

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 1, 2015**

The 759th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at 7:30 PM, in the multi-purpose room of the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA.

The following Directors were present: Kenneth Meck, Chairman; Robert Shearer, Vice-Chairman; Dan Heller, Treasurer; Herb Kreider, Dick Shellenberger, Jay Snyder, Sonia Wasco and Commissioner Craig Lehman.

The following Associate Directors were present: Frank Burkhart, Lisa Graybeal, Don Robinson, Gregory Strausser, and Kent Weaver.

The following District Staff were present: Christopher Thompson, District Manager; Gerald Heistand, Business Manager; Jeff Hill, Agriculture Program Manager; Matt Kofroth, Watershed Specialist; Nate Kurtz, E&S Program Manager; Andy Hake, Ag Conservation Technician; Samantha Gordon, Erosion Control Technician; and Charissa Mohn, Spring Intern.

The following Cooperating Agency representative was present: Elwood Blake, PA DEP.

Guests: There were no guests present.

Chairman Ken Meck called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and Bob Shearer provided the invocation for the meeting.

Samantha Gordon and Charissa Mohn were introduced as the District's newest employee and intern.

Chairman Ken Meck thanked Bob Shearer for attending the Perdue Grain and Oil Seed Facility meeting in Conoy Township. Shearer then reported on a farmer's club meeting that he attended in Baltimore County, Maryland. The topic of discussion was swine farming and what is needed to build a new facility. One of the club members was a 96 year old farmer who has been serving on the local conservation board for 65 years.

Chris Thompson reported that he had the following items to add to the agenda:

1. Amendment to the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board agreement extending it for another year.
2. Report on the Perdue Grain and Oil Seed Facility meeting by Bob Shearer.

An opportunity was given for public comment. None was offered.

News articles and recent correspondence were circulated:

1. Thank you note from Frank Burkhart
2. News Article—"Donegal Fish & Conservation Association celebrates 50 years".

Agency Reports

1. USDA,NRCS

Heather Grove was not present, but she relayed to Chris Thompson that she had no additional comments to her written report. Anyone with questions about the report should feel free to call the NRCS office.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

April 2015 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points were provided in the Board mailing packets. Elwood Blake referred to the report and highlighted that the proposed state budget retained level funding for everything except gas revenue which is indexed for inflation. There was some discussion on the federal funding that is being provided to tackle the problem with the spotted lantern fly that has the potential to devastate vineyards, fruit trees, and pine trees. It was mentioned that there is an alert concerning a possible avian flu outbreak in the Midwest states.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Meck gave opportunity for directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion. Hearing that there were no items to be removed, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dan Heller moved to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda. Bob Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. To avoid the perception of a conflict of interest Dick Shellenberger abstained from voting.

Following are the Consent Agenda items that were approved:

- 1. Minutes of March 4, 2015 Board meeting**
- 2. Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations**
- 3. Nutrient Management Plan Approvals**

Additional Business

1. There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

2. Treasurer's Report

Gerald Heistand reviewed the reports. He mentioned that the Cash Flow Projection report was not as expected due to a delay in the Nutrient Management, ACT, Ombudsman and SWAT reimbursements taking longer than normal (10 weeks rather than 6 weeks). The treasurer's report will be filed subject to audit.

3. Conservation Plans Acknowledgement

The Board acknowledged the Conservation Plans as listed on page 17 of the Board mailing.

Reports/Information

1. Know Your District—Internship Program

Matt Kofroth introduced Charissa Mohn, Spring Intern, and mentioned that she will be assisting the District until the end of April. Charissa is also working as an intern with the York District. Her professionally prepared presentation to the Board will also be given as her college project final report. Charissa expressed appreciation to the Board for the internship opportunity.

2. Correspondence, News and Updates

Items were circulated at the beginning of the meeting.

3. Spring Intern Update

Matt Kofroth reported that this is the first time that the Lancaster District used a spring intern, and it has been successful.

4. Franklin and Marshall Science Fair

Matt Kofroth reported that the Franklin & Marshall Science Fair was held last Wednesday, March 25. The LCCD provides three senior high and three junior high awards. Two District staff served as official judges at the fair.

