

Item II.1
**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 2, 2019**

The 810th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at 7:30 PM, in the multi-purpose room of the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA.

The following Directors were present: Dan Heller, Chairman; Herb Kreider, Kenneth Meck, Rodger Rohrer, Robert Shearer, Kent Weaver, Jay Snyder and Sonia Wasco.

The following Associate Directors were present: Frank Burkhart, Robert Wagner, Garrett Weaver and Justin Welk.

The following District Staff were present: Christopher Thompson, District Manager; Gerald Heistand, Business Manager; Jeff Hill, Ag Department Manager and Nate Kurtz, E&S Department Manager.

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

Chairman Dan Heller called the meeting to order at 7:37PM. Robert Shearer provided the invocation for the meeting.

An opportunity was given for public comment. One of the board members mentioned that their son came home from school and said that he was reprimanded for killing a spotted lanternfly at recess time. We need to continue to spread the word that this is a serious pest.

Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove referred to the NRCS report in the packet on pages 1 and 2. She reported with Gary Ballina being reassigned to York County, this will leave Jeff Sholly, James Saltsman and Steve Reiff to do NRCS engineering work. Mick Albert is the newest Soil Conservation Technician on staff.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

Chris Thompson mentioned that there are numerous new programs in the report. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) approved a policy on how to remove a district director from the board when needed. There are updated REAP guidelines and there are funds to implement the WIP that will pay up to 90% of the cost for a BMP. It was reported that Sonia will be attending the PACD Regional meeting on October 15, 2019.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Dan Heller gave the opportunity for directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda in order to have additional discussion. On page 13 of the 2020 District Meeting Dates it was noted that the January Planning Meeting date should have the year 2020. Hearing that there were no items to be removed, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jay Snyder moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the five items listed below with the noted amended meeting date. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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The Consent Agenda included the following approved items.

- #1 – Minutes of September 4, 2019 Board meeting**
- #2 – Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations**
- #3 – Nutrient Management Plan Approvals**
- #4 – Conservation Plans Acknowledgement**
- #5 – BOD Meeting Dates for 2020**

Additional Business

1. Items removed from Consent Agenda

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

2. Treasurer's Report

Gerald Heistand reported that District assets are similar to what they were last year at this time. The increase in total District assets for this time of year is due mainly to the receipt of restricted grant funds that are paid out at a later date. The E&S Department had a good month with an increase of about \$19,000.00. For Income and Expense it was reported that the Separation/Reserve class had a decrease in the deficit by \$11,000.00. The net year-to-date balance, for all grants, increased by \$215,000.00 since we received the funds for 2019. Gerald reviewed several funding payments that are still outstanding.

3. Personnel Committee Report

Sonia Wasco reported that the Personnel Committee received twelve applications for the E&S Resource Conservationist positions and the interview team decided to interview six candidates. Out of the six interviewed two were very strong candidates. Ryan Weck attended Temple University and Adam Stern studied at Messiah College. Sonia moved that the District hire the above mentioned individuals to fill the vacant E&S positions. Ken Meck seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Nutrient Management – Expiring Plans

Jeff Hill reported that as we start a new crop year, expiring plans need to be updated. Out of the twenty three operations that received their third notice letters, only eight have made significant progress. According to Program guidance the Board needs to refer the fifteen who have not made progress to the SCC. This will be the highest number of referrals that Lancaster has ever referred. Robert Shearer moved that the Lancaster District send the fifteen plans up to the SCC for further action. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. PACD Multifunctional Buffer Grant

Chris Thompson reported for Matt Kofroth who was at training in State College. The District had been asked to be a sponsor for a PACD Multi-Functional Buffer grant on the Fiddle Creek Farm in Quarryville, PA. The project plans are to add twenty acres of buffer to the property and includes a five year maintenance program. Chris reported that the District is not liable for the maintenance part of the project. A question was posed as to whether the landowner's current conservation plan implementation schedule was up to date. If not, the Board felt that it would be good to see some commitment from the landowner to implement his/her existing plan. The action was tabled until next month's meeting to allow staff more time to verify the operators compliance.

