

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2022**

The 843rd 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 August 3, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

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

The following Associate Directors were present: Greg Strausser.

The following District Staff were present: Christopher Thompson, Gerald Heistand, Kevin Lutz, Matt Kofroth, Sallie Gregory, Grace Wills, Emma Findeisen, Kent Bitting, Eric Hout, Britton Hartzok 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. Britton Hartzok reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

Jay Snyder provided the invocation for the meeting.

Additions to the Agenda: No additions.

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

I. Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove reported that the vacant Soil Conservationist position will be filled next week and Jared Boger received a promotion and will be transferring from the local NRCS team up to the Lebanon Tech office. 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 day of packet, Chris reviewed the Regulatory Revisions section, along with the Nutrient Management and Manure Management Delegation Agreement changes that will be discussed during the Board meeting. Elwood Blake, Field Representative has retired.

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 July 6, 2022 Board meeting.**
- #2 – Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations**
- #3 – Nutrient Management Plan Approvals**
- #4 – Conservation Plan Acknowledgement**

Requests for Nutrient Management Plan Approval (Lutz)
July 2022 Activity
August 3, 2022 Board Meeting

To: The Lancaster County Conservation Board of Directors Nutrient Management Plan Review Committee:
 I respectfully submit these Nutrient Management Plans and/or Plan Amendments to the Nutrient Management Plan Review Committee.

I recommend these plans to be approved by the Board. The plans are for the following operations:

OWNER	TOWNSHIP	Operation	DESIGNATION	AEU's/ ACRE	REVIEWER	PLAN #
Brian Eshbach	Manor	Swine	CAO	2.76	Grube	236
Jeffrey Frey	Pequea	Swine/Goat	CAFO/VAO	1.15	Grube	344
Jay & Jane Bleacher	Manor	Swine	CAFO/CAO	2.31	Grube	218
Chester K. King	Salisbury	Dairy	CAO	2.06	Heigel	2464
Edwin Hoover	Clay	Broiler/Steer	CAO	2.13	Hartzok	55
Nathan Brubaker	Brecknock	Turkey	CAO	285.74	Heigel	2474
Jeffrey & Diane Kile	Providence	Pullet	CAO	96.38	Adams	32
Jeffrey Barley	Manor	Pullet/Steer	CAFO/VAO	0.86	Adams	485
Jay & Beth Hess	Conestoga	Swine/Beef/Layer	CAFO/CAO	2.11	Adams	286
Alan Harnish	Manor	Swine/Beef	CAFO/CAO	16.16	Grube	76
Randall Andrews	West Lampeter	Broiler/Pullet	CAFO/CAO	4.45	Goldsmith	251
Noah W. Kreider & Sons	East Donegal	Layer	CAFO/CAO	17.80	Lutz	239
David Dohner	East Donegal	Broiler	CAO	62.09	Lutz	330
Randal L. Clugston	Manor	Layer	CAFO/CAO	4.57	Adams	47

NMP Update Report to Lancaster County Conservation District Board of Directors
July 2022 Activity
August 3, 2022 Board Meeting

NMP Name	Municipality	Plan Update Submission Date	Original NMP Approval Date	Planner ¹	Species ²	AEUs	Regulated Operation Type ³	Date Plan Acknowledgment Letter Sent	Reason for Update
Jay Deiter	Conoy	7/5/2022	12/1/2021	Jay Deiter	Swine	602.75	CAO CAFO	7/6/2022	Yearly Plan Submissions Update

III. Additional Business

1. Items removed from Consent Agenda

None Removed.

2. Treasures Report

Gerald Heistand stated there was a reduction in the total monthly assets this month as compared to totals of last month's assets. There are \$2 million more for projects than one year ago. Next month with the money from the commissioner's deposit of ARPA Funds, our assets will be the highest they have ever been. The extra money in some of the accounts are due to incoming grants being received. There are no big changes this month in the net income from last month on the Income and Expense report.

3. Personnel Committee Report

Herb Kreider reported that Mid-year evaluations have been completed and despite on-going cases of Covid impacting the office staff, staff continue to meet with landowners and provide outreach services.

Herb reported that the two new Ag Technicians (Lauren Brodbar and Jason Reuter) started employment on July 25, 2022 and are getting acclimated quickly.

Herb reported that 11 interviews were completed for the open positions and 3 candidates are being submitted for BOD consideration: Johanna Willieme – Ag Resource Technician; Elise Prete – Data Coordinator; Andrew Pauls-Thomas – Grants Coordinator. The resumes were circulated for BOD review.

Herb Kreider moved to formally request to hire the candidates as stated. Kent Weaver seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Nutrient Management Delegation Agreement

Kevin Lutz reported that in 2011 the Nutrient Management and the Manure Management Programs were combined under one 5-year Delegation Agreement. A workgroup was formed to review and suggest changes to the 2022-2027 Agreement. The revised Delegation Agreement was approved by the SCC, at their July 20, 2022 meeting, that reflected some of the changes the Conservation Districts were advocating for.

