

# Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

May 22, 2025

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

Chairman, Robert Fenton called the meeting to order at 8:00 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, Renee Capetola, Connor Smilon, John Hooven, Tyler Savage, Sharon McKenna, Riley Blankenship, and Marie Rogowski

USDA-NRCS: Michelle Pedano, Chris Miller

## **MINUTES**

### **A. Minutes of April 24, 2025 Meeting**

After Board review a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve minutes from the April 24, 2025 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Executive Session Minutes of April 24, 2025 Meeting**

After Board review a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve executive session minutes from the April 24, 2025 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **FINANCES**

### **A. Treasurers Reports**

#### **1. District Financials – April 2025**

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve the District's April 2025 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$165,779.93. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **PMC Financials – April 2025**

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for April 2025, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to approve treasurer's report, balance sheet and account balance of \$24,040.22. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

**1. April 2025 Certifications**

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the April 2025 Application Report. Except for 173-25 and 190-25. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey approving applications 173-25 and 190-25. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

**2. April 2025 Re-Certification**

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey approving all applications listed on the April 2025 Re-Certification Application Report. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. 251 Updates**

Glenn Ward

-Commented on larger number of applications that were received in the month of April.

**B. USDA-NRCS**

**1. Farmland Program**

A. Conservation Plan

1. Galloway Township, 31.3 Acres, Prescribed Grazing System

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving conservation plan. Robert Fenton recused. The motion passed.

**2. USDA-NRCS Comments**

Michelle Pedano

-Distributed and commented on monthly activity report.

-Commented on Return to Office Executive Order.

-Update on the Breakfast with Biologist event scheduled for July 24, 2025 at the Maurice River Diner.

-NJ Ag. Convention & Trade Show scheduled for January 20-22, 2026 at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City.

Chris Miller

-Update on the Plant Materials Center (PMC) 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event scheduled for September 25, 2025. After discussion, there was board consensus to support event. Additional information forthcoming as planning advances.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Education**

Sharon McKenna

- Commented on monthly activity report outlining work that is being completed.
- Update on Envirothon winners.

### **B. Grants/Agreements**

Michael Kent

- IRA money update. Funds have been released.
- Update on National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant.

### **C. Meetings**

Tabled until executive session.

### **D. Forestry Update**

John Hooven

- Distributed and commented on summary of forestry activities.
- Update on forestry plans being prepared.
- June 6, 2025 is New Jersey Tree Farm Day.

### **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

- Update on the status of the project. Meeting scheduled for later in the summer.

### **G. District Merger**

Michael Kent

- Merger process continues to move forward.
- Update on legislation to allow additional district supervisors.
- Update on obtaining licenses and joining insurances as part of the merger.
- Tentative July 1, 2025 merger date.

## **COMMENTS**

### **A. Supervisors**

#### **Joseph Lomax**

- Attended and commented on Envirothon that was held May 17, 2025.
- Congratulated Riley Blankenship on his level 2 conservation planner status.

#### **Richard Dovey**

- Update from recent State Committee and State Association meetings attended.
- Update from Regional Supervisor meetings attended.

***Cormac Morrissey***

-Inquired about Middle Twp. wetlands property that owners are looking to donate.

***Robert Fenton***

-Staying busy attending meetings.

-Excited seeing the advancement of the District.

***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseh Lomax to go into executive session at 8:40 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey to end the executive session at 11:40 a.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 Cormac Morrissey to authorize one staff and two supervisors to attend National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Summer Meeting July 25-30, 2025 in Milwaukee, WI. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to authorize one staff member to attend National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) meeting August 25-29, 2025 in Spokane, WA. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to authorize one staff and four supervisors to attend NACD Northeast Regional meeting September 21-25, 2025 in Syracuse, NY. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to authorize one staff and one supervisor to attend The National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) annual meeting October 26-29, 2025 in Fort Worth, TX. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to terminate the education outreach coordinator position. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey to approve the FY-2026 salary scheduled. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Josphe Lomax and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to authorize district staff time for Coastal Zone Soil Survey data research. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey to authorize \$500.00 for supervisor retirement gift. The motion passed unanimously.

## ***ADJOURNMENT***

Robert Fenton adjourned the meeting at 11:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday June 26, 2025, 4:00 p.m. at the District Office, Mays Landing, NJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Marie Rogowski  
Office Administrator

Executive Session Meeting Minutes  
Cape Atlantic Conservation District  
May 22, 2025

Motion to go into executive session was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax at 8:40 am. The motion passed unanimously.

**Attendees:**

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

District Staff: Michael Kent

**Financial:**

1. 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.

**Personnel:**

1. Discussion was had about the current education/outreach coordinator position.

**Coastal Zone Soil Survey:**

1. Discussion was had about District staff hours being utilized for the survey.

**Supervisor Retirement:**

1. Discussion was had about Allen Carter's retirement from the Board.

**Meetings and Trainings:**

1. Discussion was had about upcoming meetings and training for staff and board members.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Richard Dovey to end the executive session at 11:40 pm and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Michael Kent