

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 7, 2017**

The 784th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District was held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, at 7:30 PM, in the multi-purpose room of the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA.

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

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

The following District Staff were present: Christopher Thompson, District Manager; Gerald Heistand, Business Manager; Jeff Hill, Ag Program Manager; and Nate Kurtz, E&S Program Manager.

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. Commissioner Craig Lehman challenged each person at the meeting to reflect on three points that help board members to be more effective as they serve on various committees and boards:

1. The job is not about you.
2. We may hear but not listen.
3. Try to do what makes sense.

Everyone was challenged to keep these three ideas in mind wherever we serve.

There were no guests to be introduced at the meeting.

Chris Thompson announced the following additions to the agenda under Reports & Information:

- 1) Updates on two grants
- 2) PACD Executive Committee

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

Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

The NRCS report was included in the Board mailing packet. Heather Grove, NRCS District Conservationist, did not have any additions to the report.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

The June 2017 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points were included in the mailing packet.

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, Jay Snyder moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Dan Heller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- 1. Minutes of May 3, 2017 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 overall assets are down, as we are still waiting for \$150,000 in reimbursement funding from the first quarter of the year. E&S assets are the same level as last month, but there will be an additional \$46,000 in expenses this month due to establishing the new E&S office space on the other side of the lunch room. Heistand commented that on the Income and Expense report, the \$161,000 figure in the General Operations report would be negative if we subtracted the \$322,000 delayed payments from the third quarter of 2016. (In February through March of 2017, funds were borrowed from the Reserve Account to cover the delay in third quarter payments, and in January through March of 2016, funds were borrowed from the Reserve Account to cover the delay in passing the PA state budget.) The treasurer's report will be filed subject to audit.

3. Lease Agreement

Following several informational remarks by Chris Thompson, Dick Shellenberger moved to accept the 3-year lease agreement (August 1, 2017—July 31, 2020) with the Farm and Home Foundation as detailed in Item III.3 of the mailing. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. A copy of the official lease was circulated to Board members who were in attendance.

4. Annual Review of Civil Rights Component of NRCS-SCC-LCCD Cooperative Working Agreement

Heather Grove informed the Board that, as the District Conservationist for Lancaster, she is required to review with the Board the Cooperative Working Agreement between the District and NRCS. The bottom line is that government assistance needs to be provided to all eligible customers equally, and that an effort is made to seek out those that may not be typical. Increased diversity within the Board makeup is also encouraged. Directors who were present were asked to sign as affirmation that they were part of the review process.

Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates

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

- Letter – from Lancaster County Delegation of PA House of Representatives – in response to LCCD's 4/21/17 letter regarding funding for county conservation districts as part of the Fiscal Year 2017-18 General Fund Budget – May 10, 2017. PACD is reporting that the House budget is dead, so we need to continue encouraging legislators to restore funding to districts.
- Lease Agreement – Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County and Lancaster County Conservation District – 8/1/2017 to 7/31/20.
- 2017 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference – Draft Agenda – July 12-13, 2017.
- News Article – Lancaster County Envirothon winners announced; Hempfield High to represent county – Lancaster Online – May 20, 2017.
- Lancaster County Magazine – Make A Splash! Lancaster Water Week – June 2017. Increasing public knowledge.
- Thank You Notes – from Madison Jackson and Nathaniel Deimler – 2017 Ann Brown Memorial Scholarship Recipients.

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Nate Kurtz reported that the new office construction project has started. He reminded the Board that the E&S department was asked to move to make room for additional employees since their department was the right size to fit into the new office area. Referring to the E&S monthly report, he mentioned that the fees collected are still above last year.

3. WIP III Listening Session Update

Chris Thompson reported that Matt Kofroth and Jeff Hill attended the Phase 3 listening session. Hill mentioned that about 250 individuals, including a number of private consultants, were involved with the listening session. It was an open session style meeting that ran for 3 hours with 12 different topics that made for good discussion. The bottom line is that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. A summary report of the discussions that took place is expected. Thompson provided a handout paper titled "Local Government Engagement and Communication during the Chesapeake Bay Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIP Development" that provided a timeline needed to get 100% of the needed BMPs in place by 2025.

4. DEP Water Advisory Committee

Chris Thompson announced that DEP is looking for district director involvement with a Water Advisory Committee. Directors should let Thompson know if interested. Appointments made by the Governor.

5. PACD/SCC Joint Meeting Registration Announcement

This item was reviewed under the Correspondence, News and Updates session.

6. NFWF – PA In The Balance & Fishing Creek

Chris Thompson referred to page 22 of the mailing packet as he reviewed the various resources that this grant will utilize. The efforts are targeted within the Fishing Creek watershed. The Foundation will receive the funding, but it will involve numerous other partners. One fencing contractor will be tasked with installing most of the fence projects. The total funding will amount to about \$600,000. For the focus of the PA in the Balance Grant there is a committee of 14 that is working with a company, Due East, which has been assisting with the grant. The idea is to have everyone pulling in the same direction. For this to occur there will be a need for a director to coordinate and execute the effort. The NFWF grant does not fund that position; however, there is a Keith Campbell Foundation grant that would be committed to fund the position. Commissioner Lehman provided some background information on the effort with the various stakeholders. He mentioned that Thompson and all the others on the committee are bringing a wealth of information to the table. The three questions to be asked are: 1) What are the goals? 2) What tools are needed? 3) How do we measure the success?

Ag Compliance Update: Jeff Hill reported that there are 2 to 3 weeks of time remaining and 292 inspections have been completed. They will have completed the work in nine months; however, the information collected still needs to be entered into the database. Holly Shaub is being trained to do some of the work, and there may be an option to hire an intern. Fourteen of the cases have been referred to DEP.

Chris Thompson reported that a meeting was held at the Farm & Home Center to discuss the Plain Sect issue of the perception that accepting government funding might jeopardize the Social Security exemption.

Jeff Hill reported that when farmers call in for conservation plan writing assistance, he currently tells them that we do not have the manpower to do that work within the time they need to get the work done.

Chris Thompson highlighted the dates that were listed at the bottom of the agenda.

There was no additional public comment. Dan Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM. Robert Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.