

Item II.1
**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2021**

The 827th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) was held in person at the Farm and Home Center for Directors and also via Zoom Call-In on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 7:30PM.

The following Directors were present: Daniel Heller, Chairman; Herb Kreider, Kent Weaver, Treasurer; Roger Rohrer, Jay Snyder, Bob Shearer, Ken Meck, Sonia Wasco and Commissioner Ray D’Agostino.

The following Associate Director was present: Greg Strausser.

The following District Staff were present: Christopher Thompson, Gerald Heistand, Jeff Hill, Rich Snyder, Kent Bitting, Matt Kofroth, Kevin Lutz, Samantha Adams, Sallie Gregory, Amanda Goldsmith, Shelly Dehoff, Adam Stern and Suzanne Kopp.

The following Cooperating Agency representative was present: Heather Grove, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The following guests were present: None

Chairman Dan Heller called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. Dan welcomed everyone and asked if there were any introductions to be made – none were made. Adam Stern wanted everyone to know that the meeting was being recorded.

Bob Shearer provided the invocation for the meeting.

Additions to the Agenda: Chris Thompson stated there was one addition to the agenda – Request for a letter of support for NFWF funding for Denver Borough.

An opportunity was given for public comment: None was offered.

I. Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove offered no additions to the report this month. No questions were raised. Chris Thompson asked Heather to update the Board on the NRCS Covid plan. Heather stated that in the past the USDA was using the dashboard system to monitor County by County and case by case. The newest guidelines are stating that NRCS offices will stay in Phase 1, which means one person at a time will be rotating into the office daily. They will remain in Phase 1 until most of the Country is vaccinated, which means it will be several more months in Phase 1. Chris wanted the Board to know that this effects the way we operate since we share office space with NRCS.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

Chris Thompson gave an update for Elwood Blake, from the Field Report Notes. Chris wanted to highlight the Leadership Development classes that he and Sonia Wasco participated in that were very beneficial. The second item Chris highlighted was the Statement of Financial Interest Ethics form that is due by the May 1, 2021 deadline. He requested that everyone fill one out and submit it to the office by the deadline.

The Chesapeake Bay updates and the Conservation Excellence Grant Funding will be extended and that is all in the field notes, but Kevin Lutz and Kent Bitting will be reporting on that later in the meeting.

Funding for the Ag Reimbursement Plan to be used by farms to have an Ag E&S or Manure Management Plan written and implemented. The request needs to be submitted by April 1, 2021.

Item II.1

Please note the following upcoming meetings: The SCC Meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 and the South-Central Regional Directors Meeting will be held on March 24, 2021.

II. Consent Agenda

Chairman Daniel Heller gave the opportunity for Directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda in order to have additional discussion. Hearing none, Herb Kreider moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included items numbered one through four. Bob Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda includes the following approved items.

- #1 – Minutes of February 10, 2021 Board meeting**
- #2 – Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations**
- #3 – Nutrient Management Plan Approvals**
- #4 – Conservation Plan Acknowledgement**

IV. Additional Business

1. Items removed from Consent Agenda

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

2. Treasures Report

Gerald Heistand reported on the income and expense report. Gerald stated that comparing the balance sheet to one year ago shows a big difference and the reason for that difference is due to 2020 reimbursement requests being delayed and received in 2021.

Chris Thompson commented on the County Commissioner funding, stating that last year we received a monthly allocation and this year we received a one lump sum for the full years amount.

3. DGR/QAB Project Approval

The Lancaster County Conservation District's Dirt & Gravel Road Quality Assurance Board (QAB) met prior to the March 3rd District Board meeting. The Dirt & Gravel Road QAB reviewed 5 Dirt & Gravel Road applications submitted by 5 municipalities requesting over \$157,000. The Lancaster County Dirt & Gravel Road Program had approximately \$120,000 to allocate to local projects. The QAB would recommend awarding contracts to Elizabeth Township and Martic Township for their Dirt & Gravel Road projects in 2021. These projects will also be submitted to the SCC for their approval as per their program requirements. It should be noted that last year's Dirt & Gravel Road contract with Elizabeth Township for \$61,077 for the Pumping Station Rd. culvert project was cancelled and added to the total grant dollars for this year. This allowed the QAB to allocate \$180,000 this year thus these two projects could be funded this year.

