

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 2016**

The 777th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District was held on Wednesday, October 5, 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: Ken Meck, Chairman; Herb Kreider, Roger Rohrer, Dick Shellenberger, Jay Snyder, and Sonia Wasco.

The following Associate Directors were present: Frank Burkhart, Lisa Graybeal, Ernest Orr, and Kent Weaver.

The following District Staff were present: Christopher Thompson, District Manager; Gerald Heistand, Business Manager; Jeff Hill, Ag Program Manager; Nate Kurtz, E&S Program Manager; James Fricke, Erosion Control Technician; and Evan Martin, Erosion Control Technician.

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

Chairman Ken Meck called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM, and Frank Burkhart provided the invocation for the meeting.

There were no guests to be introduced at the meeting.

The following Additions to the Agenda were announced:

Additional Business #III.8: The 2017 District Draft Budget and the 2017 Commissioner Grant Request letter for \$307,940.

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

Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove reported that the USDA/NRCS report gives a snapshot of the 2016 fiscal year achievements which can be compared to the previous fiscal year. Conservation Planning & Practice Installation Activities, Financial Assistance Conservation Program Activities, Conservation Easement Program Activities, and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Activities were all part of the report.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

Chris Thompson reviewed the Conservation District Watershed Specialist Workgroup item. Greg Strausser volunteered, but Chris Thompson was chosen, and he asked Matt Kofroth to accompany him to the Watershed Specialist Workgroup meetings. Thompson reminded the directors that, as per the 3rd item on the report, public officials need to be aware of their ethics obligation to avoid any "conflict of interest" and complete the annual ethics survey. The next South Central PACD Directors meeting is Monday, October 17.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Ken Meck gave opportunity for directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion. There was some discussion on the 2017 Board meeting dates as to whether meeting another day of the week or another time of the day would result in fewer conflicts, but no action was taken to remove the item for detailed discussion or changes. Roger Rohrer moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included items numbered 1 through 5. Dick Shellenberger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- 1. Minutes of September 7, 2016 Board meeting**
- 2. Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations**
- 3. Nutrient Management Plan Approvals**
- 4. Conservation Plans Acknowledgement**
- 5. Board Meeting Dates for 2017**

2017 Board meeting dates and times are as follows:

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 – 1:00 PM
Wednesday, February 1, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, March 1, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, April 5, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, May 3, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, June 7, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, July 5, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, August 2, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, September 6, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, October 4, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, November 1, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, December 6, 2017 – 7:30 PM

Additional Business

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

- 2. Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was presented with no further questions. The treasurer's report will be filed subject to audit.

- 3. Personnel Committee Report**

Sonia Wasco reported that, as per the notes in the mailing, each director was contacted by email to vote on hiring Beverly Parmer to fill the second part-time secretary/receptionist position. In order to formalize the decision, Sonia Wasco moved to approve hiring Beverly Parmer as a part-time Secretary/Receptionist. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Ombudsman Special Project Agreements with PDA and DEP**

Chris Thompson reported that the Ombudsman program has been running for several years. It is being brought to the Board later than normal as the state is looking to revise the program as a result of the Bay Reboot compliance effort. Gerald Heistand reported that we were recently asked to lower the funding amount from \$77,000 to \$75,000. Jay Snyder moved that the LCCD accept this funding from DEP for the Ombudsman program. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. ACT 38 Program Compliance

Jeff Hill reported that he has a farmer, Stephen Fisher, Eden Township, that needs to be sent to DEP for further action, as the District exhausted all of the options to achieve compliance. Herb Kreider moved that the Stephen Fisher farm be referred to the State Conservation Commission for further action by the state. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. E&S Committee Report—Non Compliant Site

Jay Snyder reported, as per the item in the mailing, that an NPDES permit application, for a parking and building expansion project at the Lancaster Labs (Eurofins) Facility in Upper Leacock Township, was withdrawn due to a lack of response from the applicant. Staff noticed that there was active construction occurring on the site on more than one acre and learned that the Township gave them permission to work on a small area. All of this occurred during a dry spell so there was no pollution event. The E&S Committee is proposing that the company be offered to undertake a stream restoration project in lieu of a monetary fine. This is a new idea that will be taken to DEP for their consideration. The Township will need to be involved since they were aware of the project. Jay Snyder moved that a meeting with the involved parties be set up to explore the use of a mitigation project in lieu of a full-blown penalty, pending DEP approval. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. There was a consensus that there needs to be more of these kinds of actions.

7. Letter of Support—Secretary McDonnell

Chris Thompson brought the Board up to date on Acting DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. Governor Wolf has nominated McDonnell as the new Secretary for the Department of Environmental Protection. Lisa Graybeal reported that the Legislative Committee of Ag Council met with McDonnell and found that he is open to exploring other ideas and appears to be rational in his approach. LCCD has prepared a letter, in support of McDonnell as DEP Secretary, to be sent to Senate leadership. Roger Rohrer moved that the District send the letter of support for McDonnell. Dick Shellenberger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Draft 2017 District Budget

Chris Thompson introduced the Board to the proposed 2017 budget that was provided in the meeting handout packet. There were questions about the capacity to house all of the staff that were included in the budget, and what the added cost would be to have the E&S Department move to the front office. A copy of the 2017 Grant Request letter to the County Commissioners, also included in the handout packet, was highlighted; and there was a consensus that we should present our request in person at one of the Commissioners' Budget Work Sessions. It was decided the District would offer to be available at an October 26th work session. There was strong support for adding a Conservation Planning Department and expanding the Watershed Department. There was a consensus that the budget should be updated to include moving the E&S Department and adding several Conservation Planners to the Ag staff (expansion of the Watershed Department was already included in the budget). The draft budget will be developed, reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee, circulated to BOD members and presented for approval at the November Board meeting.

Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates

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

- PennAg Legislative Committee positions – PennAg Journal – Fall 2016
- Polluted Runoff – Save the Bay – Fall 2016
- Sturla: Keep cows out of waterways - LNP – September 14, 2016
- Lancaster singled out for bay pollution – LNP – September 15, 2016
- Foundation Requesting \$20 Million for Susquehanna – Lancaster Farming – Sept. 17, 2016
- Conservation Districts Wary of Role in Cleaning Up Chesapeake Bay – Lancaster Farming – Sept. 17, 2016
- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Revise the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) Act Regulations – PPL – September 6, 2016
- Letter requesting FFA student jacket sponsors – Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association – September 16, 2016
- Ag Week – October 9-15 – Celebrating Lancaster County Agriculture – A publication by Lancaster Farming and LNP

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Nate Kurtz provided a compliance update and mentioned that E&S plan submission has leveled off this year, but is similar to last year.

3. Compliance Team Update

Jeff Hill reported that the compliance team is working and the response has been good; however, he expects the District will have a number of landowners to send up to DEP after the 90 day extension to get required plans is exhausted.

4. Lancaster Chamber's Agriculture Industry Banquet

The Lancaster Chamber's Agriculture Industry Banquet will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2016, at Double Tree Resort by Hilton, Willow Street, from 5 pm to 9 pm. A clipboard was passed around for Board members to sign up to attend.

5. Ag Week Update

Ag Week events were listed in the mailing. Chris Thompson highlighted the Legislative breakfast at Clipper Stadium and also the Farmers' Breakfast with Representative Mindy Fee and Senator Ryan Aument on November 10, at 9 am.

Additional Public Comment:

There were no additional public comments.

Meeting Adjournment

Chairman Ken Meck officially adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Gerald M. Heistand
Recording Secretary