

Lancaster County Conservation District
Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Farm & Home Center, Pennfield Room, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

Attendees: **Board Members-** Herb Kreider, Robert Shearer, Gordon Hoover

Staff- Kevin Lutz, Kent Bitting, Chris Thompson

6:33 PM Meeting Called To Order

- 1) The Committee was presented with applications for 19 District projects and 22 Consultant projects for the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) funds, totaling \$7,569,926.04. This exceeded the available balance the District had to allocate to ACAP projects, \$3,300,000.00. Kent Bitting explained to the Committee that the allocated funds were split between District and 3rd Party applicants, as was approved by the Board in 2024, totaling \$1,650,000 per group. Each group was ranked separately, using the ranking form developed by the State Conservation Commission and Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) to prioritize the projects for the Committee to consider.

A motion was made by Gordon Hoover, and 2nd by Robert Shearer, to recommend all of the proposed District projects to the LCCD Board for approval, as the total requested did not exceed the amount available. This passed the committee unanimously, with Herb Kreider abstaining from the vote.

The Committee then discussed using the available funds earned through interest from the ACAP monies, held by LCCD, for funding additional 3rd party projects. A motion was made by Gordon Hoover and 2nd by Herb Kreider to recommend that the LCCD Board approve the use of those funds for that purpose. This passed the committee unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the top 7 ranked 3rd party submitted projects. Projects ranked number 8 and 9 had tied scores, so the merits of each one was discussed. It was noted that the Elmer Fisher project included a proposed buffer, was closer to surface water, and was proposed to begin construction sooner than the Isaac Beiler Jr. project. The Isaac Beiler Jr. farm already has an existing buffer, and is a preserved farm. A motion was made by Herb Kreider and 2nd by Robert Shearer to recommend that the LCCD Board approve funding the top 8 ranked projects, which included the Elmer Fisher project, utilizing the earned ACAP interest along with the allocated balance of ACAP funds for 3rd party projects. This passed unanimously, with Gordon Hoover abstaining from the vote.

Landowner	District	Municipality	BMPs	Total Project Cost	Total Grant Requested
Levi K. Stoltzfus	District	East Lampeter Twp.	Grassed Waterway, Lined Outlet, Animal Trail, Stream Crossing, Fence	\$22,998.93	\$12,690.00*
Darryl Rohrer	District	West Lampeter Twp.	Terraces and Underground Outlets	\$92,500.00	\$74,070.00*
Jay Burkholder	District	Warwick Twp.	Roofed Stacking Shed, Heavy Use Area, Roof Runoff Structure, Underground Outlet	\$68,000.00	\$61,200.00
Kevyn Musser	District	Rapho Twp.	Roofed Stacking Shed, Heavy Use Area, Roof Runoff Structure	\$107,000.00	\$96,300.00
Phil Hollinger	District	Drumore Twp.	Diversion, Grassed Waterway, Lined Waterway, Stream Crossing	\$41,605.93	\$37,445.34
Ed Zug	District	Fulton Twp.	Grassed Waterway	\$10,647.32	\$9,582.59
Wayne Powell	District	Rapho Twp.	Roofed Stacking Shed, Heavy Use Area, Roof Runoff Structure, Underground Outlet	\$91,400.00	\$82,200.00
Donna Borgnis	District	Little Britain Twp.	Grassed Waterway, Lined Outlet, Fence	\$21,000.00	\$18,900.00
Melvin Martin	District	West Earl Twp.	Roofed Mortality Composting Facility, Heavy Use Area, Roof Runoff Structure, Underground Outlet	\$29,000.00	\$26,100.00
Todd Hess	District	East Donegal Twp.	Manure Storage Fence	\$4,274.10	\$3,846.69
Mark Garman	District	East Earl Twp.	Animal Trail and Stream Crossing	\$13,187.20	\$11,868.48
Jacob R Blank	District	Salisbury Twp.	Roofed Stacking Shed, Heavy Use Area, Roof Runoff Structure, Underground Outlet, Animal Trail	\$117,770.10	\$105,993.10
Abner Kauffman	District	Upper Leacock Twp.	Roofed Stacking Shed, Fence, Grassed Waterway, Lined Outlet, Roof Runoff Structure, Heavy Use Area, Animal Trail, Underground Outlet	\$212,152.34	\$190,937.10
Scott Kreider	District	Eden Twp.	Grassed Waterway	\$10,058.19	\$9,052.37
David Martin	District	Little Britain Twp.	Roofed Stacking Shed, Access Road, Underground Outlet	\$275,906.88	\$248,316.19
Gary Neff	District	Manor Twp.	Grassed Waterway	\$8,867.09	\$7,980.38
Betty Good	District	East Earl Twp.	Roofed Stacking Shed, Fence, Roof Runoff Structure, Underground Outlet, Obstruction Removal, Waste Transfer	\$230,590.00	\$180,488.97
Benjamin King	District	West Lampeter Twp.	Waste Storage, Fence, Obstruction Removal, Roof Runoff Structure, Heavy Use Area, Underground Outlet, Waste Transfer	\$252,000.00	\$226,800.00
Benjamin Martin	District	West Cocalico Twp.	Roofed Stacking Shed, Roof Runoff Structure,	\$100,085.63	\$90,077.07

