

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
August 2, 2017**

The 786th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District was held on Wednesday, August 2, 2017, at 7:30 PM, in the multi-purpose room of the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA.

**The following Directors were present:** Ken Meck, Chairman; Robert Shearer, Vice-Chairman; Dan Heller, Treasurer; Herb Kreider, Roger Rohrer, Jay Snyder, Sonia Wasco, and Commissioner Craig Lehman.

**The following Associate Directors were present:** Frank Burkhart, Lisa Graybeal, Ernest Orr, Jr., Gregory Strausser, Robert Wagner, and Kent Weaver.

**The following District Staff were present:** Christopher Thompson, District Manager; Gerald Heistand, Business Manager; Jeff Hill, Ag Program Manager; Kevin Seibert, Ag Compliance Coordinator; Evan Martin, E&S Assistant Program Manager; Matt Kofroth, Watershed Specialist; Sallie Gregory, Conservation Education Coordinator; Kevin Lutz, Ag Assistant Program Manager; and Amy Kochel, Summer Intern.

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

Chairman Ken Meck called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and Jay Snyder provided the invocation for the meeting.

There were no guests to be introduced at the meeting.

Chris Thompson announced the following Addition to the Agenda:

Additional Business Item #7 (handout)—Revised Nutrient Management Delegation Agreement

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

**Agency Reports**

**1. USDA, NRCS**

Heather Grove, NRCS District Conservationist, referred to the NRCS report on pages 1-3 of the mailing. She announced that NRCS is hoping to fill a Soil Conservation Technician vacancy. Out of the 30 vacancies in Pennsylvania, only 4 are being filled, and Lancaster is slated to get one of them. There was discussion on the good soil conservation exposure that NRCS, the District, and Penn State Extension experienced at the Horse Progress Event. Estimates are that over 15,000 were in attendance each day.

**2. PA DEP Field Rep Report**

The August 2017 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points were included in the mailing packet. Chris Thompson referred to the Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Update section in the Talking Points, on pages 5 and 6 of the mailing, and asked Board members to review that section as they will be hearing more about the program in the future.

**Item IV.3—Summer Intern Activities Report**

Chris Thompson announced that the presentation by Amy Kochel, the District’s summer intern, was being moved up on the agenda. Amy gave the Board a presentation on what she did during her internship. She will be returning to Juniata College as a senior, and hopes to go on to graduate school majoring in Environmental Science.

**Consent Agenda**

Chairman Ken Meck gave opportunity for directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion. Hearing that there were no items to be removed, Chairman Meck requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Sonia Wasco moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Robert Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- 1. Minutes of July 5, 2017 Board meeting**
- 2. Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations**
- 3. Nutrient Management Plan Approvals**
- 4. Conservation Plans Acknowledgement**

**Additional Business**

1. There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

**2. Treasurer’s Report**

Gerald Heistand reported that there was little change in total assets from last month. On the Income and Expense report the net income is positive where we want it to be positive, and it is negative where we need to be spending funds with grants. The treasurer’s report will be filed subject to audit.

**3. ACT Funding Agreement**

Gerald Heistand reported that ACT funding has historically been tied to ag preserve work, so we continue to direct it to the person doing that work, which in our case is Keith Lutz. The funding pays between a quarter and a third of an employee’s salary and benefits costs. Dan Heller moved to accept the PDA ACT Funding Agreement. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Rd. Program Quality Assurance Board (QAB) Committee Report**

Matt Kofroth reported that Lancaster District’s Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Rd. Program has been audited twice since 1999. The current audit uncovered a few items that need to be addressed, and the QAB will be working to address those findings. The audit team plans to meet with districts on a more regular basis. The report is informational, and we are expecting a follow-up report which will be shared with the Board once received.

