

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 6, 2025**

The 878th 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 August 6, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

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

The following Associate Directors were present: Jennifer Engle and Dan Zimmerman.

The following District Staff were present: Chris Thompson, Stacey Hertz, Matt Kofroth, Sallie Gregory, Kent Bitting, Allyson Gibson, Isabella Alvarado, Amanda Goldsmith, and Eric Hout.

The following Cooperating Agency representatives was present: Chaz Heberlig; DEP Field Representative, Heather Grove; District Conservationist, NRCS-USDA, John Cox; Clean Water Partners.

The following visitors were present: None present.

Sonia Wasco provided a few words about August before the meeting began.

Introductions: Sallie Gregory introduced the Summer Intern Isabella Alvarado.

Additions to the Agenda: Item 9 under additional business, ACT Agreement.

Amanda Goldsmith reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

An opportunity was given for public comment: None.

I. Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove highlighted that they are transitioning their Program Assistant since Lari Jo retired, the new Program Assistant, Christina Formica, will begin at the end of August.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

Chaz Heberlig shared from the written report, firstly acknowledging their new Bureau of Watershed Resoration and Nonpoint Source Management Agriculture Group Manager, Krista Crone. He also highlighted the Watershed Specialist conference, the updated SOP for Agriculture Routine Inspections, Updated letters in Clean Water Academy, as well as trainings available.

II. Consent Agenda

#1 – Minutes of July 2, 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)
July 2025 Activity
August 6, 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 #
Cory Landis	Eden	Pullet	CAO	124.47	Reuter	172
Doug Hawthorne	W. Donegal	Pullet	CAO	118.14	Bosworth	113
Randall Andrews	W. Lampeter	Broiler/Pullet	CAFO/CAO	4.24	Brodbar	251
Merlin Martin	W. Donegal	Swine	CAO	67.63	Schavnis	670
Jim Hershey	Mount Joy	Swine/Broiler	CAFO/VAO	1.71	Schavnis	370
Randall Yoder	Sadsbury	Broiler	CAO	4.61	Reuter	328
Matthew Slaymaker	Manor	Pullet	CAO	87.72	Reuter	540
Jeffrey Frey	Pequea	Swine/Goat	CAFO/VAO	1.2	Reuter	344
Joel Frey	Manor	Swine	CAFO/VAO	4.65	Reuter	218
Elmer Beiler	Mount Joy	Layer	CAO	4.75	Schavnis	3160
Jay & Beth Hess	Conestoga	Swine/Beef/Poultry	CAFO/CAO	2.47	Adams	286
Edward Hartman	W. Cocalico	Dairy	CAFO/CAO	15.66	Heigel	8
Sweigart Farms	E. Donegal	Dairy/Swine/Pullet	CAFO/CAO	3.55	Schavnis	257
Ivan Lantz	Upper Leacock	Dairy	CAO	3.88	Brodbar	3158
Lester Weiler	East Earl	Broiler	CAO	97.27	Heigel	405
Art Groff	Penn	Broiler	CAFO/CAO	420.16	Riebling	2132
Daniel Martin	Brecknock	Broiler	CAO	40.96	Heigel	326
Jeff Landis	E. Hempfield	Layer/Dairy	CAO	3.09	Riebling	903
Donovan Zimmerman	Rapho	Broiler	CAO	198.41	Riebling	247
Isaac Garman	W. Donegal	Layer	CAO	33.32	Schavnis	86
Dale Frank	W. Donegal	Swine/Steer	CAFO/VAO	1.52	Schavnis	100
Lamar Moyer	E. Donegal	Broiler/Goat	CAO	95.37	Lutz	85

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
John F. Stoltzfus	Little Britain	6/12/2025	7/5/2023	Britton Hartzok	Dairy	81.58	CAO	6/25/2025	Simple Update
Spring Valley Dairy, LLC	Rapho	7/7/2025	10/5/2022	William Rogers	Dairy/Pullets	485.74	CAO/CAFO	7/23/2025	Simple Update
Jay Deiter	Conoy	7/22/2025	9/4/2024	Jay Deiter	Swine	552.8	CAO/CAFO	7/25/2025	Yearly Plan Submissions Update