There is a continued push by DEP to bring the Manure Management Program more in line with the Federal Nutrient Management Program but for the next five years the following changes were approved:

- Complete 10 Manure Management compliance inspections or write 10 Manure Management Plans.
- An increase in program reimbursement from \$60K to \$70K per full-time employee.
- Reimbursement levels and program deliverables are prorated based on full-time employee.

Jay Snyder moved to approve the Nutrient Management Delegation Agreement for 2022-2027. Dale Herr seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Policy Approval – Data Entry into Practice Keeper

Chris Thompson stated that the Data Entry draft policy was presented at the July 2022 Board of Directors meeting for the directors to review. The policy is presented in the Board packet to be voted on for approval and adoption of the policy.

Policy Statement

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).

Bob Shearer moved to approve the policy as stated. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. PennVest Proposal/Christ Miller

Chris Thompson stated that the District has been asked to sponsor a PennVest application for a project proposed by TeamAg Inc. Projects to help the farm meet State regulations are being pursued for the Christ Miller farm, located at 5070 White Oak Road, Paradise, PA. Funding would be used to address several resource concerns.

If PennVest approves the application they will then identify if they are willing to grant a loan or grant funding (principle forgiveness loan) towards this project, at which time the LCCD BOD will have a chance to review the full details of the project. Board action is being requested as to whether or not the Board supports going forward to the next step in the process.

Kent Weaver moved to approve moving to the next step in the process as stated. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates:

- Resume -Elise Prete -Data Coordinator -August 2022
- Resume -Andrew Pauls -Grants Coordinator -August 2022
- Resume -Johanna Willieme -Ag. Resource Technician -August 2022
- Publication -Lancaster Builder-Volume 38, Number 2, Summer, 2022. Article reviewing LCCD's meeting with the BIA Steering Committee.
- Email from Representative Bryan Cutler thanking the District for all that we do in response to our letter of thanks to the Lancaster delegation for their support for additional funding for conservation districts and clean water programs in the State Budget.

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report:

Eric Hout reported total plans submission are down slightly from last year at this time. Total plan review fees for 2022 are consistent to 2021 plan review fees collected.

Page 3 of the report shows 139 total plans currently without approval in our office. Substantial amounts of the projects are currently at DEP for review.

Chris highlighted that there were 37 plans on the list last month, which is the same number of plans as this month, however 7 plans dropped off the list due to issuing permits and 7 more were added to the que. Chris pointed out that the team has really pulled together and there are no plans this month that have been sitting unreviewed with no action.

3. Youth Conservation School Update:

Sallie Gregory reported that this was the 44th year of Youth Conservation School and the first one in person since Covid. She stated it is a total team effort for this to be successful and there were 17 volunteers to help. There were 16 students who attended.

This year the students zoom called with a former Youth Conservation student and a past volunteer with the school, who now lives and works in conservation in Alaska and shared how the conservation school

really helped shape her career path. Another past student stopped by to thank them for what they did for his life because he attended the school.

4. Compliance Update:

Kevin Lutz reported that Mr. Blank was reported to the SCC, for failure to complete an Ag E&S Plan, for a compliance action. Mr. Blank is working with a plan preparer to get his plan updated and submitted to the SCC by August 19, 2022.

5. PACD Annual Meeting Review:

Chris Thompson reported that the in-person PACD/SCC conference was held. There were 90 people who attended. The three-year proposed dues schedule passed showing an increase of \$130 for 2022-2023 and \$75 each of the following years of 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. The budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 was approved showing a 7.5% increase to \$3,246,219. The slate of officers was re-elected. Several conservationists were recognized during the awards luncheon as the 2022 PACD honorees and they are listed in your Board packet. 15 people reported a positive Covid test after the in-person meeting.

6. Summer Intern Activities Report:

Grace Wills was the Summer Intern at the District from May 16, 2022 to August 5, 2022. She shared a short presentation to the Board about her time at the District and her plans for the future. Grace was able to shadow staff from different programs at the District while she was here and she thanked everyone for the opportunity. Her favorite activities were Fish Shocking and the Oregon Dairy Family Farm Days. In the future at college, she will be focusing in on Water/Wetland and Stream Restoration.

7. America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update:

Chris Thompson stated that last month the County Commissioners approved funding from the County allocation of the ARPA funds to aid 11 water quality projects. A public presentation was made to present a check for \$3.4 million to the LCCD on behalf of the LCWP. The District has trustee fiduciary responsibilities for the funding.

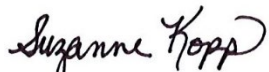
Additional Public Comment:

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

Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Heller adjourned the meeting at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzanne Kopp
Recording Secretary for the Board of Directors