

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 2, 2025**

The 874th 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 April 2, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

The following Directors were present: Sonia Wasco, Chairperson; Herb Kreider, Geoffrey Rohrer, Gordon Hoover, Kent Weaver, Deryk Shaw, and Roger Rohrer.

The following Associate Directors were present: Jennifer Engle, Jay Snyder, Bob Shearer, and Dan Zimmerman.

The following District Staff were present: Chris Thompson, Amanda Goldsmith, Stacey Hertz, Matt Kofroth, Sam Adams, Shannon Erdman, Eric Hout, and Sallie Gregory.

The following Cooperating Agency representatives was present: Chaz Heberlig, DEP Field Representative.

The following visitors were present: None present.

Jennifer Engle provided the invocation for the meeting.

Introductions: Staff were highlighted around the room.

Additions to the Agenda: No Additions.

Amanda Goldsmith reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

An opportunity was given for public comment: None offered.

I. Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Chris Thompson reported on Heather Grove's behalf. In addition to the written report, he reviewed an email from Heather reporting on the situation with the USDA plans for another round of staff reduction.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

Chaz Heberlig highlighted the topics from his written report.

II. Consent Agenda

Sonia Wasco gave the opportunity for Directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion. Gordon Hoover moved to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Roger Rohrer. The motion passed unanimously.

#1 – Minutes of March 5, 2025 Board meeting.

#2 – Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations

#3 – Nutrient Management Plan Approvals

#4 – Conservation Plan Acknowledgement

**Item II.2
Requests for Technical Assistance**

APPLICANT	TITLE	TOWNSHIP	SIZE	ASSISTANCE
None Submitted				

Item II.3
Requests for Nutrient Management Plan Approval (Lutz)
March 2025 Activity
April 2, 2025 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 #
Lloyd Ray Weaver	West Earl	Poultry	CAO	4.48	Brodbar	263
Mary Martin	Rapho	Layer	CAO	29.63	Riebling	1392
Daniel Martin	Elizabeth	Turkey	CAO	180.43	Bosworth	2340
Brian Eshbach	Manor	Swine	CAO	2.76	Reuter	236
Jay Zimmerman	Clay	Broiler	CAO	4.21	Bosworth	486

NMP Update Report to Lancaster County CD Board of Directors									
Technician:									
Date Range:									
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
The Barley Farms	Manor	3/17/2025	3/1/2023	Devin Gerlach	Broilers/ Beef	355.57	VAO CAFO	3/19/2025	Simple Update

Nutrient Management Plan Transfer for Board Acknowledgment:
March 2025 Activity
April, 2025 Board Meeting

Owner	Proposed Transfer Date	Township	Operation	Designation	AEU's/Acre	Reviewer	Plan #
Yippee! Farms LLC to Brubaker Farms, LLC	4/15/2025	Mount Joy	Dairy	CAO/CAFO	2.03	Lutz	48

Item II.4
Acknowledgment of Conservation Plans (Lutz)
The Lancaster NRCS Field Office recommends the following plans for the
March 5, 2024 Board Meeting:
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Conservation Plans	Number of Plans	Planner	Township
None Submitted			

LCCD AG EROSION & SEDIMENTATION PLANS

Conservation Plans	Number of Plans	Planner	Township
Melvin Zook	1	Lauren Brodbar	Salisbury
Adam Zurin	1	Emma Riebling	Rapho
Robert Brubaker	1	Matt Schavnis	Mount Joy
Matthew Zimmerman	1	Kevin Seibert	Earl

III. Additional Business

1. Items removed from Consent Agenda

No items were removed from the Agenda.

2. Treasurer's Report

Stacey Hertz reported on the Raymond James Fund, it decreased to 9.8% from 10.3% last reported. Currently there is \$128,469 in interest earned in that account. Stacey also reported that she opened a new account for the 2025 working capital for CAP. Under Income and Expenses located under the General Operations there is -\$35,000 which is for the One-Ask donations in-house that should have been to the Foundation. Otherwise, the budget is on track minus some reimbursement money waiting to be received from programs. There were some discussions about issues we could be having in regards to the Federal funding freeze. To date, there have been very few impacts to our programs.

3. Personnel Committee Report

Dan Zimmerman reviewed the committee's recommendation and requested approval to accept Isabella Alvarado as the Summer Intern. Kent Weaver moved to approve, seconded by Deryk Shaw. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Budget & Finance Report/2023 Audit

Matt Kofroth reviewed the management letter and requested approval for the 2023 Audit where there were no findings. Roger Rohrer moved to accept the 2023 Audit, seconded by Kent Weaver. The motion passed unanimously.

