

**-LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 7, 2024**

The 861st regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) was held in person at the Farm and Home Center for Directors and via Zoom Call-In on February 7, 2024, at 1:00 pm.

The following Directors were present: Daniel Heller, Chairman; Ray D’Agostino, Dale Herr, Gordon Hoover, Herb Kreider, Geoffrey Rohrer, Roger Rohrer, Deryk Shaw, Bob Shearer, Jay Snyder, Sonia Wasco, and Kent Weaver.

The following Associate Directors were present: Frank Burkhart, Jennifer Engle, and Dan Zimmerman

The following District Staff were present: Samantha Adams, Kent Bitting, Brady Bosworth, Lauren Brodbar, Grace Chamberlain, Noelle Cudney, Shelly Dehoff, Rachel DiRosato, Shannon Erdman, Emma Findeisen, Alex Flurry, Amanda Goldsmith, Kaylyn Gordon, Sallie Gregory, Adam Hartz, Greg Heigel, Stacey Hertz, Eric Hout, Tyler Keefer, Patrick Kidd, Matt Kofroth, Kevin Lutz, Liz Martin, Andrew Pauls-Thomas, Joshua Pullen, Morgan Regan, Steve Reiff, Ryan Riebling, Jim Saltsman, Matt Schavnis, Kevin Seibert, Holly Shaub, Adam Stern, Chris Thompson, Caitlyn Tynes, Steve Wyld,

The following Cooperating Agency representative was present: Heather Grove, USDA-NRCS; Charles Heberlig, DEP Field Representative; and Officer J. Schmidt, PA Fish & Boat Commission.

The following visitors were present: Linda Ferich, Lancaster Conservancy; Christine Johnson, Leadership Lancaster; and Scott Ortland, Leadership Lancaster.

Dan Heller called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Dan welcomed everyone both in person and on Zoom. Adam Stern reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

Bob Shearer provided the invocation for the meeting.

Introductions: Dan Heller recognized all staff that were in attendance. He also welcomed those attending from partnering agencies, other agencies that work with the District, and Board members.

Additions to the Agenda: no additions.

An opportunity was given for public comment: Dan Heller thanked all the Board members he has served with as Board Chair.

I. Reorganization of the Board

1. 2024 Appointments to the Board of Directors:

The following slate of Directors was put forward for the BOD approval:

- Geoffrey Rohrer – Farmer Director (term will expire 12/31/24)
- Gordon Hoover – Farmer Director (term will expire 12/31/27)
- Sonia Wasco – Public Director (reappointment, term will expire 12/31/25)
- Deryk Shaw – Public Director (term will expire 12/31/27)
- Commissioner Raymond D’Agostino – Commissioner Representative (renewed annually, term will expire 12/31/24)

Dale Herr made a motion to approve the slate of Board Members. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Commissioner Ray D'Agostino administered the oath of office to Geoffrey Rohrer, Gordon Hoover, Sonia Wasco, and Deryk Shaw.

2. Election of Officers

The following slate of officer candidates were put forward for the BOD approval:

- Chairperson – Sonia Wasco
- Vice Chairperson – Roger Rohrer
- BOD Secretary/Treasurer – Kent Weaver
- Staff Secretary – Holly Shaub

Herb Kreider moved to affirm and close the ballot as slated. Gordon Hoover seconded the motion. Sonia Wasco and Roger Rohrer abstained from the vote due to being on the ballot. The motion passed unanimously. After the election, Sonia transitioned to chair the balance of the meeting.

3. Associate Directors Appointments

The following slate of Associate Directors was put forward for the BOD approval. Terms to expire 12/31/25:

- Dan Zimmerman (reappointment)
- Jay Snyder (reappointment)
- Robert Shearer (reappointment)
- Daniel Heller (reappointment)

Dale Herr moved to affirm and close the ballot as slated. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ray D'Agostino administered the oath of office to Dan Zimmerman, Jay Snyder, Robert Shearer, and Daniel Heller.

4. Approval of Check Signers

The following slate of Check Signers for the Lancaster Conservation District was put forward for the BOD approval:

- Kent Weaver – Treasurer
- Roger Rohrer – Director
- Christopher Thompson – District Manager
- Matthew Kofroth – Assistant District Manager

Gordon Hoover moved to affirm and close the ballot as slated. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Roger Rohrer abstained from the vote due to being on the ballot. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Authority of the District Manager

As the Chief Operating Officer of the Conservation District, the District Manager works under the direct supervision of the Board of Directors and its Chairperson and is responsible for coordinating all programs, activities, and services of the Lancaster County Conservation District according to policies and guidelines developed or approved by the Board. As such, the Board of Directors authorizes and empowers the District Manager to make, execute, endorse, and deliver contracts and agreements on behalf of the Lancaster Conservation District. Roger Rohrer made a motion to approve the authority of the District Manager. Dale Herr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Election of PACD Voting Delegates

