

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2015**

The 765th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District was held on Wednesday, October 7, 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: Robert Shearer, Vice-Chairman; Herb Kreider, Roger Rohrer, Jay Snyder, and Sonia Wasco.

The following Associate Directors were present: Ernest Orr, Jr., Don Robinson, 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 Kevin Seibert, Ag Compliance Coordinator.

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

Vice-Chairman Robert Shearer called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM, and Don Robinson provided the invocation for the meeting.

There were no guests to be introduced at the meeting.

Chris Thompson announced the following additions to Correspondence, News and Updates:

- RCPP Application
- Bicentennial Award Applications

Opportunity was given for public comment. None was offered.

Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove reported that NRCS started the new fiscal year on October 1st. The individual who was offered the Lancaster office position, vacated by Adam Gagne, declined their offer.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

October 2015 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points were provided in the mailing packet. Chris Thompson highlighted the Avian Influenza and 102/105 Delegation Agreement sections of the report.

Consent Agenda

Vice-Chairman Shearer gave opportunity for directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion.

Jeff Hill reported that he had one Nutrient Management Plan to add to the Requests for Nutrient Management Plan Approval:

Les Landis – Penn Township – Broilers – CAO – 118.15 AEU's/Acre – Ledwich – Plan #204.

Hearing that there were no items to be removed, Roger Rohrer moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of the Les Landis Nutrient Management Plan. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- 1. Minutes of September 2, 2015 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 the total assets for the District have reached a peak for the year, as most of the third quarter requests for reimbursement are in and a new advanced allocation of \$225,000 was received from Exelon. It is the end of the third quarter and the E&S Department has already collected a full year's worth of fees as per the 2015 budget. Referring to the General Operations Cash Flow Projection report, Heistand noted that the ending balance of \$308,898 assumes no state budget. The projected number would be \$355,000 if the state budget was passed and we received all of our reimbursement requests. The projected end of year balance for the General Operations Account is expected to be less than last year due to additional funds (above what was budgeted for 2015) being moved into the Nutrient Management Program assigned account. On the revenue side, there was less administrative income on several grant projects where construction has been delayed or not yet started; however, that decrease in funds was offset with an additional engineering contract.

3. Budget and Finance Committee Report

Gerald Heistand reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met on September 30, for 2½ hours to review the various budgets that make up the final one page 2016 District Budget that was provided in the mailing. Overall the budget is workable for 2016; however, there is a \$40,371 deficit in the General Operations budget. Since the mailing went out, administration has identified additional funding in the Watershed and Plain Sect programs that will cut this deficit in half. As the committee reviewed the individual budgets, they made several recommendations which are listed on page 17 of the mailing. The 2016 District Budget, on page 16, was reviewed in detail by Heistand as the first draft presentation. Roger Rohrer explained that the committee is asking that administration look into the option of using a line of credit in the event that a state budget is not passed in 2015. Chris Thompson highlighted that a motion was needed at this time to approve engaging the services of a CPA, taking out a line of credit, and the items listed in paragraph 3 on page 17. Roger Rohrer moved to approve the recommendations of the Budget and Finance Committee report. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Personnel Committee Report

At 8:04 PM, Vice-Chair Shearer announced that the Personnel Committee had several items to handle in Executive Session for Board members only. He adjourned the meeting into Executive Session, to be reconvened in approximately 15 minutes. Vice-Chair Shearer called the meeting back to order at approximately 8:20 PM. Sonia Wasco moved that the Board accept the Personnel Committee report, as discussed in Executive Session, addressing 1) a Contingency plan in response to the State budget impasse, 2) Bereavement Leave Policy Update, 3) Cost of Living increase recommendation for 2016, and 4) Expanding the District's core programs from 3 to 4, separating Watershed from Education. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Ag Compliance Review Committee Updates

Kevin Seibert reported that the Ben K. Fisher situation was reported to the Board at the September 2015 meeting. Plans were not presented to the District in 90 days, so a Notice of Violation was sent. Ten

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days later Mr. Fisher contacted the District and contracted to work with Red Barn. Darren Shenk, Red Barn planner, expects to complete his work by the end of next week. The consensus of the committee was to wait for the plans to come in to the District.

