

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
July 7, 2022**

The 842<sup>nd</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, July 6, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

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

**The following Associate Directors were present:** Lisa Graybeal.

**The following District Staff were present:** Christopher Thompson, Gerald Heistand, Kevin Lutz, Matt Kofroth, Sallie Gregory, Allyson Gibson, Adam Hartz, 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 7:30 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:** Executive session to be held at the end of the BOD business meeting.

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

**I. Agency Reports**

**1. USDA, NRCS**

Heather Grove offered no additions to the report this month. Heather stated that there is a new job opening in NRCS to fill currently. No questions were raised.

**2. PA DEP Field Rep Report**

Chris Thompson highlighted a few talking points in the agenda packet. On page 3 there is an explanation of the Nutrient Management agreement that will be discussed later in the BOD meeting. It was also stated that DEP reported that they are fine-tuning the epermitting system.

**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, Roger Rohrer moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Dale Herr seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda includes the following approved items.

- #1 – Minutes of June 1, 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**

The Nutrient Management Plan Approval submitted a correction. It stated that Britton Hartzok was the reviewer for the Lloyd Ray Weaver Operation and the Eugene Z. Nolt Operation. The reviewer should be listed as Adam Hartz for both plans.

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

Gerald Heistand highlighted on the Balance Sheet that the total assets for the LCCD continue to increase. Currently there is \$6.7 million dollars, which is an increase from last months amount of \$6 million dollars. E&S assets continue to increase as well and increased this month by \$23,000. The Income and Expense report shows funds that we currently have to spend on upcoming projects in the County.

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

Sonia Wasco reported that there are currently four open positions; two on the Ag Team, one in E&S and the new Data Coordinator position. The two candidates recommended to fill the open Ag Tech positions are: Lauren Brodbar and Jason Reuter were presented. Upon Board approval, their expected start date would be July 25, 2022.

Sonia Wasco moved to formally request to hire the two candidates as stated. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Personnel Committee requested an Executive Session following the Board meeting.

#### **4. Ag Committee Report**

- a. **Program Grants and Agreements:** Chris Thompson reported the District has participated in the CBP programs for years. Reducing staff from 6 to 3 Compliance Specialists two years ago, due to inadequate funding. This year DEP has increased the reimbursement rate by \$10,000 per position making the total request \$210,000. The Chesapeake Bay Engineering Specialist and the Assistant funding will be increased to \$91,900 and \$85,000 respectively. In addition, there is \$10,000 available for any District participating with the CB Technician agreement. The total CBP Contract for 2022-2023 has a value of \$396,900.

Roger Rohrer moved to approve submitting the funding applications to DEP for processing and final signatures. Dale Herr seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Compliance Enforcement:** Kevin Lutz reported that Benjamin Blank operates a dairy farm in Providence Township and is suspected of being an undocumented CAO. Inspections have been done and multiple requests have been made for Mr. Blank to submit an official CAO determination or an Act 38 NMO to the LCCD. The Ag Committee recommends that Mr. Blank be referred to the SCC for further action.

Herb Kreider moved to approved the recommendation as stated. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Ag Policy Review:** Kevin Lutz reported that DEP had assumed responsibility for the PracticeKeeper database but that DEP wants the District to continue to be the gatekeeper for what information gets recorded in the database. In order to maintain reporting quality a new Policy Statement is being provided to the BOD to review this month and vote on during August's BOD meeting.

**The Policy Statement** is as follows: The Board of Directors of the Lancaster County Conservation District directs District staff to refrain from entering Best Management Practice (BMP) data into the Practice Keeper Database (PK) without it being associated to an Agriculture Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plan, Conservation Plan, Nutrient Management Plan or Manure Management Plan. If a plan does not exist, it should be developed and provided prior to the BMP data being included in PK. If the operation has a plan, but the BMP is not referenced in the plan, the BMP can be recorded in PK and the District will recommend that the operator update the current plan(s). Requests for exceptions to this policy will be presented to the Ag Department Manager for consideration.

#### **5. American Rescue Plan Act - ARPA**

Allyson Gibson reported that CWP submitted a proposal on behalf of the District to the Commissioners for ARPA funding. The full proposal was \$27 million. The Commissioners approved \$3.4 million for water quality projects in the County. Board approval is needed to accept and administer these funds for the projects.

