

Item II.1  
**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 5, 2021**

The 829<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) was held in person at the Farm and Home Center for Directors and also via Zoom Call-In on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 7:30PM.

**The following Directors were present:** Daniel Heller, Chairman; Herb Kreider, Kent Weaver, Treasurer; Roger Rohrer, Jay Snyder, Bob Shearer, Ken Meck, Sonia Wasco and Commissioner D'Agostino.

**The following Associate Directors were present:** Greg Strausser, Lisa Graybeal and Garrett Weaver.

**The following District Staff were present:** Christopher Thompson, Gerald Heistand, Kevin Lutz, Rich Snyder, Kent Bitting, Matt Kofroth, Sallie Gregory, Dennis Eby, Adam Stern and Suzanne Kopp.

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

**The following guests were present:** None

Chairman Dan Heller called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Dan welcomed everyone and asked if there were any introductions to be made – none were made. Adam Stern wanted everyone to know that the meeting was being recorded.

Sonia Wasco provided the invocation for the meeting.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Chris Thompson stated there was a correction to the Levi Glick Farm and there were two items to add to the agenda. The first is the PACD executive committee minutes and the second is the copy of the LCCD 2020 Annual Report.

Dan Heller stated that Sonia Wasco has requested an executive session at the end of the Board meeting tonight to discuss a personnel committee topic.

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

### **I. Agency Reports**

#### **1. USDA, NRCS**

Heather Grove offered no additions to the written report this month. No questions were raised. Chris Thompson informed the Board that the building was locked down today due to the fact that there was a disgruntled land owner that NRCS staff had been working with.

#### **2. PA DEP Field Rep Report**

In Elwood Blake's absence, Chris wanted to highlight that the Ag plan reimbursement has expired and currently there is no plan reimbursement funding at this point to replace it.

### **II. Consent Agenda**

Chairman Dan Heller gave the opportunity for Directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda in order to have additional discussion. Hearing none, Kent Weaver moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included items numbered one through four. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Bob Shearer stated he would be abstaining from the vote because of his connection to one of the Nutrient Management plans up for approval. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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The Consent Agenda includes the following approved items.

- #1 – Minutes of April 7, 2021 Board meeting
- #2 – Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations
- #3 – Nutrient Management Plan Approvals
- #4 – Conservation Plan Acknowledgement

### **III. Additional Business**

#### **1. Items removed from Consent Agenda**

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

#### **2. Treasures Report**

Gerald Heistand reported that there is an overall increase in assets on the Balance Sheet. The Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Program Grant (CBAIP) is a new grant and that is one of the reasons for the over all asset increase, along with the E&S Department having an increase of income of \$12,000.

CBAIP Grant is funding that the DEP provided to help farmers in Phase 2 to get the farms compliant. This was not funding that was expected in our budget and it can only be spent on Phase 2 inspected farms.

#### **3. Personnel Committee Report**

Sonia Wasco reported on the COOP update that is in the Board packet and stated that the plan moving forward is to have everyone back in the office working full days June 7, 2021.

Sonia requested that the 3<sup>rd</sup> item regarding the financial incentive to be given if an employee obtains a Covid vaccine be held for discussion until the executive session.

#### **4. Dirt and Gravel Road Committee Report**

Matt Kofroth reported on the QA/QC Report and Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement has been signed but a letter will be attached to the agreement. A copy of the letter that was submitted with the settlement agreement is attached to the Board packet.

Lancaster's next QA/QC meeting will be held this Fall.

#### **5. Conservation Excellence Projects**

Kent Bitting reported that we have four applications this month that were reviewed by staff and the applications meet all criteria of the grant. Kent Bitting and Kevin Lutz recommend positive action from the Board for all four of these projects for CEG Funding in the amount of \$443,681.19.

