

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2016**

The 769th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 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. Don Robinson, Director Emeritus, was also present.

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

The following District Staff were present: Christopher Thompson, District Manager; Gerald Heistand, Business Manager; Jeff Hill, Ag Program Manager; Kevin Seibert, Ag Compliance Coordinator; Nate Kurtz, E&S Program Manager; and Matt Kofroth, Watershed Specialist.

The following Cooperating Agency representative was present: Heather Grove, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Chairman Ken Meck called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and Dick Shellenberger provided the invocation for the meeting after reading a passage from Isaiah.

There were no guests to be introduced at the meeting.

Chris Thompson announced that there would be an Executive Session following the Additional Public Comment period at the end of the meeting to discuss financial and staffing impacts relative to whether the District would accept CDFAP funding and the District's response to the Bay Reboot strategy.

Opportunity was given for public comment. None was offered. There were no additions to the agenda.

Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove reported that NRCS has an agreement with Pheasants Forever to work together in the Lancaster and Lebanon areas. There is a large workload with CREP duties at this time.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

Chris Thompson announced that Elwood Blake was not at the meeting as his partner of many years had passed away recently. A card was sent around the room for signatures. Thompson referred to the February 2016 DEP Conservation Field Rep Talking Points and highlighted both the Bay Reboot strategy and the CDFAP sections of the report.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Ken 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, Chairman Meck requested a motion to accept the items on the Consent Agenda. Dick Shellenberger moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Robert Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- 1. Minutes of January 6, 2016 Board meeting**
- 2. Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations**
- 3. Nutrient Management Plan Approvals**
- 4. Conservation Plans Acknowledgement**

Additional Business

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

2. Treasurer's Report

Gerald Heistand reported that state reimbursements from 2015 are coming in and total assets are once again over two million dollars. We now have over \$700,000.00 in Dirt & Gravel Road and Exelon funding and expect to get several projects on the ground this year. On the District Activity and Grant Details quarterly report, Heistand noted that the shaded projects in the report are finished and will be removed from the next report. The treasurer's report will be filed subject to audit.

3. Mill Creek & Pequea Creek Agreements for Watershed Specialist Assistance

Matt Kofroth informed the Board of two volunteer groups that have Williams sponsored projects. These groups are requesting Kofroth's services to submit permit applications, line up contractors, do some monitoring work, and to do overall project management. The agreements we are looking to sign will help fund the Watershed Specialist position. Sonia Wasco moved that the District approve signing agreements with both the Mill Creek Preservation Association and the Pequea Creek Watershed Association. Dick Shellenberger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Exelon Watershed BMP Projects

Matt Kofroth reported that last month the Ag Exelon projects were approved, and he is now bringing five watershed projects to the Board. DEP has reviewed the project details and has given approval for all five projects pending LCCD Board approval (L. Michael Kauffman, West Cocalico Township, Drumore Township, Tyson, and Levi J. Fisher). Dan Heller moved to approve all five of the Exelon Watershed BMP projects as presented. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Personnel Committee—Special Project Request

Nate Kurtz referred to page 24 of the mailing and explained why E&S plans that were submitted prior to Practicekeeper now need to be entered into the geodatabase. E&S staff would do this work after regular work hours and on weekends. Sonia Wasco moved to approve that \$10,000.00 be set aside to do this project as per the details in Item III.5 of the mailing. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Banquet Committee Report

Chris Thompson referred to the Banquet Committee Report, on page 25 of the mailing, and mentioned that approval of the report includes approving the award recipients. Jay Snyder moved to approve the banquet report including the award recipients. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Sonia Wasco reminded Board members of the scholarship fundraiser auction that takes place at each banquet.

7. State Senior High Envirothon Donation

Chris Thompson mentioned that most districts support the PA Envirothon with a donation of \$100-\$500. Dick Shellenberger moved that the District provide a donation of \$250.00 to the PA Envirothon. Robert Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates

The following correspondence, news and update items were circulated at Board meeting:

- News Article – State agencies are rebooting the Chesapeake Bay cleanup – New efforts focus heavily on Lancaster County farms – LNP News, January 25, 2016
- Letter and Application – 2016 LCCD Ann Brown Memorial Scholarship – mailed to Lancaster County high schools on January 21, 2016.
- LNP Advertising Package – Ag Conservation Technician Position
- Lancaster Farming Ad – Ag Conservation Technician Position
- PennAg Spring Banquet & Annual Meeting – March 30-31, 2016 – PA Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg
- Press Release – Pennsylvania Unveils Comprehensive Strategy to Improve Water Quality in state and Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- PowerPoint Webinar– Improving Local Water Quality in Pennsylvania and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay
- Notice to Farmers – DEP Exercises its Enforcement Muscles Against Farmers to Meet Chesapeake Bay Requirements – Stock and Leader, Attorneys at Law
- Obituary – Harlan N. Keener –LNP – January 28, 2016 (Sympathy card will be circulated at Board meeting.)
- Elwood Blake's wife, Anna, passed away Thursday, 1/28. (Sympathy card will be circulated at Board meeting.)
- Note from Francesca Formica.

2. PA's new Chesapeake Bay Strategy Update

Chris Thompson reported to the Board that Pennsylvania's new strategy on how PA is going to do their part in cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay has been released to the public. He mentioned that the media event of the Reboot Strategy was announced two weeks ago on the Jim Hershey farm. The six key elements of the new strategy, as presented in the February 2016 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points, were reviewed in detail. If the District supports and carries out the strategy, every farm in Lancaster County would be visited within the next ten years.

3. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Nate Kurtz informed the Board that the E&S report appears different due to using Practicekeeper. Each project is listed on one page, and the financial summaries for the period and year-to-date are on another page. The E&S report is provided for informational purposes.

4. 102/105 Delegation Agreement Renewal

Nate Kurtz reported that the information on the new delegation agreement is being provided with all of the options so the Board can be thinking about to what extent they want to be involved with E&S responsibilities in the future. Within the next month or two, the Lancaster District will need to decide

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to what extent they want to be involved with the E&S program. The biggest change is that taking on partial responsibility with the 105 program will no longer be an option.

Additional Comments:

After a few general comments by directors, Chairman Ken Meck announced, at 8:25 PM, that there was going to be an Executive Session, that would take as much as 15 or 20 minutes, for Board members to discuss financial and staffing impacts relative to whether the District would accept CDFAP funding and the District's response to the Bay Reboot strategy.

Chairman Meck called the meeting back to order at 10:04 PM. Chris Thompson distributed a sample letter that was written rejecting the rollover CDFAP funding targeted to the eight biggest "Bay Polluters". Board members were asked to review the letter, and to then respond to an on-line computer survey as to whether the letter should be sent as crafted.

Meeting Adjournment

Dick Shellenberger moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 PM. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

Gerald M. Heistand
Recording Secretary