**5. Ag Committee Report**

Robert Shearer reported that the ag issue on the John R. Glick (Little Britain Township) farm has the twist where the consultant is not providing good information in a timely manner. The recommendation of the committee is that the farmer be sent a Notice of Violation (NOV) letter and copy the planner, Bill Rogers, AET Consulting. Robert Shearer moved that the District provide the farmer with a NOV letter. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **6. Personnel Committee Report**

Sonia Wasco reported that the Personnel Committee met at Youth Conservation School to review a lot of different information. Due to the September 1 health insurance renewal date, administration is asking the Board to grant the Personnel Committee authority to select a health insurance company for the September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018 plan year. Administration is getting feedback information from the current company, Capital Blue, which will be compared to Eliance. Administration has received positive feedback from references that were checked. Roger Rohrer moved that the Board grant authority to the Personnel Committee to make this decision. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Revised Nutrient Management Delegation Agreement**

Jeff Hill explained why the Nutrient Management Delegation Agreement was being brought back to the Board. Jay Snyder moved to go ahead with this agreement with decreased funding. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Reports/Information**

### **1. Correspondence, News and Updates**

The following correspondence, news and update items were circulated at Board meeting:

- 2017 PACD/SCC Awards Luncheon – Program and Press Release – Don McNutt was recipient of the State Conservation Commission’s 2017 Distinguished Service Award.
- Thank You Email – from Jill Whitcomb, DEP Non-Point Source Compliance Section – to Chris Thompson – complimenting Nate Kurtz and E&S staff and Kevin Lutz on their willingness to assist and educate DEP compliance staff while on E&S site visits and a CAFO operation – June 27, 2017
- News Article – “2017 Taste celebrates great food, even greater environmentalists” – Local Leaders Recognized – Bay Journal (page 4) – July–August 2017
- News Article – Opponents of PA gas pipeline vow to continue the fight” – Lancaster Pipelines – Bay Journal (page 15) – July–August 2017
- Email - Brief Update on Dick Shellenberger – from Pam Shellenberger – July 25, 2017
- News Article/Photo – Dairy Days Highlights – Photo includes Sallie Gregory, Matt Kofroth and Amy Kochel (Intern) – Lancaster Farming – June 17, 2017
- News Article – Lancaster Ag Council Takes Economic Plan to Ballpark – Lancaster Farming – July 29, 2017

### **2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report**

Evan Martin referred to the handout report and mentioned that work is consistent as the figures show from one year ago. Despite the rains that we have been having here in the county, plans are still coming into our office. The new office space is now furnished, and the file cabinets have been moved. E&S staff will move into the new space early next week.

### **3. Summer Intern-Activities Report**

This report was presented earlier on the agenda.

### **4. PACD/SCC Joint Annual Mtg Report**

Several directors reported on their attendance at the PACD/SCC Joint Annual meeting. Invasive species and the damage of the Lantern Fly were covered at the conference. The change to the bylaws to allow a single district to have multiple votes was passed, so Lancaster was in the minority. Associate Directors can vote at the council meetings. Lancaster County will be the site of the annual NACD North East Regional Meeting in 2018.

Item II.1

**5. Director Handbook and Review**

Chris Thompson distributed 3-ring binders containing the PACD Conservation District Director's Handbook. He plans to cover several topics from the handbook at future meetings.

**Additional Comment**

Robert Shearer mentioned that the PA No-till Alliance group had a field day at the Jeff Frey farm in Willow Street, where Roger Rohrer was on one of the panels.

Sonia Wasco thanked the Board and staff for their continued support at the Youth Conservation School. Twenty two students attended. They had more rain than normal, but there were no damaging winds. About 150 people attended the family night venison dinner, and overall, it was a good week.

Robert Shearer reported that a local farmer who does some irrigating reported that he is seeing great improvements to the stream as there are increased eels and clams.

Jeff Hill complimented Kevin Lutz for all of his work as Assistant Ag Program Manager.

Chairman Ken Meck officially adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Gerald M. Heistand  
Recording Secretary