

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 6, 2015**

The 760th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District was held on Wednesday, May 6, 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, Roger Rohrer, Dick Shellenberger, Jay Snyder, and Sonia Wasco.

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

The following District Staff were present: Christopher Thompson, District Manager; Gerald Heistand, Business Manager; Jeff Hill, Agriculture Program Manager; Nate Kurtz, E&S Program Manager; Andy Hake, Ag Conservation Technician; Sallie Gregory, Conservation Education Coordinator; and Dennis Eby, Plain Sect Outreach Coordinator.

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

Guests: There were 22 guests present: Christine Mosher, Faith Siegrist, Kara Siegrist, Sharon Fasnacht, Kelly Fasnacht, Jonathan McGee, Chris McGee, Sam Kipp, Cameron Senft, Chad Senft, Nathan Thompson, Travis Judy, Benjamin LeTourneur, Paul LeTourneur, Gregory Bearman, Philip Bearman, Brad McClain, Cassidie Blose, Everett Fasnacht, Nathaniel Good, Hunter Mosher and Kyle Siegrist.

Chairman Ken Meck called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and Don Robinson, Director Emeritus, provided the invocation for the meeting.

Chris Thompson introduced Paul LeTourneur, Scout Master of Troop 3, along with his York County Boy Scout Troop.

Sonia Wasco introduced Advisor Brad McClain and members of the Warwick High School Envirothon team that won the Lancaster County Envirothon competition. The team will go to the state contest to be held May 19 and 20 at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Sallie Gregory thanked the Board for their support of the Envirothon.

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

Chris Thompson reported two additions to the agenda:

1. NFWF application
2. Williams pipeline project report

Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove reported that there was a cut in federal funding nationwide, giving about 1.8 million in funding for Pennsylvania.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

May 2015 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points were provided in the Board mailing packets.

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. Robert Shearer moved to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda. Dick Shellenberger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Following are the Consent Agenda items that were approved:

- 1. Minutes of April 1, 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 reported on the funds that increased from last month's Balance Sheet. On the Income and Expense report, Heistand reported that the revenue is above budget due to elevated E&S activity and a Dirt and Gravel Road fund advance that was expected in 2014 but was delayed until this year. In response to a question on the "interfund transfer" line on the report, it was explained that the account is used whenever funds are moved between the major categories as listed in the report (eg. put into or removed from a reserve account). The Cash Flow Projection report was right on target as all of the District's requests for funding from 2014, qtr. 4, have been received. Heistand noted that the District Activity and Grant Detail Quarterly Report is for the first quarter of the year, therefore it does not include activity from the month of April.

3. Conservation Plans Acknowledgement

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

4. CBF—Conservation Planning Grant

Chris Thompson reported that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is looking to get more conservation plans written and is willing to pay the District \$10,000 to deliver ten plans that are needed for EQIP projects. Jay Snyder moved to have the Chairman sign the agreement between the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the District for the purpose of providing ten selected conservation plans. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Ag Preserve Board Agreement

Chris Thompson reported that he met with Matt Knepper, Director of the Ag Preserve Board, to discuss how to make the work flow more efficient. Information requests will be forwarded to the District quarterly, not monthly. No changes to the contract are being suggested. Dick Shellenberger moved to approve the agreement between the Ag Preserve Board and the Lancaster County Conservation District. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Scholarship Committee Report

Sonia Wasco reported that the Scholarship Committee had another good year of quality applicants, and the Committee is requesting to grant a 4th scholarship. The most recent financial report indicates that four scholarships can be granted, but the 2015 budget was balanced using three scholarships. Roger Rohrer moved that the LCCD grant four scholarships in 2015. Dan Heller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Altria—No-till planter grant update

Dennis Eby reported that they tested the planter by using it to plant broccoli in April. There are 19 farmers on the list to use the planter this year. One will be using the planter for pumpkins and all the others will be using it for tobacco. Eby mentioned that while he is working with and transporting the planter, he is a part-time employee of Penn State University. It is also important that PSU is recognized as the owner of the planter. Therefore, Shellenberger moved that the District transfer ownership of the planter (manufactured with funds from a NFWF grant) to Penn State University. Robert Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Roger Rohrer reminded the Board that success with no-till tobacco needs to go further than just using the no-till planter. It is a system that needs to be followed, and it is hopeful that Dennis Eby and Jeff Graybill, PSU, can come up with a formula for success that can be used with educational meetings in the future. Eby reported that they are establishing two trial plots and they will sponsor two half field days.

