

Item #
LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2022

The 838th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) was held in the Lancaster Farm & Home Center Auditorium on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 7:30 PM, the same day as the Annual Planning Meeting. A Zoom call-in option was provided, but there were no participants with the call-in option.

The following Directors were present: Daniel Heller, Chairman; Herb Kreider, Roger Rohrer, Jay Snyder, Bob Shearer, A Dale Herr, Sonia Wasco, Robert Wagner, and Commissioner Ray D'Agostino.

The following Associate Directors were present: Frank Burkhart, Justin Welk

The following District Staff were present: Christopher Thompson, Gerald Heistand, Kevin Lutz, Rich Snyder, Kent Bitting, Matt Kofroth, Sallie Gregory, Kevin Seibert, Adam Stern, Dennis Eby, Adam Hartz, Britton Hartzok, and Holly Shaub.

The following Cooperating Agency representatives were present: None present.

Bob Shearer provided an invocation before the meeting.

Chairman Dan Heller called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m, and there was a time of introductions. Adam Stern announced that the meeting was being recorded.

An opportunity was given for public comment: It was mentioned that this is Dennis Eby's last board meeting since he is retiring April 1st. Dennis expressed appreciation to the Board and Staff for all of their help and involvement with the District's conservation efforts.

Additions to the Agenda: Chris Thompson announced that on Thursday March 10th at 2 PM there will be an opportunity for board members and staff to attend a zoom Budget & Finance Committee meeting where investing reserve funds will be discussed with Bob Hoffman of Fulton Financial Advisors.

Also, Sonia Wasco will be sharing an informational report for the Personnel Committee to be given right after the PACD/SCC Meeting Report in the Reports & Information section of the agenda.

I. Reorganization of the Board

1. **Appointment of Directors and Associate Directors:** Ray D'Agostino conducted the swearing in ceremony for Jay Snyder and A Dale Herr as voting directors. Ray D'Agostino then conducted the swearing in ceremony for Justin Welk, as an associate director.
2. **Election of Officers:** Dan Heller yielded the floor to Sonia Wasco who would be leading the election of officer's portion of the meeting. Ballots were provided to all voting directors at the meeting. It was announced that the current officers are willing to continue serving, but Directors have the option to provide a write-in name on the ballot. The current slate of officers were announced as: Chairman - Dan Heller, Vice Chairman – Bob Shearer, Treasurer/Secretary Kent Weaver, and Staff Secretary – Suzanne Kopp. While ballots were being collected and tallied, Sonia expressed appreciation to Dennis for his work with the District. She then announced that there was a unanimous cast of votes for the current slate of officers. Roger Rohrer moved to appoint the current slate of officers to serve again in 2022. A Dale Herr seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Election of PACD Voting Delegates:** Chris announced that each Conservation District in good standing should designate a Voting Delegate and can have up to three Alternate Voting Delegates for the purposes of voting at Region Meetings and Executive Council meetings. Sonia Wasco again agreed to serve as the Lancaster voting representative and she would be joined by Bob Shearer, Dan Heller and Chris Thompson acting as Alternate Voting Delegates. A Dale Herr moved to approve the slate of voting PACD delegates as presented. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Board of Director Committee Appointments:** Chris Thompson referred to the list of committees on pages 3 to 5, and asked that any director wishing to make a change, should contact him. The committee list will be voted on at the next Director Board meeting.

II. Agency Reports

1. **USDA, NRCS:** Heather Grove was not present, so chairman Dan Heller mentioned that comments on the report can be deferred until the next meeting.
2. **PA DEP Field Rep Report:** In the absence of Elwood Blake, Chris Thompson gave a short review of upcoming meetings referenced in the report.

III. Consent Agenda

Chairman Daniel Heller gave the opportunity for Directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda in order to have additional discussion. There was a request to remove the minutes for correction. Richard Snyder reported that on page 11 of the mailing, the word “commercial & Residential” should be removed, and replaced with “mixed residential use”. Also, at the bottom of page 10 the word “Mixed use” should be replaced with the same “mixed residential use” text. Hearing no other changes, Roger Rohrer moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the proposed amendments to the minutes. Sonia seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda includes the following approved items.

- #1 – Minutes of January 19th Board meeting as amended**
- #2 – Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations**
- #3 – Nutrient Management Plan Approvals**
- #4 – Conservation Plan Acknowledgement**

IV. Additional Business

1. Treasures Report

Gerald Heistand referred to the Balance Sheet report on page 14 and reported that the General Operations balance is less than last month but at a level double from one year ago. The biggest change to the balance sheet from one year ago is that we have an additional one million dollars in restricted grants funds and three hundred thousand more in the unassigned category. He mentioned that in the reserve section of the report, there used to be a line for Software Maintenance that had a level of thirty thousand dollars in 2020. It is no longer listed because there are no funds remaining in the account. The funds went towards the Cargas-CRM Tree Sale/Grants Management Solutions Database that was highlighted in the planning meeting held previous to the board meeting. On the Income and Expense report Heistand noted that for E&S the Net Income for the first two months of the year was \$92K compared to \$82K for the entire year of 2021. The other program columns have typical incomes and expenses. Chairman Heller stated that the treasurer’s reports will be filed subject to audit.

