

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 2, 2015**

The 764th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District was held on Wednesday, September 2, 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, Sonia Wasco and Commissioner Craig Lehman.

The following Associate Directors were present: Darrel Becker, Frank Burkhart, Lisa Graybeal, Stuart Herr, Gregory Strausser 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; Kevin Seibert, Ag Compliance Coordinator; and Matt Kofroth, Watershed Specialist.

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, and Jay Snyder 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:

- RC&D request to participate in 2015 Fall Roadside Cover Crop Survey Project
- Discussion on Building Industry of Lancaster County membership

Opportunity was given for public comment. None was offered.

Agency Reports

1. USDA,NRCS

The NRCS report was provided on pages 1-3 of the mailing. There were no additions to the report.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

September 2015 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points were provided in the mailing packet. Chris Thompson referred to the section on Chapter 102 and 105 Delegation Agreement Changes. He noted that the vote on the proposed changes will occur at the Sept. 15th Commission meeting. More information on the changes and implementation schedule will be brought to the October Board meeting.

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 requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dick Shellenberger moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Robert Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- 1. Minutes of August 5, 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 pointed to the 1007-Reserve Unassigned Account line item that will be used to take the District to the end of 2015 if the state budget is not passed. He also pointed out that the SWAT Restricted Separation Account is new, and that the E&S Account increased by \$17,000 from last month. There were no substantial changes to the bottom lines of the different categories on the Income and Expenses report. The difference between the actual and predicted end of month balance for August on the General Operations Cash Flow Projection report was due to the assumption that requests for reimbursement would not be processed during the third quarter (which was not the case).

3. PPL Brunner Island Project

Jeff Hill reported that Ashley Spotts, Keith Lutz and Kent Bitting are working on a stream crossing project for Keith Frey, Millersville. After discussion, Roger Rohrer moved to use \$2,525 of PPL funds for the Keith Frey stream crossing project. Dan Heller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Compost Structure Waiver

Jeff Hill reported that this is a waiver request to locate a poultry litter stacking shed next to a private drinking well on the Joel Rutt farm in Rapho Township. It is being stacked on bare ground now, so this project will be an improvement. Robert Shearer moved to approve the waiver that will allow the landowner (Joel Rutt) to locate the stacking area within a 100 foot setback of his own well. Dick Shellenberger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Ag E&S Compliance

Kevin Seibert brought to the Ag Compliance Committee a non-compliance issue on the Ben Fisher farm in Paradise Township. After background discussion, there was a consensus that this must be taken to the next step. Robert Shearer moved to send a Notice of Violation report to the landowner with a 30 day window to provide a plan to the District. If there are no results from this action, a third inspection report will be made, and the case will be brought back to the Board for further action. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. DGR QAB Report

Herb Kreider and Matt Kofroth provided a handout report of the Dirt & Gravel Road Quality Assurance Board's recommendation on how \$80,150 in Dirt & Gravel Road funding would be allocated. There were 11 applications submitted by 6 municipalities requesting over \$182,000. Only one of the projects will be fully funded, and three will receive no funding. Kofroth explained that an additional \$150 in funds over the \$80,000 will come from unspent funds from the previous allocation. Of the \$100,000 allocation, 10% can be used for education and 10% for administration. Herb Kreider moved to accept the Dirt & Gravel Road Quality Assurance Board's recommendation to fund eight projects in six townships as presented on the handout. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Good Neighbor Request

Chris Thompson reported that the purpose of the Good Neighbor letter should be seen as a token thank you for doing a good job. During discussion it was noted that the letter being considered is for a project in Penn Township, not Manheim Township. Sonia Wasco moved that BR Kreider be acknowledged with a Good Neighbor Letter for their work on this project. Dan Heller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. It was suggested that before sending out these letters staff should make sure that the project is complete, that the letter is project specific, and that the recipient meets minimum criteria.

Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates

Chris Thompson circulated an Ag Industry Banquet sign-up sheet for directors to indicate whether they would be attending the November 12th banquet.