8. District Vehicle Purchases

Jeff Hill reported to the Board that plans are to purchase a Nutrient Management Program vehicle to replace the 2002 Malibu, and purchase a second vehicle for the E&S department. Two dealerships were visited and costs are between \$22,000 and \$23,000. There appeared to be a consensus that the Malibu should be used for trade-in rather than trying to sell it. Dan Heller moved to purchase the two vehicles at the best negotiated price. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates

The following Correspondence, News and Update items were circulated at the meeting:

1. Earth Day Proclamation – April 22, 2015 – Lancaster County Commissioners
2. Auditor (Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC) Engagement letter to Board of Directors – April 21, 2015
3. Banquet Celebrates 65 Years of Conservation in Lancaster Co. – Lancaster Farming – April 4, 2015
4. Conservation District gives out annual awards – LNP – April 14, 2015
5. Thank you note to Matt Kofroth – from Tree Sale Customer
6. Thank you note to Sallie Gregory for presentation at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Ephrata
7. PUC letter on rate limit caps

Report on the Williams Pipeline (Addition to the Agenda)

Chris Thompson reported that he and Dennis Eby attended a meeting with the Williams' representatives. The Atlantic Sunrise pipeline being installed by the Williams Company will run through 35 miles of Lancaster County. At the meeting they were looking for insight from us on how to better work with the Plain Sect community. Williams' representatives would be willing to attend a future Board meeting to answer any questions the Board may have.

2. Know Your District—Plain Sect Outreach Coordinator presentation

Dennis Eby updated the Board on what he has been doing since starting with the District seven years ago. This past winter he attended 40 meetings and spoke at 30 of those meetings. Four workshops were held that served 87 farmers. Dennis commended the Board for their foresight in developing the Plain Sect Outreach program. Board members were positive about all that has been accomplished with Dennis's leadership.

3. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Nate Kurtz reported that the review fees collected this year are up 35–40%, and everyone in the E&S department is very busy. He announced that the US Fish and Wildlife Service added the Northern Long Eared Bat to the endangered list under the Endangered Species Act. The PNDI search highlights that a threatened or endangered species may be in a project location.

4. Tree Sale Update

Chris Thompson mentioned that a full report should be available next month.

5. Envirothon Update

Sallie Gregory reported on good support for the Envirothon event. The Board commended Sallie for her good work with the Envirothon. The state contest will be held on May 19 & 20 at University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

6. Banquet Committee Report

Sallie Gregory reported that with the promotional 65th anniversary glasses, the banquet went slightly over budget, but everything went well.

NFWF Application (Addition to the Agenda)

Andy Hake reported on a proposal to develop a tool that will build onto the Practice Keeper software that was developed by WorldView. With this NFWF application staff hopes to develop a tool to analyze runoff at the farm level. It will attempt to quantify what is being removed as sediment and nutrients. The proposals are due Thursday, May 14.

Additional Comments:

Chris Thompson reported that the District will be signing a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Foundation that clarifies the purpose and responsibilities of both parties. The initial MOU came out in 2008, and this one is similar in nature. A request was made that the MOU be sent to all directors.

Ken Meck reported that the PACD Executive Director search has received 12 resumes for the position.

Jeff Hill reported on the Avian Influenza that is creating issues with Midwest farmers.

Herb Kreider opened discussion on whether a complimentary letter could be created that a director could use to encourage a farmer who made noticeable progress in an area of conservation.

On May 11th, Penn State Extension will be holding a field day at Roger Rohrer's farm.

Chris Thompson invited anyone interested to attend the first District Marketing Committee meeting, on May 13th, to lay foundation for a marketing plan.

Meeting Adjournment

Chairman Ken Meck officially adjourned the meeting at 9:20 P.M.

Gerald M. Heistand
Recording Secretary