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6. NFWF Approval Process

Chris Thompson reported on a new grant process with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). It looks to local government to be at the center of small projects to implement the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). Proposals will be submitted through Watershed Specialist, Matt Kofroth as lead coordinator, so he can suggest collaborative opportunities. Jay Snyder moved that the District accept this responsibility to work with NFWF on Phase 3 of the WIP. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. E&S Fees for Services

The revised fee schedule was presented for approval. Chris Thompson raised the question of whether the E&S Committee had any comments on the new fee schedule. Jay Snyder remarked that it has been several years since the fee schedule was modified. With the 25% proposed fee increase, the E&S Fee charged by Lancaster is still reasonable. The new schedule is expected to become effective January 2020. Chris mentioned that administration would like to take a look at using part of the fee to support watershed groups, so he asked that this item be tabled until further notice. Chairman Heller agreed that this item would be deferred until the next meeting without objection from the floor.

8. PL566 Project

Chris Thompson reported on the Grant for the Planning/Design/Funding for the Chiques Watershed restoration has been announced today. The District is one of the co-sponsors with the County. PL566 works with watershed restoration and flood prevention. The project requires that there be a public sponsor that is able to declare eminent domain where needed for a project to be successful. There is a lot of planning, designing and contracting that will need to be done which often takes six to ten years to complete. NRCS is normally able to supply 50% of the BMP costs. Projects like this help municipalities with their MS4 obligations.

Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates

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

- Invitation – PASA – Fall/Winter Workshops – October 2019 to January 2020.
- Resume – Ryan Weck & Adam Stern – resumes were circulated; October 21, 2019 is expected start date.
- Brochure – Penn State – Organic Control of Spotted Lanternfly – August 19, 2019.
- Advertisement – Lancaster Farming – Ag Week.
- Announcement – Denim & Pearls Fundraising Dinner Gala – October 9, 2019.
- Invitation – Lancaster Farmland Trust Annual Dinner & Silent Auction – October 30, 2019.
- Social Media – Facebook – Plow Farms – SLF Ornament.
- Magazine – Save the Bay – Welcome to Paradise – Verdant View Farm Article – Fall 2019.
- Newspaper – Bay Journal – Neighborly Approach to Steam Buffers has Ripple Effect Among Amish – September 2019.
- Sign for Spotted Lanternfly.
- Homeowner programs on the SLF.

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Nate Kurtz reported that this year's project work load is similar to last year. The PAG-01, meant to expedite permits for small projects with low potential for environmental damage is now being advertised in the PA Bulletin for comment.

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3. 2020 Budget Update

Chris Thompson reported that he met with Commissioner Lehman today to discuss the District's budget. On October 15, 2019 at 2:00pm the District will meet with the three commissioners at their formal work session. Directors are invited to be present at the meeting. Chris mentioned that there could be a considerable amount of additional funding for landowners coming from the State this year and we are waiting for more of the opportunities to materialize. Gerald Heistand reminded the Budget & Finance Committees that their meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2019 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm.

4. SLF Program/Grant Update

Chris Thompson reported that the current program ended September 30, 2019 and the District would like to continue with the program into the year 2020. Two of the ideas for the new program are to assist landowners with SLF control and to hire a coordinator. A copy of the submitted proposal was circulated.

5. Ag Week Update

Chris Thompson referred to the schedule that was on page 26 of the Board mailing. The Board of Directors are being encouraged to participate.

6. Outstanding Cooperator Selection

Gerald Heistand announced that the committee is gathering after the meeting to choose the photo for the award.

7. Aramco Funding Update

Chris Thompson reported that our initial contacts came through Sallie Gregory and her work with Phillip Cousteau. Several ideas have been submitted and we hope to have an update next week.

Additional Comments:

Sonia Wasco gave a PACD update on the sale of the building on Front Street, along with agenda items on the upcoming PACD Regional meeting. PACD needs to come up with a Public Service Announcement for the radio and is looking for ideas. There was a brief discussion on House Bills 1106 and 1107.

Chris Thompson announced that the next Strategic Planning meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, October 9, 2019 during the day. Chris also announced that the District received a letter of resignation from Darrel Becker yesterday. The Board will need to look for another Associate Director to replace him.

Chairman Dan Heller officially adjourned the meeting at 9:09PM.

Gerald M. Heistand
Recording Secretary