

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 4, 2022**

The 840<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, May 4, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

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

**The following Associate Directors were present:** Justin Welk.

**The following District Staff were present:** Christopher Thompson, Gerald Heistand, Kevin Lutz, Rich Snyder, Kent Bitting, Matt Kofroth, Sallie Gregory, 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 7:30 p.m. Dan welcomed everyone both in person and on Zoom. Adam Stern reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

Jay Snyder provided the invocation for the meeting.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

1. PennVest Resolution to Apply for the Amos S. Esh project.
2. 319 Grant - Mill Creek WIP Amendment.
3. 2022 RC&D Spring Roadside Crop Residue Survey Project.

Dale Herr Moved to approve the additions to the agenda for discussion. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**An opportunity was given for public comment:** Chris Thompson offered a thank you to staff members for being dedicated and attending the meeting.

**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 on page 2 of the report – Building for Tomorrow Leadership webinar series for staff and directors. There are two training opportunities for directors to sign up for and attend. Chris also highlighted the PA Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan has a newsletter that everyone can sign up to receive if interested.

## **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, Herb Kreider moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Bob Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda includes the following approved items.

- #1 – Minutes of April 6, 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 Balance Sheet and stated that we are waiting on \$550,000 in reimbursements from expenses that we have requested from the Ag Programs. Additionally, the Budget and Finance Committee has been able to open the Fulton Financial Advisor Managed Fund. \$750,000 has been invested at Fulton Financial Advisor (FFA) and has earned \$4,750.00 in three days. The FFA account was set up to try to recover some funds from low returns that we were currently receiving. Gerald stated that Kevin Stauffer, a member of SEK CPA auditing company is the one doing the audit this year.

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

Herb Kreider reported that the committee is collecting applications to fill the open positions at the District. The question on the table is - do we fill the positions at the District or not fill them due to not having adequate funding being provided from DEP. Chris Thompson stated that we are working with DEP to address our funding concerns. A meeting is being scheduled with DEP and SCC to sort out details.

### **4. CAP Project Approvals**

Kent Bitting reported there is currently one CAP application that has been reviewed and is ready for Board action. Mike Mascuch of Rapho Township requesting \$22,769.52. The Ag Program Manager is recommending positive action for approving the CAP funding for this project. Roger Rohrer moved to approve this request as stated. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **5. NFWF Most Effective Basin (MEB)**

Matt Kofroth reported on two proposals being submitted with the District as the sponsor. The first proposal is the NFWF in partnership with Penn State University Ag and the Environment Center staff will include 3-5 farm BMP improvement projects. The second proposal being submitted is in collaboration with the Clean Water Partners to include funding for a Data Coordinator position to provide data collection and verification services.

Dale Herr moved to approve both submitted proposals as stated. Kent Weaver seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. PennVest Project – Levi and Elizabeth Glick**

Chris Thompson reported on the proposed PennVest project sponsorship for Levi and Elizabeth Glick. The farm is located in Bart Township. Estimated cost will be \$515,813.00. PennVest has requested that the Board act to formally sponsor this project and reauthorize the LCCD representatives as signers. Dale Herr moved to approve reauthorization of signers Dan Heller as Chair, Robert Shearer as Vice-Chair, Kent Weaver as Secretary/Treasurer and Chris Thompson as Managing Director to sign the funding agreement documents and sponsorship in the PennVest presented project as stated. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. PennVest Resolution to Apply for the Amos S. Esh Project**

Chris Thompson reported on another PennVest proposal. Amos Esh owns a 69-acre dairy farm in Jackson Township, Lebanon County. The estimated cost for the improvements is \$606,823. LCCD has been asked to be the sponsor because last week the Lebanon Conservation District notified TeamAg that they did not have experience or staff capacity to administer the project.

If the Directors are in favor of acting as the sponsor they need to approve the following "Resolution to Apply".

"RESOLVED, that the Lancaster County Conservation District (the Governing Body") shall be, and the same hereby are authorized to submit a Financial Assistance Application to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST), substantially in the form presented at this meeting for the purpose of financing/partially financing the construction and implementation of agricultural practices and farmstead improvements for Amos Esh. Appropriate officers of the Governing Body are hereby authorized to execute all certifications and documentation required in connection with the application."

