

Item II.1  
**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 10, 2019**

The 807th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) was held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at 7:30 PM, in the multi-purpose room of the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA.

**The following Directors were present:** Dan Heller, Chairman; Herb Kreider, Kenneth Meck, Jay Snyder, and Sonia Wasco.

**The following Associate Directors were present:** Frank Burkhardt, Gregory Strausser, Greg Wilson, Garrett Weaver and Kent Weaver, Treasurer.

**The following District Staff were present:** Christopher Thompson, District Manager; Gerald Heistand, Business Manager; Jeff Hill, Ag Department Manager; Nate Kurtz, E&S Department Manager, Matt Kofroth and Stacey Meyer.

**The following Cooperating Agency representatives were present:** Heather Grove, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Elwood Blake, DEP.

Chairman Dan Heller called the meeting to order at 7:37PM. Herb Kreider provided the invocation for the meeting. Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves for the benefit of the new Associate Directors. Chairman Heller informed the board that the next meeting will be held at the Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit building in Mount Joy at 6:45pm with a pizza dinner.

There were no guests to be introduced at the meeting, and there was no public comment.

The following additions to the agenda were announced:

1. Under Additional Business, #9 Update on the District copier purchases.

### **Agency Reports**

#### **1. USDA, NRCS**

Heather Grove reported that the Soil Conservationist position had over 100 applicants. There is one other vacant position to be filled. Funds in the amount of \$5 million came into the State but will be going to the Counties with lower workloads to bolster their outputs.

#### **2. PA DEP Field Rep Report**

Elwood Blake reported on the new General NPDES Permit that is still in draft form. This is the third year of a new boot camp organized for District Managers which should give starting managers a good foundation. The Air Emissions part of the Farm Animal Waste Regulations has been relaxed with a reporting exemption for air emissions from animal waste farms. The new Bay application period is open for Districts to request funding for technicians and engineers. The funding levels are the same as last year. Chris Thompson mentioned that for nearly half of the districts, the managers have less than 5 years of managerial experience.

### **Consent Agenda**

Chairman Dan Heller gave the opportunity for directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda in order to have additional discussion. Gerald Heistand suggested that in order to avoid confusion, the reference to three open seats be removed from the June minutes, since a District can have any number of Associate Directors. There was also clarification on why Dick Shellenberger's vacancy was included with the Associate Director discussion. Ken Meck moved to approve the minutes with the noted changes under #4 Associate Director Nominations section. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Heller then opened the floor to entertain a motion on items #2 and #3 of the Consent Agenda. Sonia Wasco moved to approve items #2 and #3 of the Consent Agenda. Ken Meck seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## Item II.1

The Consent Agenda included the following approved items.

- #1 – Minutes of June 5, 2019 Board meeting**
- #2 – Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations**
- #3 – Nutrient Management Plan Approvals**

### **Additional Business**

#### **1. Items removed from Consent Agenda**

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

#### **2. Treasurer's Report**

Gerald Heistand reported that the total assets are similar to last month; however, the General Operations account increased about the same amount as what was paid out in D&G and LVR projects (\$146,000). The General Operations Fund balance is similar to July of 2018. On the Income and Expense report the numbers are within a reasonable range. The \$170,466 of net income for the General Operations account is expected, because \$167,500 in funds came in late from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2018 requests (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter payments are not in the 2019 budget). The (\$396,090) in the grants column is due to accelerated spending to meet a June 30, 2019 D&G/LVR goal. Matt Kofroth, Nate Straw and Stacey Meyer were praised for their work in spending the funds to get projects on the ground.

#### **3. Personnel Committee Report**

Sonia Wasco reported that at the May board meeting, background was given on the need to hire a Watershed Resource Technician. Matt Kofroth, Chris Thompson and Sonia Wasco of the interview committee reviewed five candidates but are recommending Bryce Workman for the open position. Bryce currently is working with Flyway Construction, but has participated with the Envirothon and has been a YCS counselor. The Personnel Committee recommends hiring Bryce Workman at a starting salary of \$35,000 with a \$1,000 bump upon successful completion of the probationary period. The anticipated start date is August 5, 2019. Sonia Wasco moved to place a call to hire Bryce Workman as the District's Watershed Resource Technician. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Delegated and Contracted Programs Update**

Chris Thompson reported that applications have been sent out to Districts in the Bay region. This is later than usual and DEP has been informed that Districts will need time to get board approval. Lancaster will have their applications ready by the end of July.

#### **5. E&S Compliance Committee Report**

Nate Kurtz mentioned that the item on page 13 is for an E&S Turnpike agreement. PennDOT and the Turnpike Commission are exempt, but they have agreed since 2010 to pay \$100 per disturbed acre. They are now offering \$150 per acre. Jay Snyder moved that the Lancaster County Conservation District accept and update the agreement. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. PACD Annual Meeting and Action Item**

Chris Thompson mentioned that next week is the summer PACD Meeting. Ken Meck and Sonia Wasco plan to attend. LCCD Voting delegate, Sonia Wasco, asked for the board's direction on the three year dues proposal. Having a dues structure helps with PACD budgeting. Ken Meck moved that the Lancaster County Conservation District support the PACD dues increase. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Sonia Wasco reported that the sale of the former Front Street building fell through. Updates will be shared at the JAC.