			Heavy Use Area, Underground Outlet		
Totals				\$1,709,043.71	\$1,493,848.27

Landowner	Consultant	Municipality	BMPs	Total Project Cost	Total Grant Requested
Daniel F. Beiler	NRCS	Providence Twp.	Diversion, Grassed Waterway, Lined Waterway, Access Road, Structure for Water Control	\$70,652.26	\$23,845.14
Jeffrey Mitchell	TeamAg	East Cocalico Twp.	Roofed Stacking Shed, Roof Runoff Control, Underground Outlet	\$237,220.50	\$215,655.00
Stevie Smucker	Weaver Environmental	Caernarvon Twp.	Waste Storage, Roofed Stacking Shed, Fence, Buffer, Filter Strip, Lined Outlet, Pumping Plant, Roof Runoff Controls, Access Road, Roofed Heavy Use Area, Heavy Use Area, Stream Crossing x 4, Structure for Water Control, Subsurface Drain, Underground Outlet, Waste Transfer	\$608,983.00	\$453,983.00
David Lapp	TeamAg	Salisbury Twp.	Roofed Stacking Shed, Heavy Use Area, Roof Runoff Control, Underground Outlet, Lined Outlet	\$294,679.45	\$262,299.45
Elmer Fisher	Weaver Environmental	Bart Twp.	Waste Storage x 2, Roofed Heavy Use Area, Waste Facility Closure, Fence, Buffer, Lined Outlet, Obstruction Removal, Pumping Plant, Roof Runoff Control, Access Road, Heavy Use Area, Animal Trail, Stream Crossing x 3, Structure for Water Control, Subsurface Drain, Watering Facility, Underground Outlet, Waste Transfer	\$803,917.00	\$500,000.00
Alvin Smucker Beiler	NRCS	Strasburg Twp.	Roofed Stacking Shed, Diversion, Fence, Grassed Waterway, Lined Outlet, Livestock Pipeline, Roof Runoff Structure, Heavy Use Area, Animal Trail, Terrace, Structure for Water Control, Subsurface Drain, Watering Facility, Underground Outlet, Waste Transfer	\$425,102.00	\$143,471.00
Daniel Stoltzfus	TeamAg	Bart Twp.	Access Road, Animal Trail, Heavy Use Area, Livestock Pipeline, Fence	\$119,761.40	\$108,874.00
Henry Esch	LFT	Eden Twp.	Waste Storage, Roofed Stacking Shed, Waste Facility Closure, Fence, Buffer, Lined Outlet, Pumping Plant, Roof Runoff Control, Access Road, Heavy Use Area, Roofed Heavy Use Area, Animal Trail Stream Crossing x 3, Subsurface Drain, Underground Outlet, Waste Transfer	\$485,106.00	\$405,106.00
Totals				\$3,340,101.06	\$2,113,233.59

2. Kevin Lutz presented to the Benjamin Martin Waste Storage Well Setback Waiver Request. The proposed design and findings of the site visit was discussed, as well as the recommendation by the State Conservation Commission that the project be approved. Very little risk of ground water pollution is presented by this project, and biosecurity concerns would be lessened by constructing at the proposed location. A motion was made by Herb Kreider, and 2nd by Robert Shearer, that the committee recommend to the Board the approval of this waiver request. The motion passed unanimously.

3. The Committee was made aware that the Ag Department is seeking to hire an Ag Intern again for summer 2025. Details are being developed, and a position proposal for Board approval will likely be included in the April 2025 Board agenda.

4. The Committee was updated on the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Stewardship (PACS) Certification Program. LCCD was asked by the PA Department of Ag to participate in a beta test of this program, which includes finding three Lancaster County farmers willing to volunteer to test the program. The PACS program is a proposed conservation “value added” program for farmers who are meeting environmental compliance requirements to get both governmental and industry benefits from participation.

Meeting Adjourned 7:21 PM