Item II.4

Acknowledgment of Conservation Plans (Lutz)

The Lancaster NRCS Field Office recommends the following plans for the August 6, 2025 Board Meeting:

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Conservation Plans	Number of Plans	Planner	Township
Samuel L. Esh	1	Camila Martinez-Sanchez	Salisbury

LCCD AG EROSION & SEDIMENTATION PLANS

Conservation Plans	Number of Plans	Planner	Township
Mel Martin	1	Lauren Brodbar	West Earl
Randy Andrews	1	Lauren Brodbar	West Lampeter
Harvey Martin	1	Brady Bosworth	East Cocalico

III. Additional Business

1. Items removed from Consent Agenda

No Additions. Herb Kreider moved to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Gordon Hoover. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report

Stacey Hertz reported that the Raymond James fund has a current balance of \$852,186.00 as of 8/6/2025. She highlighted some of the other information in her report.

3. Personnel Committee/Request to Hire

Dan Zimmerman requested approval to hire Tristan Conrad for the Agriculture Compliance position. Herb Krieder moved to accept Tristian, seconded by Roger Rohrer. The motion passed unanimously.

4. 75th Gala Update and Committee Report

Matt Kofroth updated the board on the invitations and that 130 people have RSVP'd so far. The caterer for the event offered to provide an alcoholic signature drink. Directors expressed concern about the district paying for the alcohol but would consider the request if a sponsor for the drinks could be found. Roger Rohrer moved to re-evaluate the details and forward the report to the executive committee for action and report back in September, seconded by Gordon Hoover. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Associate Director Appointment

Chris Thompson requested approval to appoint Phillip Dunn as a new Public Associate Director Board Member. Amanda Goldsmith and Gordon Hoover provided extra support and information on Phillip. Gordon Hoover moved to accept, seconded by Deryk Shaw. The motion passed unanimously.

6. District Fall Intern

Amanda Goldsmith reported on an intern program through Franklin and Marshall College. She requested approval to apply to the program to get a fall intern. The cost to carry the position is covered by the College. Roger Rohrer moved to approve, seconded by Deryk Shaw. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Countywide Action Plan Grant Proposal

Amanda Goldsmith requested approval to apply for the grant for a restoration project on Shirks Run. Gordon Hoover moved to approve, seconded by Herb Kreider. The motion passed unanimously.

8. DEP's Technical Assistance Program

Matt Kofroth requested approval to sponsor two projects, the Jacob Glick and Sam Fisher farms. Gordon Hoover moved to approve the Technical Assistance Program, seconded by Roger Rohrer. There was some discussion regarding that Lancaster County is a lower priority on the DEP list due to they are already supporting our Engineer position. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance (ACT) Agreement

Chris Thompson requested approval to move forward with this program. This is a long term grant that partially funds the Agriculture Compliance position. This item was added to the agenda late because it needed approval due to impending deadline of next week. Roger Rohrer moved to approve, seconded by Deryk Shaw. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports & Information

1. Correspondence, News, and Updates

- J.A.C. Awards Luncheon Flyer
- PACD Annual Report
- Thank You Note from NACD for paying dues
- Check Fraud example
- Chesapeake Bay Agreement Survey
- Andy Ill Appreciation Letter and Testimony

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Eric Hout reported the comparison of complaints from 2024 to 2025, and highlighted other portions of the report.

3. Youth Conservation School Update

Sallie Gregory thanked everyone that assisted with the School, and highlighted some events from the week.

4. Lancaster OLN Report

Citing the time this report has been tabled until the September meeting.

5. PACD Executive Council Meeting Report

Sonia Wasco highlighted from her report the new slate of PACD officers and that she was re-elected Secretary. She also reported that the proposed dues increase passed.

6. Clean Water Partners Bi-Annual Update

Allyson Gibson and John Cox provided an update of what was happening around the county as a result of them collaborating with others. Several resources were distributed.

7. Summer Intern - Activities Report

Isabella Alvarado presented her report and expressed great appreciation for her time at the district as the 2025 Summer Intern, which included topics from the watershed and education departments.