#### **7. PL-566 Application Submission Approval**

Matt Kofroth reported that Lancaster County has agreed to co-sponsor with the District this watershed wide project. This is a long term planning and implementation effort. Initial grant funding is through NRCS and expected to be between \$400,000 and \$500,000 with no match required from the District with the design and permitting phase. The projects funding part, which is to come later, will require a one-to-one match. This is a national grant, but the PA State Office is behind the effort. Sonia Wasco moved that the District support all

## Item II.1

three actions (e.g. Assist the steering committee with the grant application; Assist NRCS when the project is funded and Designate the District Manager as an authorized signer. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **8. Outstanding Cooperator Award**

Jeff Hill reported on the various farms that were submitted. Some of the farms were evaluated in previous years and others had never been brought before the committee. Ken Meck moved that the District honor Jeff Mitchel with the 2020 Outstanding Cooperator Award. Herb Kreider seconded the motion and added that the District will be contributing to the cost of the award by paying for the helicopter flight. Sonia Wasco abstained from voting.

## **Reports/Information**

### **1. Correspondence, News and Updates**

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

- Newspaper Article – The Lititz Record Express – Importance of Clean Water – June 13, 2019.
- Brochure – 2018 Annual Summary Report – PA D&G/LVR Maintenance Program – May, 2019.
- Booklet – National Conservation Foundation – 2018 Annual Report – June 6, 2019.
- Thank You Card – Isaiah Rosario – Ann Brown Memorial Scholarship Recipient – June, 2019.
- Thank You Cards – Students from Manheim Central School District (Drew & Abigail) – Gerald Heistand presented a soils station – June, 2019.
- Invitation – USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Public is invited to Pennsylvania State Technical Committee Meeting on July 16, 2019.

### **2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report**

Nate Kurtz referred to the typical report on pages 17 and 18, and mentioned that fee receipts are behind projections, but still are balanced with program costs. He spoke about the State Legislative Budget and Finance Committee report. There were no surprise findings.

### **3. E&S/NPDES Review of Draft PAG-01 Update**

Nate Kurtz reported that the draft permit is what Districts have been asking for for smaller projects, but there are many caveats and restrictions for use that may not make it the solution we had been hoping for. More will be discussed after it is advertised in the PA Bulletin.

### **4. Envirothon Report**

Chris Thompson reviewed highlights from the three page report and noted that the sponsors provided over \$7,000 in support for this endeavor. Over 400 students participated in the three Envirothon events.

### **5. Youth Conservation School Update and Invitation**

Sonia Wasco mentioned that the details of the school are on page 23 of the mailing. This is the 41<sup>st</sup> year for the school that is currently co-chaired by Sallie Gregory and Sonia Wasco. Twenty-four students are enrolled this year and the Board is once again invited to the family and sponsor dinner on Wednesday night. A highlight for this year will be to realize the goal of eliminating the use of single-use plastics which was identified by the former YCS students as a way of improving our environment in a report they submitted to the PA General Assembly.

### **6. Compliance Program Update**

Chris Thompson reviewed the year end Bay Compliance inspection report. He praised the compliance team for reaching the goal of 300+ farms for the third year in a row. The fourth year starts in July, 2019 and two-thirds of the farms will be in targeted watersheds, with the 100 farm balance chosen randomly over the whole county.

### **7. Campbell Communication Foundation Grant Update**

The Keith Campbell Foundation in Annapolis has extended the District grant that supports the Clean Water Program Partners for another year. A second grant is being proposed to address database work needs.

## Item II.1

### **8. Legislative Breakfast Invite**

The details of the August 2, 2019 Legislative Breakfast in Gordonville were highlighted. The deadline to respond to the invitation to attend is July 22, 2019.

### **9. New Copy Machine**

Stacey Meyer reported that a Toshiba representative stopped by to inform us that the Toshiba Company will no longer be making parts for two of our copiers. Four proposals were prepared and sent to Stacey Meyer. She did a cost analysis over five years to see which option would fit the District best. The analysis showed that given our current usage, it will save the District money to purchase two new copiers at this time. Because Toshiba asked for approvals to lock in the details of the sale prior to when the Board of Directors was planning to meet, Chris Thompson went to the executive committee and asked for approval to take action on this non-budgeted purchase. The funds will be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Account setup for these types of purchases.

### **Additional Comments:**

#### **District Fees**

Chris Thompson mentioned that next month there will be a review of the service fees that are currently being charged by both the E&S and Ag Departments.

#### **PA Farm Bill Block Grant**

Chris Thompson reported on an opportunity for SCC, DEP and Local Loan Officers to work together and come up with a pilot project to start utilizing a block grant of nine million dollars to help implement the State's WIP. This would entail a funding strategy that will help get the practices on the ground for meeting the WIP goals. Currently the three main tools are Low Interest Loans, Expansion of the REAP Program and Grants.

Greg Strausser reported that on June 13, 2019, the skills of the E&S Department were on display at a stormwater workshop held to cover Lebanon and Lancaster Counties. There were good presenters and over 100 people with regulated design expertise attended. There was good organization and the workshop was well received.

It was noted that Associate Director Ernest Orr, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Ernie is working through the treatments and he hopes to return to action soon.

Chairman Dan Heller officially adjourned the meeting at 9:22PM.

Gerald M. Heistand  
Recording Secretary