

**Lancaster County Conservation District
Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2023**

Farm & Home Center, Room 110, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

Attendees: **Board Members-** Robert Shearer, Herb Kreider, Dale Herr, Justin Welk
Staff- Samantha Adams, Kevin Seibert, Emma Findeisen, Chris Thompson
Guests- N/A

6:38 PM Meeting Called to Order

- 1) The Committee discussed the Board Agenda Item III.5, Ag Committee Report.

Two operations were discussed:

-Walnut Run Dairy is a Voluntary Agriculture Operation (VAO) Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) in the Act 38 Program that has had their fair amount of compliance issues in the past and are currently being found as non-compliant again due to overapplication of manure, record keeping and lack of following their Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). This operation was brought before the Board before in 2019 for possible State Conservation Commission (SCC) enforcement, but the Board decided to keep it as a local responsibility and no action was taken by the SCC. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is now involved with this operation as they recently had a manure spill. The SCC is prepared to act based on past non-compliance issues and recent concerns, despite only being a VAO for Act 38. Walnut Run has received a final notice letter drafted by the SCC and District Staff noting all of the non-compliant issues found with a reinspection date of November 15th to reassess the operation. The committee's recommendation was to refer the Walnut Run operation to the SCC for possible enforcement if compliance hasn't been met at their November 15th reinspection date. Herb Kreider made a motion to recommend that the District Board refer Walnut Run to the SCC. Robert Shearer seconded the motion. The committee unanimously passed the motion.

-Randy Brubaker has requested a waste storage setback waiver for a roofed stacking shed to be located within 100 ft of 2 private wells. This stacking would be for his broiler litter along with chicken and hog mortality. On August 24, 2023 an on-site meeting was held with District engineering staff and Mike Brubaker with the SCC and DEP staff to discuss the preferred location of the proposed stacking shed. It was determined that the proposed site was situated nicely between both the chicken and hog houses making it convenient for everyday use as well as taking into consideration biosecurity between the (2) animal groups. The proximity to other bodies of water along with steeper slopes above and below the site also made the proposed site suitable. Currently, mortality is stacked much closer to one of the wells so this will improve that situation and move it further away from one of the wells. Some design recommendations were made to divert any upslope stormwater away from the structure and ultimately the wells. Roof runoff water and footer drains would also be diverted/outlet away from the wells. Robert Shearer made a motion to recommend that the District Board approve the setback waiver request. Dale Herr seconded the motion. The committee unanimously passed the motion.

Meeting Adjourned 7:12 PM