2. Banquet Committee Report

Co-Chair of the Banquet Committee Adam Hartz reported that the banquet is being pushed forward to the month of June so it can be held at a facility that can make use of open air. A barn at Landis Valley Museum is proposed, with Acorn Farms as caterer. The proposed date is June 9 at 6 PM. The award winners from 2020 will be honored, and the Lancaster District will celebrate 70 years. Also, there will be an auction to benefit

the Scholarship Fund. Shearer moved to accept the Banquet Committee Report as presented. Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Ag Compliance Committee Report

Kevin Lutz reported that Ag Compliance Committee met prior to Board meeting. There were repeated attempts to bring the Melissa Horn equine operation into compliance with the Nutrient Management Program, and the case has been dragging on for almost a year. After further discussion by the Board, Shearer moved, to send this case to SCC due to an inability to obtain an Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan within the required timeframe. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. There was clarification that this action is contingent on the District not receiving the plan by the Monday, March 7th deadline.

4. CAP Project Approval

Kent Bitting reported that LCCD is using \$750K of the 2021/2022 CAP grant for Ag projects, and Ag Managers are now submitting five projects for funding at a grant cost of \$350K. Jay Snyder moved to approve the five recommend CAP projects for funding in the amount of \$350,000, Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Roger Rohrer recused himself from the discussion and vote to avoid a potential conflict of interest.

Landowner	Municipality	BMPs	Total Grant Requested
Geoff Rohrer	Manor Twp.	Roofed Stacking Area for Mortality Compost and Manure Storage	\$188,600.00
Mitch Shellenberger	East Donegal Twp.	Roofed Manure Stacking Area	\$47,300.00
John Lapp Jr.	Clay Twp.	Roofed Stacking Area for Mortality Compost and Manure Storage	\$52,600.00
Jonas Blank	Eden Twp.	Grassed Waterway	\$7,500.00
Abram Stoltzfoos	Martic Twp.	2 Grassed Waterways and Animal Trail	\$54,000.00
Totals			\$350,000.00

5. CBAIP- Phase II - Project Approval

Kent Bitting mentioned that the Bay Ag Inspection Program is directed by Kevin Seibert, who completed a Phase II inspection for the farm. Steve Reiff has worked on the design for this Omar Fisher project. Sonia Wasco moved to approve the Omar S. Fisher CBAIP Phase II project for the amount of \$2,422.62 to install a transfer line for milk house waste and silage leachate, as well as roof runoff structures. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Township Ag BMP Verification Program

Chris Thompson reported that two proposals were created to take to townships that would detail how the District could assist with their stormwater program goals. The difference between the two draft proposals was whether the farmer or township would initiate conservation plan reviews. The ag department is looking for Board approval to further develop these two proposals, and come back to the Board next month with details. There was discussion on the different way that West Hempfield and Upper Leacock have been working with the District on this task. A Dale Herr moved that the District continue to develop a proposal for assisting townships with conservation plan reviews as they relate to stormwater. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates:

The following items were shared with meeting attendees

- Flyer – Lancaster Online Obituaries – Gregory M. Wilson – January 26, 2022

Sallie Gregory reviewed how Greg has contributed to conservation efforts during his life. After a short discussion, Roger Rohrer moved that the District give \$100 to Donegal Trout Organization in honor of Greg Wilson. A Dale Herr seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

- Letters – County Commissioners – 3 Director Appointment Letters – January 25, 2022
- Certificate – PA Clean Water Academy – Achievement – February 16, 2022
- Newsletter – Center for Rural PA – January/February 2022
- Booklet – Lancaster Chamber – Lancaster Thriving – January 24, 2022

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report:

Rich Snyder reviewed both the January E&S reports that were on page 21 and 22 of the mailing as well as the February reports that were on pages 7 and 8 of the day of packet. There was a short discussion of looking to implement a three-year fee schedule.

3. PACD/SCC Mtg Report

Sonia Wasco reported on the PACD monthly executive and winter meeting that she attended. There is a link to the minutes of the meeting on page 23 of the mail packet. She highlighted that next year's NACD president is from the New England area of the country. This is special as most of the former NACD presidents hail from the western part of the country, so they tend to emphasize western concerns. Roger and Candy donated a quilt to PACD to be used with their fundraiser project. March 9th was highlighted as a virtual only training session for directors. Jay Snyder was at a similar meeting where they discussed, employee retention, employee lifecycles, and the challenges/opportunities with post Covid operations. Conservation Week will be April 10-16 for 2022.

4. Personnel Committee report

Sonia Wasco provided a written Personnel Committee report for directors highlighting the new Spring intern, Emma Hamaker. For the Watershed program, she announced that the committee supported staff's request to refill the positions vacated by Nate Straw and Bryce Workman. They are looking to have a start date of March 28th or April 4th. Frameworks Consulting has been engaged with HR work since January.

5. Foundation Report

Jay Snyder referred to his report on pages 23 and 24 of the mailing. He said that the report is there for your reading, and mentioned that the MOU between the Foundation and the Clean Water Partners exists, so it is only being updated.

6. E&S Committee Report

Rich Snyder highlighted several items from the E&S Committee meeting that was held on February 24, 2022. The report was provided on pages 9 and 10 of the day-of-packet.

7. Municipal Outreach Meetings

Sallie Gregory reported that regional Municipal meetings will be held where we highlight updates to the MOU between the District and Municipalities. Each program within the District will be given time on the

agenda, and a director that lives in that region will have an opportunity to provide some remarks. Four meetings are planned with the date and time details on page 25 of the mailing.

8. Ethics forms

Chris Thompson reminded directors of their obligation to complete the state ethics forms and submit them for filing in the District office.

Additional Public Comment:

Roger reminded those present at the meeting that the county is bracing for an Avian Influenza outbreak, so everyone needs to be mindful of good bio-security protocols.

Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Heller adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald M. Heistand
Acting Recording Secretary