

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 6, 2022**

The 839th 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, April 6, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

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

The following Associate Directors were present: Frank Burkhart.

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

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

Dan Heller called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Dan welcomed everyone both in person and on Zoom. Adam Stern reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

Herb Kreider provided the invocation for the meeting.

Additions to the Agenda: NFWF Grant Proposal.

An opportunity was given for public comment: Bob Shearer stated that he is receiving positive feedback that people are very happy with the municipal presentations that we held. Chris added that the presentations were well received. 46 people attended over the four different meeting dates.

I. Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove offered no additions to the report this month. No questions were raised.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

Chris Thompson highlighted a few talking points in the agenda packet and stated that he has been in conversation to get an increase in funds from DEP. Chris reminded everyone that the Statement of Financial Interest forms need to be filled out and turned in by May 1, 2022.

II. 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. Hearing none, Dale Herr moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda includes the following approved items.

- #1 – Minutes of March 2, 2022 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 on the General Operations fund which currently stands at \$700,000 and he showed a comparison to 2021 at \$647,000, stating we are in a better standing financially in 2022. The E&S funds have \$60,000 more than last month. In 2021 we had a total of 3.9 million dollars and in comparison, in 2022 we have 5.4 million dollars.

3. Personnel Committee Report

Sonia Wasco reported that Dennis Eby's last day was April 1, 2022 and his retirement was celebrated with a luncheon on April 5, 2022 that was attended by District employees, Board members and others.

Three positions are currently open at the District and the Personnel Committee is requesting to post the positions consisting of: Ag Technicians, E&S Technician and a Data Manager position.

Sonia reported that two Watershed Specialists have been chosen and they are: Amanda Goldsmith and Tyler Keefer. The Summer Intern being recommended for hire is Grace Wills who is a freshman at Penn State University.

Sonia Wasco moved to approve the call to hire of the Watershed Specialist positions and the Summer Intern position and to post for hire the other four open positions. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CAP Project Approvals

Kent Bitting reported there are currently two applications that have been reviewed by District staff and are ready for Board action. Recommending a positive action for approving \$343,280.53 worth of CEG funding for the two applications. Mervin Esch of Providence Township - \$18,977.54; Alvin Esh of Leacock Township - \$324,302.99. Jay Snyder moved to approve the CEG funding as presented. Bob Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Township Ag BMP Verification Program

Kevin Lutz reported that Upper Leacock Township and West Hempfield Township are planning to implement a Stormwater Fee Program in their municipalities. They are willing to offer credits/discounts to Ag operations who can demonstrate they have a current Ag E&S Control or Conservation Plan and are on schedule for implementing the BMP's. The District is proposing to support these efforts through a new BMP Verification Service by conducting a farm visit/inspection to ensure plans are in place, the implementation schedule is being followed and existing BMPs are being maintained. The request is being made for BOD support for piloting this new service. Roger Rohrer moved to support moving forward with this recommendation as stated. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. PennVest Project – Benuel Stoltzfus

Chris Thompson reported on the proposed PennVest project sponsorship for Benuel Stoltzfus's Cattle Heavy Use Area Protection, Manure Storage and Riparian Area Restoration. The farm is located in Bart Township. Estimated construction cost will be \$422,000.00. In the past, we had a shared admin. cost share of 4% where we would receive 2% and TeamAg would receive 2%. Currently, we are being asked to now share our 2% cost share and only receive 1% and TeamAg would receive the other 1%. Sonia Wasco moved to approve sponsorship in the PennVest presented project as stated. Kent Weaver seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. 2022 Board Committees

Chris Thompson reported on the circulated copy of the Board Committees stating on which committee each Board member will serve. It is being asked that the BOD approve the committees as stated. Dale Herr moved to approve the committees as stated. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8. County Proposal for ARPA Funding

Chris Thompson stated that the County Commissioners released a draft Community Proposal Application for County ARPA funding. Commissioner D'Agostino outlined the County's plans for ARPA funding. There is interest in pursuing these dollars for support to implement the CAP and conservation practices where there are no funds identified to be used to administer/implement the projects. Several partners are interested in applying for the funds and have asked the District to be the conduit for that application. The request being made is for Board approval to apply to the County for the ARPA funding available. Roger Rohrer moved to approve this request. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Commissioner Ray D'Agostino abstained from the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates:

None to report.

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report:

Rich Snyder reported that the line item on the Treasure Report for \$100 was for a 105 project but since we returned the 105 Program to DEP we will have no more funds going into that account. There were 33 new plans that were received in March. Complaints have significantly been reduced in March due to returning the 105 Program to the DEP. A new Post Construction Storm Water manual is being worked on by DEP, there is no proposed release date for this document. PCSM will now be referred to as SCM = Stormwater Control Methodologies.

3. Tree Sale Report

Sallie Gregory reported that the 48th Annual Tree sale pick up will be held on April 13, 2022 at the Farm and Home Center as a drive-thru event. There are approximately 556 orders that will be picked up between 8am and 5pm. It is one of our best Tree Sales to date.

4. D&G/LVR QAQC Report

Matt Kofroth reported that the DGLVR Quality Assurance and Control Team conducted a follow up review of the LCCD's Road program on December 16, 2021. This was a follow up to the 2020/2021 team visit that resulted in finding some minor issues that were corrected within a month of their visit. The QAQC Team drafted a report of their findings and stated the issues they noticed within our program in 2020/2021 have been resolved and they feel full funding will be returned in the future meaning this fiscal year. No new issues were found.

5. Addition to the Agenda Item

NFWF Most Effective Basin (MEB) Grant Proposal. Chris Thompson reported that approval was given to use some of the NFWF MEB Grant to fund a Data Manager position along with getting projects on the ground. Roger Rohrer asked what the potential dollar amount of the NFWF Grants would be and Chris stated it could be up to a million dollars per proposal submitted. NFWF wants the money spent in the State of Pennsylvania and each proposal submitted can be awarded a million dollars.

Additional Public Comment:

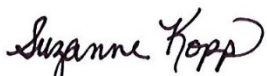
Dan Heller asked Roger Rohrer to report on the meeting that he and Chris Thompson attended with Representative Cutler. Roger shared that Representative Cutler does a great job representing the County. Chris Thompson had pages of items that needed to be addressed about proposed legislation and Roger felt that we will see positive results from this meeting. Roger stated to Representative Culter "if now is not the time when is the time".

Chris stated that April 11th-15th is Conservation District week and April 22, 2022 is Earth Day.

Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Heller adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzanne Kopp
Recording Secretary for the Board of Directors