Herb Kreider moved to accept the recommendation from the Dirt and Gravel Road committee. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Conservation Excellence Projects

Kent Bitting reported that there is one CEG Grant application for approval this month. The grant is for Lloyd Reiff to expand his stacking storage area. This is a District project, which means that someone from the District will be onsite throughout the implementation of the project. The total amount of the CEG funds being requested is \$17,302.50.

Jay Snyder moved to approve the project for the CEG funds. Kent Weaver seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item II.1

5. Personnel Committee Report

Sonia Wasco reported that Jeff Hill has submitted a resignation letter to the District and his last day will be March 19, 2021. The Committee would like to request permission to advertise to fill this position. Chris Thompson added that Kevin Lutz, the Assistant Program Manager will be the interim Program Manager until the position is filled. Chris would like the position filled by the end of March 2021.

Dan Heller thanked Jeff Hill on behalf of the Board for his 16 years of service to the LCCD.

Sonia Wasco moved to post and interview applicants to fill the Ag Manager position. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sonia Wasco also reported that the District Operating Committee has written SOPs for the telework and social media guidelines. Ray D'Agostino voiced a concern about who would be managing the social media sites and Chris replied that they are looking into a governing software to make sure that the District is represented correctly.

V. Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates

Chris Thompson reported on the 2019 Penn State Farmer Survey regarding their self-funded BMP's. It is a summary of numbers found in the day of packet. This summary of numbers shows that Lancaster really is doing a lot of work that is not even being counted in the Bay Model. Additional work is being done by PSU to verify the data and will eventually supplement our BMP reported numbers.

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Rich reported that the DEP 102 e-permitting report referenced SOPs and internal reference materials and that DEP has never communicated any of these informational materials to the Districts. There continues to be a disconnect between DEP and the District.

For the month of February, E&S has seen a significant increase in projects received. There were 40 new applications for the month of February. Complaints received had increased this month. Revenues are up as a result of the increase in projects received as well as the fee schedule increase. Plans to highlight for the month are the Walnut Street Extension and also the Route 222 and Route 30 expansion projects.

Gary Schatz Garage in Mount Joy Borough was submitted to the Environmental Hearing Board in January. Judge Labuskes ordered that the Appellant's motion for summary judgement is denied. Rich stated that the work to get this information collected for the hearing was an entire E&S team effort and task significant hours to compile.

3. Tree Sale Update

Sallie Gregory reported that the tree sale orders are coming in on schedule and we are planning to do a drive-thru distribution again this year.

4. Strategic Planning Update & Review

Chris Thompson reviewed that last month we went thru and detailed each program. The Strategic Plan for the Foundation was to bolster our Board of Directors with the Foundation. Another initiative the Foundation is working towards is filling the Grant Manager position by June 2021.

5. Litigation Update

Chris Thompson reported that the Ronald Gantz lawsuit against the District had been dropped by Mr. Gantz. A copy of the signed "Praecipe to Discontinue" was included in the day of packet.

Another case the District is being brought into is a manure management case in the Southern End will be reported next month.

Item II.1

Additions to the Agenda:

Jay Snyder reported on a NFWF funding proposal from Ephrata Borough for a restoration project on Gross Run in the Cocalico Watershed. A letter of support from the District will be provided for this important work.

Additional Public Comment:

Roger Rohrer commented that Lancaster County is being hit hard with development pressures and we are losing farmland. Roger stressed that educating people about the importance of farmland is a key to stop farmland from being developed into housing.

Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Heller officially adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.

Suzanne Kopp
Recording Secretary