

**Lancaster County Conservation District
Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
Farm & Home Center, Pennfield Room, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA
January 4 at 6:30 PM**

Attendees: **Board Members-** Robert Shearer, Herb Kreider, Jay Snyder, Dale Herr, Justin Welk
Staff- Kevin Lutz, Kent Bitting, Emma Findeisen, Ryan Riebling, Chris Thompson

6:35 PM Meeting Called To Order

- 1) The Committee discussed the Board Agenda Item IV.3, the potential referral of the Melissa Horn CAO horse farm to the SCC. The Ag Committee requested in December that this operation be brought back for discussion. Two additional visits by District staff had taken place since the December committee meeting. Those findings and interactions between the operator, farm manager, and SCC was discussed. The committee suggested that in order to show support to District staff, and for the SCC to better monitor this operation directly, that it be referred to the SCC for their management as the District has reached an impasse after nearly 2 years. A motion was made by Robert Shearer and 2nd by Dale Herr to that affect, and the committee voted to advance the recommendation to the District Board unanimously. A letter will be drafted to the SCC to relinquish responsibility of this operation to the SCC if approved by the Board.
The second operation on the agenda, Jason Wenger, was removed due to receiving the required plan amendment prior to the meeting. No discussion needed.
The third operation, Samuel Stoltzfus, was identified as a possible CAO and received three letters since August requesting a CAO determination by a consultant showing he's not a CAO, or an Act 38 NMP if he is. Nothing has been received by the District by the December 26, 2022 deadline, or by the time of this meeting. No contact by the farmer to the District has happened since December 13, 2022. The committee suggested to contact both Mr. Stoltzfus and Homestead Nutrition and make them aware that the Board is giving until January 20, 2023 to submit the required documents, or the operation will be referred to the SCC for possible enforcement. A motion was made by Herb Kreider and 2nd by Dale Herr to that affect, and the committee voted to advance the recommendation to the District Board unanimously.
- 2) The Committee discussed the request to increase the cost share percentage for CEG and ACAP funding from 75% to 90%. High construction costs and making the funding more desirable to farmers were discussed as positive outcomes of this proposed change. A motion was made by Dale Herr and 2nd by Herb Kreider to recommend this change to the District Board, and the committee voted in favor unanimously.
- 3) The Assistance APM reviewed the ACAP delegation agreement with the Committee. It was shared that the state legal review of the agreement was complete, and key requirements were reviewed. The lack of answers on bidding requirements and a possible requirement for buffers around streams was also noted. A motion was made by

Robert Shearer, 2nd by Dale Herr, that the Committee recommend approval of the delegation agreement by the Board, pending bidding and buffer requirement questions be determined in a fashion acceptable by the District. The Committee voted to advance the recommendation to the District Board unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:30 PM