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

- Study Calculates Farms' Value to Environment – Lanc Farming – August 8, 2015
- THE DIRT on county roadways – LNP – August 17, 2015
- “Happy 20th Anniversary!” Card from The Lancaster Chamber – August 25, 2015
- Agricultural Associations and Cooperatives – Egypt – Citizens Diplomacy International of Philadelphia – Visitors from Egypt attended a meeting with Ag agency representatives at the Farm & Home Center on Thursday, August 20. Heistand provided a short report on the meeting they had with this group.
- PennAg HPAI meeting announcement – Thursday, September 8, 6:30 PM, at Farm & Home Center
- RC&D Request to participate in 2015 fall Roadside Cover Crop Survey Project
Chris Thompson informed the Board that the Capital RC&D is requesting Lancaster to participate in a 2015 Fall Roadside Cover Crop Survey project. Dennis Eby has helped with this survey in the past and would be able to work with the survey team again. Dan Heller moved for Lancaster County Conservation District to assist with this project. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Building Industry Association of Lancaster County –Membership Dues Reminder
Chris Thompson reported that he received a membership dues reminder from the Building Industry Association. The District has been paying the BIA membership dues for several years, and Thompson requested discussion from the Board. One concern raised was whether there could be a perceived conflict of interest for being a member of an organization that you regulate. There was a question of whether we were members of Farm Bureau as we are often seen as being regulators of agriculture. After further discussion, Herb Kreider moved to drop the Building Industry Association of Lancaster County membership. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Thompson will be looking to see if there are other ways to use this funding to show our support of the building industry.

Chris Thompson reported that he has spent time in Harrisburg at various meetings, some of which were called at the last minute. Stormwater was the topic of one of the meetings where it was discussed that EPA is looking to fund a pilot project in Lancaster and York that would deal with stormwater. Setting up regional authorities is just one of the ideas being considered. Most Districts are aware that before accepting responsibility in the area of stormwater, a source of dedicated funding will need to be addressed.

Another meeting, relating to agriculture, dealt with how to get better results with all of the efforts that are being done both with government funding and with practices that farmers are doing on their own. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and EPA are looking for answers as to why they are not seeing better results with water quality. They want to see success on meeting TMDLs that have been established.

2. Know Your District—E&S

Nate Kurtz gave a short presentation on the E&S Department. He reviewed the duties of staff in the department and provided several graphs showing how the number of permits, plan reviews and field inspections have changed over the past four years. He reported that with added staff, the District hopes to reverse the downward trend we have had with the number of field inspections. The District has level III enforcement of 102 regulations, and there are fewer enforcement cases than we had 10 years ago due to good educational efforts.

3. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

The monthly projects report was provided in the mailing packet. No additional comments were made.

4. Altria Planter Grant Report

Chris Thompson directed the Board's attention to the Altria report on page 21 of the mailing. The District already has increased demand for using the no-till planter next year.

5. Youth Conservation School Report

The YCS report was provided in the Board mailing packet. The co-directors and counselors of the school were commended for their many years of service to the school.

6. Growing Greener Update

Matt Kofroth referred to the submitted Growing Greener/Section 319 grant proposal list on page 23 of the mailing. He reported that funding has not been guaranteed for any project, and we do not expect to know what will be funded until January. Lancaster has been one of the more active counties with these projects.

7. 2015 Agriculture Industry Banquet—November 12, 2015

Lisa Graybeal provided background information on the banquet speaker—Brad Crews, Chief Operating Officer of the North American Region of CNH Industrial, as someone with roots in Lancaster County. The ag banquet is just one part of the activities that will take place during ag week.

Additional Comments:

Chris Thompson asked that directors take note of the various meetings scheduled during the month:

- Sept. 10, 7:30 am—Ag Issues Forum, HPAI focus, at Farm & Home Center
- Sept. 24, 11:00 am—Ag Council, Chesapeake Bay focus, at Farm & Home Center
- Oct. 7, 6:30 pm—Pension Trustees Meeting, at Farm & Home Center

Chairman Ken Meck announced that Vice-Chairman Robert Shearer will be chairing the October 7th Board meeting.

Meeting Adjournment

Dick Shellenberger moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 PM. Dan Heller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Gerald M. Heistand
Recording Secretary