Kevin Seibert reported that the District received three complaints connected to the James D. Stauffer operation in the past 1½ years. Mr. Stauffer is working with DEP on some other 105 issues, and DEP would be willing to combine these 102 issues with the 105 concerns on a Consent Order Agreement (COA). Seibert used this situation to explain why it may be valuable to revise the Ag E&S policy. Revision of the Ag E&S policy was discussed with the committee a few months ago. The District is currently not able to use a COA.

Roger Rohrer moved that the James D. Stauffer information be sent to DEP for enforcement through the use of a COA. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. 2016 Board Meeting Dates

Chris Thompson informed the Board that the Board meeting dates for 2016 needed to be approved so they can be publicized. There was a consensus that the January 6th meeting could be moved to the afternoon so that it could be combined with an Annual Planning Meeting. Roger Rohrer moved to approve the dates as presented (page 20 of the mailing) with the January meeting moved to 1:00 PM. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. PACD Dues Increase

Chris Thompson reported that a change in PACD policy is needed to better facilitate the budgeting process. Sonia Wasco moved to accept the letter as presented in the mailing. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Thompson asked if another director would be able to take Ken Meck's place at the next PACD regional meeting. No volunteers were noted at the meeting.

8. Good Neighbor Letter Request

Jeff Hill provided a history of the past two years for this high profile location. Jay Snyder moved to send the Good Neighbor letter to James S. Zimmerman as presented in the mailing. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Ag Council's Video Sponsorship

Chris Thompson announced that Ag Week will be held November 8-14, 2015. Its purpose is to accentuate the diversity and impact of agriculture in Lancaster County and the State. Thus far, \$16,500 has been raised to produce a \$25,000 video for general support of the Ag community in Lancaster County. The question raised to the Board was whether the District wanted to take part in helping to sponsor the effort. Sonia Wasco moved that the Lancaster County Conservation District support the Ag Week video celebration with a donation of \$500. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Capital RC&D Appointments

Chris Thompson reported that the District has four appointees to serve on the Capital RC&D Board. As listed in the mailing, Jay Snyder moved to re-appoint John Bingham as Lancaster's member-at-large and appoint Gerald Heistand to fill the alternate position. Roger Rohrer 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:

- Agroforestry - Pages 17&18 of Pennsylvania Forests, Quarterly Magazine of the PA Forestry Association , Summer 2015
- News Article – Bill would protect local farmers with methane digesters from limits on electricity they sell to utilities – LNP News, September 23, 2015
- Egg Farmer Recalls Avian Flu Nightmare in Iowa – Lancaster Farming, Saturday, October 3, 2015 (Shelly Dehoff attended the 5th International Symposium on Managing Mortalities in Lancaster.)
- Builder tackling soil erosion problems – Pipeline Erosion – Lancaster Newspapers – Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Chris Thompson announced that the Chamber is looking for nominations for the Bicentennial Farm Award. The family must have been living on the farm for one or two hundred years. To request an application form for the Century or Bicentennial farm award, contact April Orwig, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, (717) 783-3167 (aorwig@pa.gov)

Thompson announced that there is a multi-million dollar Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) opportunity being pursued. If awarded, this new grant program should be up and running in 2016, targeting a watershed in the southern portion of the county. One of the goals is to work towards 100% stream exclusion of domesticated animals.

2. Know Your District—Ag

Due to time, this presentation will be made at a later meeting.

3. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

The E&S report was provided on pages 26, 27 & 28 of the mailing. Chris Thompson reported that the E&S staff are at Penn State for training. Ag staff, Dennis Eby and Steve Reiff, and Chris Thompson presented/attended the first day of the three day training.

Additional Comments:

None were offered.

Meeting Adjournment

Roger Rohrer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. Vice-Chair Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Gerald M. Heistand
Recording Secretary