5. Summer Intern Request

Matt Kofroth reviewed the information that was presented in the mailing, along with some background on the two candidates that are being presented for approval. They will work a 7.5 hour day, and be paid \$9.50/hour. Francesca Formica, a senior at Allegheny College, would be here for 12 weeks, and Leslie Weller, a junior at Bloomsburg University, would be here for 6 or 7 weeks. Dick Shellenberger moved to hire the two interns as presented. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Nate Kurtz referred to the list of plans in the mailing, and reported that the number of submitted plans and fees are up compared to last year. He also reported on the Speedwell Dam project.

7. Tree Sale Report

Matt Kofroth reported that the tree sale is only two weeks away and we have over 480 orders. Directors were invited to stop by and assist with the distribution. Half of the tree sale funds are used for educational projects and the remainder is used for District and Director Activity expenses.

8. Banquet Committee Report

Chris Thompson referred to the abbreviated report in the mailing packet and mentioned that a final report will be provided next month. It was reported that people enjoyed themselves. The Banquet Committee is always open to constructive suggestions for next year's event.

9. Consortium Fundraiser

Chris Thompson reported that the Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium, a subcommittee to the Foundation, is coming to the District to see whether we would support their efforts to do a fundraiser project. Specifically, they are asking if we would support a golfing fundraiser and would approve staff time to keep track of finances. Kent Gardner is overseeing the project and funds raised would be split between the Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance and the Consortium. Dick Shellenberger moved to support the project including staff time for some of the presentations and Paula Harnish's time to track the finances. Bob Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Joint District (Allegheny, Westmoreland, Lancaster) Meeting Report

Jay Snyder and staff who participated reported that last Monday (March 23) the District visited Westmoreland District. Their offices are housed in a renovated barn, and various urban BMPs have been installed (eg. porous pavement, rain gardens, green roof, etc.) on site to use for public demonstrations. Snyder was struck with the strong partnerships that have been developed between the municipalities and the District. The District's involvement in Stormwater was driven and supported by the County. Due to slow municipal acceptance in Lancaster, Snyder felt that it would be good to think of ways that our partnerships could be strengthened. The strong Ag presence here dwarfs any emphasis that we place on stormwater. Westmoreland reviews about 100 stormwater plans per year. Don Robinson applauded Thompson's efforts to visit other Districts for ideas. Allegheny is a progressive urban District under new leadership. They have one Ag technician.

11. State Ethics Forms

Chris Thompson reminded the voting directors of the May 1st deadline for filing their Ethics Forms in the District office.

12. Amendment to the Lancaster County Ag Preserve Board Agreement

Jeff Hill reported that the Ag Preserve Board contract to conduct on farm verification visits needs to be amended to extend the terms of the existing contract to be valid in 2015. Three staff, Kevin Seibert, Jenn Ledwich, and Shelly Dehoff, have been assigned to do this work. In discussion, one director mentioned that he had five visits from agency people over a year's time, and some of the same questions are addressed with each visit. There was a suggestion that someone look into how these required visits could be combined or streamlined. When there was a call for the motion, a suggestion was made that District staff sit down with Ag Preserve Board staff to determine how the two agencies can work together more efficiently. The action was tabled for further discussion.

13. Report on the Perdue Meeting by Bob Shearer

Bob Shearer reported that 30 people signed in ahead of time to present written comments. Two-thirds of those speaking were in favor of the project. Those with concerns made it clear that they were not against the specific project, but concerned about the release of hexane due to any type of similar project. The project is expected to go forward.

Additional Comments:

Chris Thompson reported on a recent trip that he made to CBF in Annapolis, MD, to attend a meeting on what can be done to clean up the Bay. Instead of blaming agriculture, they were looking for ways to make agriculture part of the solution. The state Farm Bureau group is looking to sponsor a tour in this area. The suggestion was made that urban sites should be included in the tour.

Thompson notified the Board that the front upstairs office will soon be vacated by APHIS USDA. This could be used to house new stormwater staff or a whole department (eg. Administrative or E&S).

Thompson reported that Carol Harnish has retired from her full time position, but will return temporarily working part time to finish a data entry project.

Thompson also reported that the State Envirothon Committee is still looking for volunteers. The state contest will take place at University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, on May 19 and 20.

Meeting Adjournment

Chairman Ken Meck officially adjourned the meeting at 9:24 P.M.

Gerald M. Heistand
Recording Secretary