The following slate of PACD Voting Delegates was put forward for the BOD approval:

- Sonia Wasco – Voting Delegate
- Jenny Engle – Alternate Voting Delegate #1
- Deryk Shaw – Alternate Voting Delegate #2
- Christopher Thompson – Alternate Voting Delegate #3

Roger Rohrer moved to affirm the slate of PACD Delegates as stated. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove highlighted that 25 applications for \$1.7 million were approved for Cover Crop Cost Share.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

Chris Thompson introduced Charles Heberlig as the new DEP Field Representative. Charles highlighted the recently approved Assignment of Pay Form for ACAP, the Statement of Financial Interests form due May 1st and the need to update Clean Water Academy when there are staff changes. He shared that the Growing Greener Grant Awards were announced in January and the next round is expected to open in the spring. Charles also pointed out the Chapter 102 Individual NPDES Permit Pilot Program. Chris Thompson shared that Jenny Engle is interested in joining the State Water Plan Committee and asked Charles to help make contact.

III. Consent Agenda

Chairperson Sonia Wasco gave the opportunity for Directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda to have additional discussion. Hearing none, she requested a motion to approve the agenda. Dale Herr moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda includes the following approved items.

- #1 – Minutes of January 3, 2024 Board meeting.
- #2 – Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations
- #3 – Nutrient Management Plan Approvals
- #4 – Conservation Plan Acknowledgement
- #5 – List of LCCD Memberships

Requests for Nutrient Management Plan Approval (Lutz)

January 2024 Activity

February 7, 2024 Board Meeting

The plans are for the following operations:

OWNER	TOWNSHIP	OPERATION	DESIGNATION	AEU's/ACRE	REVIEWER	PLAN #
Kenton Martin	Elizabeth	Turkey	CAO	13.51	Bosworth	1130
Jonathan L. Martin	Brecknock	Swine	CAO	3.85	Heigel	738
Vanessa Brubaker	Little Britain	Pullet	CAO	101.26	Adams	2868
Daniel S. Miller	Little Britain	Dairy	CAO	2.16	Adams	855
David Sweigart III	Mt. Joy	Dairy/Swine	CAFO/CAO	5.59	Findeisen	369
Joel H. Rutt	Rapho	Broiler	CAO	213.97	Findeisen	73

IV. Additional Business

1. Items removed from Agenda

None removed.

2. Treasurer's Report

Stacey Hertz stated that she would be reporting on the financials as of 12/31/2023 and she will be reporting on the financials for January and February 2024 at the March Board Meeting. She reported that the current value of the Raymond James fund is \$773,496 which is a gain of 3.1%. and the interest rate for the INVEST accounts is 5.344%. The open invoices as of 12/31/2023 are \$240,397. The Grant Project Income line is over by \$2,289,268.63 due to additional grants received this year that include ACAP and additional CEG funds. Interest Income is \$449,317.53. The Other Income account line includes the Raymond James fund gains/losses and the Eliance settlement from 2021-2022 which was a little over \$27,000. Under budget expenses, the Contingencies line item includes the purchase of a shed. Chris Thompson stated that interest earned on any grants is required to go back into additional projects.

3. 2022 Audit Presentation

Matt Kofroth shared there were no significant findings from the 2022 audit or the single audit. He stated that in 2022, 88% of our funding came from grants, 8% came from fees and the remainder of the funding came from the County and sales such as the Tree Seedling Sale. The majority of our funds, 56%, goes to projects, about 30% to salary and wages, and 9% to employee benefits, with the remainder to office rent and other expenditures. Matt asked the Directors to review the budget and action will be taken at the March Board meeting.

4. ACAP Update

Kent Bitting shared that with the five projects presented today, there will be 60 projects approved through the District for a total of \$10.5 million with about \$2.1 million remaining to allocate to projects. The total amount of grant requested for the projects presented is \$794,496.58. Roger Rohrer made a motion to approve the projects presented and the motion was seconded by Dale Herr. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Proposed PennVest Project Sponsorship Update

Chris Thompson presented information on the application for funding for the Elam Beiler project in Colerain Township which was approved by the PennVest Board of Directors. The District will act as the funding recipient and will receive \$8,507.25 to administer project payments and the District will be partnering with TeamAg Inc. A motion was made by Herb Kreider to serve as the sponsor for the Elam Beiler project in Colerain Township. Dale Herr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Donations Received

Chris Thompson presented three different donations received that would support education programs:

