Regional Supervisor meetings attended. State Conservationist was able to attend central meeting as a guest speaker.

Joseph Lomax

- Attended and commented on southern Regional Supervisor meeting.
- Commented on the State Soil Conservation Committees (SSCC) advancements.
- Update on work with American Littoral Society (ALS).

Allen Carter

- Busy attending several meetings.
- Commented on a list of topics NJ Farm Bureau is working on.

Cormac Morrissey

- Update on DEP stormwater prevention planning on a municipal level. Possible opportunity for the District.

Robert Fenton

- Commented on visit to shellfish facility.

B. Rutger Cooperative Extension

Claudia Gilarroyo

- Hosting watershed ambassador.

-Commented on environmental stewardship program. Working with environmental science high school seniors from Cape May Technical High School.

C. Staff
John Hooven

-Commented on State Forest Service funding opportunities.

D. NRCS
Michelle Pedano

-Commented on Breakfast with Biologist event attended March 27, 2025. Another event is scheduled for later this summer at the Woodstown Diner.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter to go into executive session at 10:22 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to end the executive session at 11:58 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 move \$100,000.00 into District money market account and reinvest \$150,000.00 into a new CD with Morgan Stanley when current CD matures on May 8, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday May 22, 2025, 8:00 a.m. at the District Office, Mays Landing, NJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Marie Rogowski
Office Administrator

Executive Session Meeting Minutes
Cape Atlantic Conservation District
April 24, 2025

Motion to go into executive session was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Allen Carter at 10:22 am. The motion passed unanimously.

Attendees:

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

District Staff: Michael Kent

Financial:

1. Discussion was had about the current state of District grants and agreements and the effect of the temporary hold on all IRA money associated with the grants and agreements.
2. Discussion was had about the options available for an upcoming CD that is due to mature on May 8, 2025.
3. Discussion was had about the FY 26 Proposed District budget

District Merger:

1. Discussion was had about the upcoming District merger with the Camden Soil Conservation District.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to end the executive session at 11:58 pm and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Michael Kent