5. E&S Committee Report

Eric Hout reviewed the committee discussions and requested approval to send the project at 5220 Paes Road to DEP for Enforcement in the event they do not correct their violations. There was discussion regarding the history of the site, and what enforcement would look like for this site. Gordon Hoover abstained from the vote. Roger Rohrer moved to approve, seconded by Deryk Shaw. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Report on Exelon Projects

Amanda Goldsmith reported that DEP has approved the list of projects approved at the January BOD meeting, and that they are able to start getting land agreements to start moving forward on the projects.

IV. Reports & Information

1. Correspondence, News, and Updates

- State Technical Committee (STC) Meeting Agenda Invitation
- Environmental Article highlighting LCCD water quality monitoring and stream restoration efforts.

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Eric Hout highlighted the E&S Report. There was discussion about the number of E&S plans being submitted still being higher than the regional average.

3. PACD Executive Committee Report

Sonia Wasco reported on Brenda Shambaugh's resignation, and that Amy Brown was named the acting-Executive Director of PACD for the next six months. There is also the potential for a \$300 increase in the annual dues.

4. Banquet Report

Sam Adams shared on the Banquet Committee Report following the 72nd Annual Awards Banquet.

5. Tree Sale Report

Amanda Goldsmith highlighted the Tree Seedling Sale details, when pick up is, and what to expect on April 11.

6. Education Advisory Committee Report

Sallie Gregory highlighted her spring activity report.

7. Municipal Outreach Report

Amanda Goldsmith highlighted the summary of the four regional municipal outreach meetings.

VI. Additional Public Comment:

No additional comments.

VII. Meeting Adjourned

Sonia Wasco adjourned the meeting at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Morgan Regan".

Morgan Regan
E&S Administrative Support Specialist

MEMORANDUM

TO: Christopher Thompson, Lancaster County Conservation District

FROM:

Gordon B Hoover

SUBJECT: Abstention from Voting and Deliberations

In order to comply with Section 1103(j) of the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act, I wish to publicly announce at today's meeting my abstention from voting or deliberating on Agenda

'Item # 111.5 - 5220 Paes Road Salisbury Twp Compliance

Please also have this memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting.

Reasons for Abstention: TWP Supervisor

Gordon B Hoover
Signature

4/2/2025
Date

Lancaster County Makes the Switch to Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring Systems

By [Samantha Baxter](#) on March 3, 2025

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Continuous data collection in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, started about 5 years ago, and the county will be making a major upgrade over the next year—switching from relying solely on the internal storage of water quality sondes to telemetry units that enable real-time data viewing.



The first telemetry unit was installed at LCCD along Little Conestoga Creek. (Credit: Tyler Keefer / LCCD)

Telling Lancaster County's Story Through Data

Since the Lancaster County Conservation District started monitoring county waterways, the goal has remained the same, according to Amanda Goldsmith, Watershed Specialist for the Watershed Department.

"Our goal is to tell our own story as we try to restore Lancaster's streams through restoration and other best management practices," states Goldsmith.

Because Lancaster is predominantly an agricultural county with about 5000 farms and a lot of urban development, according to Goldsmith, there is a lot of conflicting land use in the county that makes reducing outputs difficult.

However, the department works with county, state, and federal groups to respond to non-point source pollution by working with farms, land owners, and construction companies to implement specialized best management practices and reduce influxes of contaminants.

NOAA
Chesapeake_1



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Amanda Goldsmith at a recently planted riparian buffer on Mill Creek. (Credit: Tyler Keefer, LCCD)

At the same time, the Lancaster County Conservation District oversees and manages stream restoration projects that improve waterway health via the installation of forested riparian buffers and targeted habitat restoration projects.

Monitoring efforts help establish a baseline of conditions in the waterways before, during, and after restoration and implementation of best management practices. Current efforts will contribute to a future data pool that allows operators to see the history of the county in water health.

Presently, the data collected helps the Lancaster County Conservation District measure outputs from county waterways to the Chesapeake Bay. In the Bay Watershed in Pennsylvania, Lancaster alone is tasked with reducing 21% of nitrogen and 23 % of phosphorous loads.

Switching to telemetry units is just the next step in improving the department's data collection and building a better data pool for future use.