Admin costs averages between \$3000-\$5000.

The BOD is requesting more information be provided, such as a bio or history of the farm and future plans of the farm, before final approval is given.

Roger Rohrer moved to approve the sponsorship as stated. Jay Snyder seconded the motion if we get the information being requested by BOD. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **8. 319 Grant – Mill Creek WIP Amendment**

Matt Kofroth reported that DEP notified us late last week that they had some additional funding to add to the Mill Creek WIP 319 Grant. The request is being made for the BOD to approve to amend the current contract and add \$15,900 to the Grant total. Dale Herr moved to approve the amended contract amount. Bob Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **9. 2022 RC&D Spring Roadside Crop Residue Survey Project**

Chris Thompson reported that Capital RC&D has again asked LCCD to participate in the Roadside Crop Residue Survey Project. The survey will involve three to four days of field data collection from predetermined sites around the County during late May and early June. In the same manner as the Fall Cover Crop Survey, Lancaster is being asked to also cover a small section of Chester and Berks Counties. In recognition of this additional work, we have budgeted an additional \$200 for the District, totaling \$900 to participate in the survey.

Dennis Eby has participated in these surveys for the last 4-5 years. Now that Dennis has fully retired, Greg Heigel will take over his duties.

Dale Herr moved to approve participation in the survey project. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **IV. Reports/Information**

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

None to report.

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

Rich Snyder reported 22 plans were received in April. There was an increase in complaints for the month of April. There has been an increase in modifications of current plans this month – eight modifications were submitted this month. Rich also stated that an Internal Guidance Documentation is being written for LCCD staff which will help interpret Chapter 102 requirements relative to the conversion of forested areas to agriculture production. The document will be taken before the E&S Committee for approval by the end of May 2022 and will be presented at the June Board meeting.

### **3. EPA Statement and the Bay Clean-up:**

Chris Thompson reported that on April 18, 2022 the EPA issued a press release stating that PA Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) falls short of addressing mandated pollution reductions and the plan to step up federal actions is coming soon. The EPA acknowledges that PA has made “noteworthy progress” and “tremendous effort”. The missing link is to provide dependable State funding to finance the work outlined in the State WIP. PA has 90 days to submit an improved plan.

### **4. Tree Sale Update:**

Sallie Gregory reported that the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Seedling sale distribution day was held April 13, 2022. 556 orders were filled. A report will be available for the Board meeting in June 2022.

### **5. Pension Plan Committee Review:**

Kent Weaver reported the committee met with Lisa Giles, who replaced Amy White, from Fulton Financial Advisors. The participation rate in the retirement plan is 94% currently. The different funds are being monitored closely and the Janis Anderson Enterprise Fund will be replaced with the Vanguard Index Fund for a better return on the investments.

We have 22 past employees that have kept their retirement money in the plan because of the good rate of return.

#### **6. LCCD Banquet Update:**

Chris Thompson reminded everyone that tickets need to be reserved for the 2022 Annual Awards Banquet being held on June 9, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Yellow Barn at Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum.

#### **7. Youth Conservation School Update:**

Sallie Gregory stated this is the 44<sup>th</sup> year for the Conservation School. The school this year will start on Saturday, July 24, 2022 to instruct the volunteers what they will be doing and safety protocols that will be in place. The Conservation School will end a day earlier than normal and the Wednesday evening sponsor dinner will be cancelled this year due to Covid and an effort to keep everyone healthy and safe.

#### **8. Annual Report Update:**

Sallie Gregory reported that a copy of the annual report is in the "day of" packet. In the past, it was only a paper copy that was then distributed at the banquet. During the Covid shutdown, it was put online on our website. This year they have decided to add videos to the online annual report for 2022. There are a few paper hard copies available if anyone would like an extra.

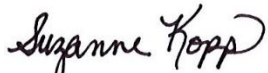
#### **Additional Public Comment:**

Chris Thompson reminded the Directors to check the dates of events listed on the bottom of the agenda.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

Chairman Heller adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzanne Kopp

Recording Secretary for the Board of Directors