Jay Snyder moved to approve CEG funding amounts requested. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Roger Rohrer will be abstaining from the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. Reports/Information**

#### **1. Correspondence, News and Updates**

- **Little Conestoga Blue/Green Way** – This is a 12-million-dollar project to restore the Conestoga River
- **Creekside News** – Matt Kofroth has two articles pertaining to Mill Creek and also the new District Trailer that was bought. Spring 2021
- **News Release** – RCPP Awards were announced and our Foundation was a sponsor. April 26, 2021
- **Senate Bill 465** – Is a new Ag. Program called Ag Conservation Assistance Program. Funds from the Rescue America Funds will be used to pay for this program. March 22, 2021

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### **2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report**

Rich Snyder reported that we had 25 new plans in the month of April. We also had 21 new complaints for the month of April. Revenues have increased by \$40,000. Two of the bigger plans currently are the Manor Substation Expansion in Manor Township and The Circle M Campground.

### **3. PENNVEST**

Chris Thompson reported on the PENNVEST Grants stating that the Isaac Beiler farm that was approved last month was approved to be a low-income loan. He affirmed that the District does not want to be a sponsor on a low-income loan. Chris is requesting that the Board vote on whether to sponsor the low-income loan for Isaac Beiler. Sonia Wasco moved to decline to sponsor the low-income loan for Isaac Beiler. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chris then passed around another packet of information on another project and requested that the Board vote to support to submit the Levi Fisher proposal as stated for the amount of \$425,000. Herb Kreider made a motion to support submitting a proposal as stated to PENNVEST. Kent Weaver seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Conservation Foundation News and Updates**

Chris Thompson reported on the Manure Injection Incentive Program. The Manure Injection grant is in the first year of the 3-year grant and is gaining interest and momentum. The overall object of the grant is to promote and increase the use of manure injection in Lancaster County to capture nitrogen, reduce the need to purchase additional fertilizers and reduce the odor impacts of manure in surrounding neighborhoods.

Chris also reported on the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPA) – stating that the Conservation Foundation is the sponsor for the Clean Water Partner's RCPP proposal and that the 2021 awarded amount was \$7.4 million dollars to be used towards BMP's on Ag land in Lancaster County.

### **5. PACD Regional Director Meeting Report**

Sonia Wasco reported that Conservation week was very successful and a lot of public service circulations were distributed. All regional meetings have been held. PACD is setting money aside to host a QuickBooks seminar in the near future.

### **6. 2020 Annual Report**

Chris Thompson reported that the Annual Report was just received on May 5, 2021. Formal glossy hard copies will be available later for everyone. It goes in tandem with the 2020 highlights page. The Lancaster County Conservation District accomplishments are very extensive and are something we can all be proud of.

Chris also reported on House Bill 139 (3<sup>rd</sup> Party Review) that was passed this morning. Chris stated that many items in this House Bill 139 are supposed to be stream lining the process for issuing permits but are unrealistic with timeline deadlines. These unrealistic deadlines will negatively affect our efforts here at the District. Chris is requesting that the Board approve sending a letter to the House of Representatives and to the Senators stating what concerns this will have to the District. Chris stated that has implemented a work-share program with other regions to reduce the S.C. Region back log issues. What Legislators are trying to accomplish with this Bill, does not address that issue. Chris would like to give some suggestions if they are open to hearing them. Roger Rohrer moved to support sending the letter of concerns to the House of Representatives and the Senators and state in the letter that we have ideas and are available as a resource to help revise the Bill. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Additional Public Comment:**

Commissioner D'Agostino questioned if farmers who get a tax break are registered in the Clean and Green program, and are made to have an Ag Plan for their farms. They should not be exempt from having an Ag Plan.

Rich Snyder stated that one of the senior planners with the County Planning Commission reached out to him about the District's involvement in preserving forested land within Lancaster County. This could have a significant affect to our riparian buffers.

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### **Executive Session**

Sonia Wasco made a motion to move to executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Heller excused all non-voting members at 9:25pm to begin the Executive Session.

The Board of Directors reconvened the business meeting at 9:58pm, after detailed discussions concerning the importance of getting vaccinated and incentivizing staff to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, the directors agreed to table a vote citing privacy concerns and possible liability in performance reviews if supervisors are accused of treating staff differently if they did or did not get the vaccine.

The Board also discussed revising the current COOP. Chris requested the Board of Director support for re-opening the office on June 7, 2021. Sonia Wasco moved to resume full operations on June 7, 2021. Bob Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Chairman Heller officially adjourned the meeting at 10:02pm.



Suzanne Kopp  
Recording Secretary