- To the Lancaster County Conservation District: \$1,000 from Caernarvon Township. Funds are divided to support the Lancaster County Senior High Envirothon, the Ann Brown Collegiate Scholarship, and the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School.
- To the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County: \$6,681.97 from ExtraGive added to \$1,674.85 additional individual and company match donations to ExtraGive totaled \$8,356.82 to be shared by the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School and the Lancaster County three Envirothons.
- To the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County: \$1,650 received in memorial for Steve Slaymaker for the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School. Josh Slaymaker, Steve's son, has been a dedicated volunteer at the Conservation School for more than twenty years and serves on the program leadership team. Rhonda Slaymaker has volunteered as a Conservation School nurse for nearly 15 years.

Gordon Hoover moved to accept the donations and the motion was seconded by Roger Rohrer. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Watershed Grant Review

Amanda Goldsmith reported on two new grants. The first project is a stream restoration in the Pequea Watershed on the Reuben Beiler property and the total CAP grant is \$360,000. The second project, Hoover Farm Stream Restoration, on the John David Hoover farm, is located on Muddy Creek. The total Growing Greener grant amount is \$276,225.

8. Constellation (formerly Exelon) Habitat Improvement Program Update

Amanda Goldsmith reported on five projects that were submitted for grant funding through the Constellation Habit Improvement Program:

Landowner	Technician	2024 Incentive Payment	Administration Cost (5% of Incentive Payment)	Total Grant Requested
E. Lampeter/Suzi Sutton (Waterfall Retreat)	Amanda Goldsmith, LCCD	\$ 71,250.00	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 75,000.00
Ed and Jeana Linzy (Red Run Campground)	Tyler Keefer, LCCD	\$ 71,000.00	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 74,550.00
Enos Miller (Miller Farm)	Grace Chamberlain, LCCD	\$ 71,250.00	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 75,000.00
Rick Brooks (UNT Strickler Run)	Brady Riedel, ARRC	\$ 62,415.00	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 65,535.00
Adrian Shelley (Warbler Run AOP)	Amanda Goldsmith, LCCD	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 15,750.00
Totals				\$305,835.00

Last month the board approved submitting the applications to DEP and all five were approved. The projects are stream enhancement/restoration projects with a riparian buffer.

V. Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates

Chris Thompson shared that PACD is holding Director Workshops with the closest location being located in Berks County on March 5. The second item was a letter from the County Commissioners identifying Commissioner D’Agostino as our Board Representative. The final item was an announcement of Director Training sessions that will be held at 6 p.m. before the March, April, May, and June Board of Directors meetings.

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Adam Stern explained the E&S Report for the benefit of the new Directors. He noted a correction to the plan submission numbers from last year. The Erosion and Sedimentation Plan Submission page captures the fees specifically set by the Board. The last page of the document lists the projects that were received more than three months ago that includes an explanation.

3. E&S Committee Report

Eric Hout reported that there were no action items taken at the meeting. He reviewed the minutes from the January 25 committee meeting.

4. PACD/SCC Winter Meeting Report

Sonia Wasco reported that in the last year and a half, DEP has challenged some of the items submitted for reimbursement and there have been additional changes in the last two months. This will lead to a potential budget shortfall for PACD operations. The PACD Ways and Means Committee recommended requesting a \$500 donation from the conservation districts to PACD as a short-term solution to the financial shortfalls currently existing through June 30, 2024. There was a discussion on the amount of the donation. Roger Rohrer made a motion to make a \$750 donation to PACD. It was seconded by Herb Kreider. The motion carried. Chris stated that the funds for the donation will not come out of any program funds or county funds.

Sonia shared a motion from PACD that was passed at the Executive Council meeting last month: PACD recognizes the significant environmental benefit of streambank fencing in a pasture used for grazing to restrict livestock access to the stream. PACD supports education and incentives for voluntary installation of streambank fencing but is opposed to legislation allowing administrative agencies of the Commonwealth and municipalities to require fencing along a stream.

VI. Additional Public Comment:

Sonia Wasco reminded everyone to complete their ethics form. She also highlighted the LCCD Annual Awards Banquet on March 26.

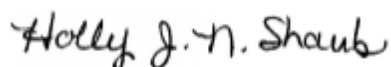
Officer Schmidt shared updated information about fish stocking in a privately owned pond.

Chris Thompson announced that committee appointments for Directors will be announced next month. He also reported that an outreach meeting will be held on February 21 in Fulton Township that will include EPA, DEP, LCCD staff, and the Amish community.

VII. Meeting Adjourned

Sonia Wasco adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Holly J. N. Shaub
Staff Secretary for the Board of Directors