8. Invocation Discussion

Chris Thompson reviewed the details of previous work done to address the question of starting our public meetings with an invocation. Letters from two staff (Adam Stern and one anonymous) outlining their concerns for continuing the practice, copies of the letters were distributed to directors and associates (see attached). A discussion followed about the possibilities of what can be done at the time of an invocation and what it means. Deryk Shaw moved to continue the invocation as is and asked that a subcommittee be formed to curate a guide/policy to ensure the practice is inclusive and compliant with the law, seconded by Commissioner Ray D'Agostino. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Additional Public Comment:

None.

VII. Meeting Adjourned

Sonia Wasco adjourned the meeting without objection at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully,



Morgan Regan
E&S Administrative Support Specialist

August 6, 2025 - LCCD BOD Meeting

Good evening. My name is Adam Stern and I believe most of you know me as the E&S Program Manager here at the District. I typically attend each and every board meeting to listen in, attend to the meeting's technical needs, and to provide a monthly report on the activity of the E&S Department. However, I am getting married on Saturday and won't be able to join you this evening. While I can't join in person, I hope that you will accept my feedback as a public comment during the beginning of your meeting.

Tonight I would like to provide my brief thoughts on the discussion regarding an Invocation (Reports & Information #8).

I am not a stranger to the concept of a Christian environmental ethic. For many years, this was the guiding principle in my personal life, academic life, and professional life. I grew up regularly attending a Church of the Brethren congregation here in Lancaster County. I completed my Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science at Messiah College. I worked and lived full time at a Christian Summer Camp and Retreat Center planning and directing Christian outdoor education experiences. My Anabaptist upbringing taught me that Creation is meant to be carefully stewarded and conserved for the benefit of all. I deeply understand and respect a commitment to environmental care and conservation rooted in Christian faith. That being said, I believe that this specific worldview and set of beliefs should not be showcased above a multitude of others by a government organization like the District.

I firmly believe that the District is made stronger when we strive to create an inclusive environment for all employees. The work of conservation requires all parties to feel comfortable coming to the table and representing all aspects of their identity. Starting off each month's Board meeting with a Christian prayer leaves me feeling uncomfortable and not fully welcome at the table. While reviewing the results of this past year's operational assessment survey, it became clear to me that I was not the only District team member who feels this way. My hope is that you as the Board of Directors can show a clear and full-throated support for inclusivity by discontinuing the practice of offering a Christian prayer before District meetings, events, and gatherings.

If the Board wishes to continue the practice of offering a moment of reflection and centering prior to meetings and events, my recommendation is to provide a moment of silence for personal reflection. If the Board feels that guiding that time of reflection is important, my recommendation is to share a centering thought that is generally secular in nature and directly related to the mission of the District. As an example:

As we gather tonight, I'd like to read the text of Article 1 Section 27 of the PA Constitution. "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people." Let's have a brief moment of silence to reflect on this text and how it calls the District to fulfill its mission "to promote the stewardship of natural resources for Lancaster County and beyond".

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and I look forward to being back in the room for your September meeting.

Adam J. Stern, CPESC, CESSWI
E&S Program Manager
Lancaster County Conservation District

Prayer Opinion at LCCD

I recommend that LCCD remove prayer and opt for a moment of silence at board meetings, banquets, and all District or District-sponsored events. District staff is growing, diversifying, and will continue to have more voices from different backgrounds. Multiple current staff, including myself, do not agree with prayer at work. One, we are a government organization, not a private organization, which makes the inclusion of religion at work highly inappropriate. Also, not everyone at work is Christian or even practices Christianity similarly. Christianity is diverse. I also don't think that means we should offer other religions to pray – the key is removing religion entirely from District events or meetings. It is isolating for existing staff and partners. At the District, our focus should be on conservation and being good stewards to our staff and partners. If we continue this practice after this discussion, I expect fewer staff to come to our board meetings, further disconnecting the board from staff. That is a shame.

On a more personal level, I have worked here for many years, and it was a culture shock for me to hear prayer, and I was and still am extremely uncomfortable. I absolutely love working here and this would be one of the first things I would change.

Anonymously submitted.