

OCEAN COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
714 LACEY ROAD, FORKED RIVER, NJ 08731
March 20, 2025
Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Christine Raabe. Ms. Raabe confirmed that announcements for the meeting were made pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act and forwarded to the Asbury Park Press, The Press of Atlantic City, and the Ocean County Clerk. The meeting Agenda and WebEx information was published on the District's website. The meeting was held via WebEx and at the District Office.

Supervisors present: Dr. William Pollock, Chairman; John Tiedemann, Vice Chairman; Dr. Michael Gross, Secretary; and Gary Paxton, Treasurer. Others present: Christine Raabe, District Director; Jean Baluski, Assistant District Director; Mary Ellen Banfield, Office Manager; Rebecca Laboy, Education Outreach Coordinator—Ocean County Soil Conservation District (OCSCD). Also present was Nicole Ciccaglione, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

II. FLAG SALUTE

Ms. Raabe led the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to accept the Agenda with an amendment of Item XIV letter I. to be the RCPP Amendment to the Agreement was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Tiedemann. Roll call vote: unanimous

IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (1/16/ 2025)

A motion to accept the previous Minutes was made by Mr. Tiedemann and seconded by Mr. Paxton. Roll call vote: unanimous.

V. REPORTS TO BOARD – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) & State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) (Meeting materials from 3/10/25 in Dropbox)

Ms. Ciccaglione reported that there were 16 EQIP applications though nothing for signatures at this time. Four of the 16 have been accepted for funding. One has been approved for a Reforestation plan. Three had been pre-approved; 2 Reforestation Plans and 1 Wildlife plan. Funding decisions have been delayed.

Nine continue letters for Aquaculture projects specific to the COASTAL project have been sent out. Seven of the 9 farmers have accepted, and these contracts are moving forward. Of the 2 not accepted yet, 1 is in communication with the NRCS and one hasn't responded yet.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. NJ NACD Thank you 2/19/2025

B. NACD News Briefs [NACD-Executive-Action-Survey-Report-2025.03.07.pdf](#)

C. NJ FFA Golf Tournament on June 24,2025 sponsorship flyer 2/25/2025

No decisions were made for sponsorship.

D. Conservation District Survey Report -2/28/2025

Ms. Baluski gave a brief summary of the report. Funding has had an enormous impact on farmers, etc. The packet shows where other parts of the country are being impacted. Unsure at this time if the funds will be released.

E. Central Regional Supervisors Meeting – Villa Mannino, Bordentown - 4/22/2025

VII. MONTHLY STATEMENT OF TREASURER (January - February)

A motion was to accept the Treasurer's Report by Mr. Tiedemann and seconded by Dr. Gross. Roll call vote: unanimous.

VIII. BILLS AND CLAIMS - (December – January - February) Chapter 251 & General

A motion to accept the Bills & Claims for the above months was made by Dr. Gross and seconded by Mr. Paxton. Roll call vote: unanimous

IX. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES – Ms. Laboy summarized the Education report.

X.. REPORTS OF SPECIAL (AD HOC) COMMITTEES - None.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT- None.

XII. CHAPTER 251 – Certified Plans, Re-Certifications, Amendments, Incomplete and Denied Plans

- A. Applications
Certified Applications as of 3/12/2025 – Roll call vote.
Recertified Application as of 3/12/2025 - Roll call vote.
Uncertified Plans as of 3/12/2025– no vote
- B. Soil Disturbance; 206 Norma Place; Block 105, Lot 1; Toms River Township; SCO issued 1/13/2025
- C. SCD# 23490; Site Plan; Block 498, Lots 1 & 10; Lakewood Township; SCO rescinded 1/14/2025
A motion to accept letters A through C above was made by Mr. Paxton and seconded by Mr. Tiedemann. Roll call vote: unanimous.
- D. Soil Disturbance; 120 Lower Shore Road; Block 262, Lot 23.02; Barnegat Township; Violation Notice issued 2/19/2025 for information only.
- E. Exempt Municipality Annual Review—Long Beach Township under Chapter 25
A motion to accept the Exempt Municipality Annual Review of Long Beach Township under Chapter 25 was made by Dr. Gross and seconded by Mr. Paxton. Roll call vote: unanimous.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. OCSCD Local Work Group Meeting – 1/30/2025 – Agenda & Report
- B. NRCS Technical Assistance agreement – Update
Funding has been frozen for this agreement which affects the work of Kristin Adams. The OCSCD will be supporting Ms. Adams by having her work on Ch. 251 business for 1 – 2 days per week.
- C. COASTAL (Aquaculture Project) NRCS/RCPP- Update
The farmers/producers will be offered a three (3) year contract when applying instead of the current one (1) year contract with an annual application.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Supervisor Renomination—John Tiedemann and Gary Paxton terms expire on 6/1/2025
Both have agreed to continue to serve and will forward their Renomination packets to submit to SSCC.
- B. FY26 Budget - A motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Mr. Tiedemann and seconded by Mr. Paxton. Roll call vote: unanimous.
- C. Approval of the FY2026 Annual Plan of Operations. (APO) - The APO has not been completed. Tabled.
- D. OceanFirst CD renewal notice—4 CDs up for renewal on 3/21/2025 – notice date 2/25/2025
Ms. Banfield gave a summary of the available CD interests rates. A motion to move these 4 month CDs' monies to 6-month CDs at an APY of 4.25% was made by Mr. Tiedemann and seconded by Mr. Paxton. Roll call vote: unanimous.
- E. Roundtable scheduled for 4/16/2025 at the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education, Waretown
Ms. Raabe summarized the event and mentioned that it may be catered by Bonefish Grill.
- F. Poster Contest- The only entries received were from the high school age group.
- G. Approval to obtain proposals to replace/convert upstairs HVAC in July.
A motion to gather proposals for the upstairs HVAC system was made by Mr. Tiedemann and seconded by Dr. Gross. Roll call vote: unanimous (except for Dr. Pollock who unexpectedly left the meeting at 9:14 a.m.).
- H. Building Inspection Report – Review and discuss priority issues.
Ms. Raabe discussed the report and its findings. The building has many minor repairs needed.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Personnel Matters

A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Dr. Gross and seconded by Mr. Tiedemann. Roll call vote: unanimous. Executive session began at 9:17 a.m.
A motion to return to the Public Session was made by Mr. Tiedemann and seconded by Dr. Gross. Roll call vote: unanimous. The Executive Session ended at 9:23 a.m.
Ms. Raabe suggested having Ramon Mejia promoted to management with the job title of Resource Conservationist at Range 25/Step 1 with an annual salary of \$74,534.83, to be effective with the first pay in April.
A motion to promote Mr. Mejia with the above job title and salary was made by Mr. Tiedemann and seconded by Dr. Gross. Roll call vote: unanimous.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT DISTRICT MEETING – May 15, 2025

XVII. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Gross and seconded by Mr. Tiedemann. Roll call vote: unanimous. The meeting ended at 9:25 a.m.