

**Lancaster County Conservation District
Watershed Committee Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

5:30 P.M. -6:30 P.M.

Farm & Home Center – Conference Room, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

5:30 PM Meeting Called to Order

The following people were present: Grace Chamberlain, Jordan Miller, Isaac Carachilo, Matt Kofroth, Christopher Thompson, Jenny Engle, Lori Kier

Watershed Department Updates

Grace Chamberlain introduced herself as the new Watershed Specialist and assured committee members that the Assistant Watershed Specialist role was still an active role (being filled by Grace for the time being). Two new team members were introduced: Jordan Miller and Isaac Carachilo. Both new members are serving as Watershed Resource Technicians.

Projects Completed in 2026

Grace Chamberlain highlighted two major projects in the Watershed department, one of which was completed in April of 2026 and the other was in progress, set to be completed in June of 2026. The first project was in East Earl on Shirks Run in the Conestoga River watershed. It included 1,522' of habitat restoration, 575 trees planted, and was funded through 2025 Countywide Action Plan (CAP) funds. The second project was in Bird In Hand on Mill Creek and included 895' of habitat restoration, with 350 trees to be planted, 1,980' of fencing. It was funded through the Constellation Energy Habitat Improvement (Exelon) grant program, Keystone Protein Mitigation Fund, and the District's Reeser's Run Initiative. The board appreciated both projects and had some questions about the difference in funding sources. Grace Chamberlain replied with more information about each of the grants discussed.

Grace Chamberlain also gave an overview of the 8 riparian buffer projects completed in the spring of 2026. A total of 1,875 trees were planted, 2,970 feet of exclusionary fencing installed, and 4 agricultural stream crossings constructed. "After" photos were provided to showcase the new buffers planted across Lancaster County. This work was completed alongside volunteer groups, such as Stone Independent School and Conestoga Valley High School, LCCD staff volunteers, and Hunting Plots LLC.

Pending Grant Applications

Grace Chamberlain discussed 4 pending grants, most of which are expected to be awarded in Fall 2026. A 319 Monitoring and WIP grant will pay for design and permitting in the Conowingo, Conewago, Mill Creek, and Fishing Creek areas. A 319 Pequea Projects grant will pay for the construction for two Pequea projects – one on Big Beave Creek and the other on Calamus Run – and will use match from NFWF sub-grant app with CWP and Exelon to complete both projects. A NFWF Small Watersheds Grant (Planning and Technical Assistance) will pay for education and outreach efforts, geared towards supporting watershed groups. And the last NFWF Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) grant, mentioned above, will go towards the Calamus Run project to help with construction costs.

Grace Chamberlain also discussed two grant applications that require board approval under the 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant and Growing Greener Grant. The first application was for two projects in the Pequea Creek Watershed, one is on Eshleman Run, upstream of two completed stream restoration projects, making it the third consecutive project and building on momentum in the Pequea Creek Watershed. The other is on Walnut Run, a tributary that will join with another tributary that the watershed department will be doing a project on in 2027. The board was highly supportive of continuing this work in the Pequea Creek Watershed. The Growing Greener grant was for two projects – one in the Chiques Creek Watershed and the other in the Conestoga River Watershed. The first project is on an unnamed tributary to the Chiques and has a challenging gradient from upstream to downstream. The watershed department would love to take advantage of this opportunity to do more work and outreach in the Chiques Creek watershed. The second project is on Little Muddy Creek and struggles with tight meandering turns that are causing high rates of erosion. The committee and staff supported both grants moving forward to the board meeting.

Current Grants in Watershed Program

Grace Chamberlain then presented 10 active grants totaling 1.3 million dollars in the Watershed department. Grants range from large scale restoration projects, private funding, instream monitoring funding, staff support, and educational supplies. Board members had some questions about the types of restoration work that LCCD does. They also questioned the sustainability of future grants.

Miscellaneous Updates

Last, Grace Chamberlain gave brief updates on the telemetry, noting more installation and progress with the sonde units was to follow after Jordan Miller and Isaac Carachilo undergo more training. Grace Chamberlain provided an update on the Reeser's Run Initiative, another

opportunity to increase BMP implementation in Upper Leacock township. Grace Chamberlain also mentioned other small initiatives including watershed group revitalization, the Lancaster-Lebanon Forum, and the Conoy WIP.

6:30 PM Meeting Adjourned

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, December 2nd @ 5:30pm

LCCD Conference Room