Noelle Cudney and Amanda Goldsmith demonstrate stream measurements for water quality monitoring volunteers. (Credit: Linda Saad)

Switching to Telemetry in Lancaster

The small water quality monitoring team of Goldsmith, Noelle Cudney (Data Coordinator), and Tyler Keefer (Watershed Resource Specialist) manage a network of 15 **YSI EXO2** sondes throughout Lancaster County. The sondes continuously measure turbidity, pH, conductivity, temperature, total dissolved solids, and dissolved oxygen at various stations in the county.

While the team has historically relied on the internal storage of the sondes to hold data, this approach led to data gaps when instrumentation failed in the field without the team knowing. Since the team is so small, sites are typically only visited every seven weeks to collect data and calibrate sondes, meaning that a failure could lead to days or weeks of lost data.

Thanks to funding from the Lancaster County Commissioners through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars, the Lancaster County Conservation District purchased 15 **NexSens X3 data loggers** in 2024 to be added to their existing sonde deployments. The addition of the telemetry units will allow the team to view water quality data at any time, removing the need for site visits to download data.



Amanda Goldsmith, Noelle Cudney, and Grace Chamberlain checking for fish in the Conestoga River. (Credit: Dawn Rise Ekdahl)

The use of NexSens' **WQData LIVE** platform also allows the team to set up alerts for when water quality conditions are above or below an allotted threshold or if data collection has been paused for any reason.

Only five have been installed so far, with plans to deploy five more over the winter into early spring and the remaining five before the end of 2025. The team has already benefited from the change as they were alerted of a sonde failure due to battery life on the Little Conestoga, allowing the team to respond quickly and minimize interruptions.

Future site updates will depend on agreement from landowners as several of the systems are located on private property and will build on existing and future conservation efforts in the county.

Conclusion

Though the county's monitoring program is relatively new compared to older programs in the region, like the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and US Geological Survey, the program is important and ties back into the bigger picture of improving Lancaster streams.

Goldsmith explains, "We're not going to see these trends right away, but knowing that my work now, decades later, will finally start to show improvements, is really important."

She continues, "In Lancaster, we're starting to see tiny changes. They're not huge—they're not dramatic. We have a huge goal to reach... but we're seeing little changes. We're seeing fish communities improve, and that's from decades of work prior. It's rewarding to know we are contributing to that bigger picture and improving our local and downstream community."



Tyler Keefer installing an X3 telemetry unit along the upper Conestoga River. (Credit: Amanda Goldsmith / LCCD)

[Lancaster County](#) [Lancaster County Conservation District](#) [real-time](#) [real-time data](#)
[real-time monitoring](#) [X3 data logger](#)

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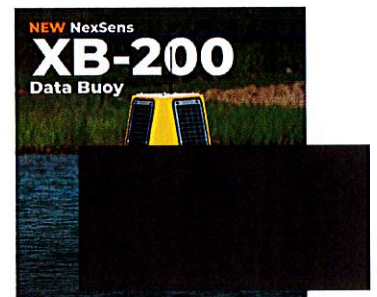
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State Technical Committee (STC) Meeting

AGENDA

Thursday, April 24, 2025

This meeting will be conducted both in-person at the PA NRCS state office and remotely via Microsoft Teams internet conferencing. The office address, meeting link and a call-in telephone number are provided at the end of this document.

1:00 pm Welcome – Denise Coleman, NRCS State Conservationist

1:10 pm Program Highlight/Presentation

- PA Fish and Boat Commission- PA NRCS Partnership for Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP); Penny V. Ayers, Esq., Division Chief, Public Access and Property Services

1:45 pm Technical Updates

- Engineering – Tim Peters, State Engineer
- Ecological Sciences – Dan Ludwig, State Resource Conservationist
- Soils – Yuri Plowden, State Soil Scientist

2:00 pm Partnership and Easement Program Updates

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) – Melissa Hanner, Easement Program Manager

2:15 pm Financial Program Updates

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Ryan Cornelius, Program Manager
- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – Ashley Lenig, Program Manager
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)- Haley Dukes

2:35 pm Committee Input for Fiscal Year 2025

- Topic and/or Committee Suggestions?
- Open Forum for State Technical Committee members

***2025 Dates for State Technical Committee Meetings:**

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Wednesday, October 2025

Thursday, January 22, 2026

April 24, 2025; Microsoft Teams meeting link:

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 267 044 151 901

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State Office Address and STC Webpage Link:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-state/pennsylvania/technical-committee>

STAC Handout Web Page Link:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/pennsylvania/pennsylvania-state-technical-committee-0>