Commissioner D'Agostino abstained from the vote to avoid a potential conflict of interest.

Jay Snyder moved to accept and administer the ARPA funds as stated. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. Growing Greener Grant Approval**

Matt Kofroth reported that the Watershed program is applying for a 2022 Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant in the amount of \$198,300. This grant would pay for instream monitoring units and for District staff time spent working with landowners on completing 8 stream restoration design and permit plans for projects in the Pequea Creek WIP. A second 2022 Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant is being applied for, in the amount of \$166,375. This grant money is going toward the buffer, fencing and crossing with a portion going towards District staff time to implement the work.

Roger Rohrer moved to approve applying for these two grants as stated. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. PACD/SCC JAC Meeting Items**

Sonia Wasco reported that the PACD Executive Council will be meeting on July 21, 2022. The BOD is being asked to ensure that the designated voting delegate come prepared to vote on items and amendments made from the council floor. A proposed 3-year dues schedule will be voted on. Currently the dues for Lancaster are \$2,635 and the following 3-year dues schedule for Lancaster will be \$2,765(2023), \$2840(2024) and \$2915(2025).

Roger Rohrer moved to approve giving the designated voting delegate approval to vote on behalf of the District. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chris Thompson reported that a letter was drafted to express concerns relating to the Manure Management and Nutrient Management Delegations that were made by the state agencies which changed the expected deliverables and ROM's. The letter was supported by the Executive Committee and will be presented at the July PACD/SCC JAC meeting.

Jay Snyder moved to approve the letter of concern to be presented at the PACD/SCC JAC meeting. Dale Herr seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

- Letter – Fulton Financial Advisors – 2021 President's Award for Robert Hoffman – June 16, 2022
- Resume – Lauren Brodbar – Ag Tech Nutrient Management Position – June 2022
- Resume – Jason Reuter – Ag Tech Nutrient Management Position – June 2022
- Letter – East Lampeter Township – July 6, 2022

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

Chris Thompson reported on the new page 3 of the E&S report which was created to explain to the BOD the status of each project that is older than 120 days.

##### **3. 2022 Envirothon Report:**

Sallie Gregory reported that the Envirothon programs were a success this year and that they had perfect attendance at all three program days. Pequea Valley High School took first place at the County High School event and placed 44<sup>th</sup> overall at the State Envirothon.

##### **4. E&S Committee Meeting:**

Chris Thompson reported the E&S Committee meeting was held on June 23, 2022. No additions to the submitted minutes that were provided in the BOD agenda. Action by the Board is needed to move forward to use funds not to exceed \$29,000 to purchase a new Subaru Forester from Lancaster Subaru.

Jay Snyder moved to approve the purchase of the new vehicle for the E&S Team. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

##### **5. Chesapeake Bay Compliance Program Update:**

Kevin Seibert reported that the LCCD CBP met and exceeded the goals set of 295 inspections and 5 Phase II inspections for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. The goal of 150 inspections was reset on July 1, 2022.

##### **6. 2022 Banquet Committee Report:**

Adam Hartz reported that the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual District Banquet was held and that 122 people were in attendance. \$1785 was raised with the auction for the Ann Brown Scholarship. Overall there was a net loss on the 2022 banquet, but the committee has been planning ahead and had a reserve account. Currently there is \$2155.73 in the reserve account.

**Additional Public Comment:**

Chris highlighted the dates for committee meetings on the bottom of the agenda.

Sonia commented on Conservation school, stating it will be in person this year. The school will run from Sunday, July 24, 2022 to Friday, July 30, 2022 this year. There will be no sponsor/family dinner this year at Conservation school to minimize outside exposure.

**Executive Session**

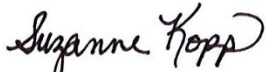
Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Sonia Wasco, requested an Executive Session to review a personnel matter with Board members. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The business meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm and all nonvoting members were excused. The Board meeting was called back into session by Chairman Heller at 9:27pm. A request for final comments was offered. Other than the next meeting date, none were offered.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Chairman Heller adjourned the meeting at 9:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzanne Kopp

Recording Secretary for the Board of Directors