

Item II.1

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 5, 2018**

The 798th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District was held on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, 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; Robert Shearer, Vice-Chairman; Herb Kreider, Ken Meck, Dick Shellenberger, Jay Snyder, Sonia Wasco, and Commissioner Craig Lehman.

The following Associate Directors were present: Darrell Becker, Frank Burkhart, Greg Strausser, Robert Wagner, and Kent Weaver, Treasurer.

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

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

Chairman Dan Heller called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and Commissioner Lehman provided excerpts from a short meditation given at a local Jewish congregation. He was asked to answer the question, "What birthday gift would you give to the world or what would you atone for?" Lehman said he would atone for hubris; defined as excessive self-confidence or arrogance. In order to do this one should:

- Avoid self-centeredness
- Realize that the titles we give to each other do not make us who we are
- Strive to reach our potential each day
- Realize that our greatest gift is to give of ourselves
- Practice humility

There were no guests to be introduced at the meeting. The following additions to the agenda were announced:

WIP Process

Additional Correspondence

An opportunity was given for public comment: Robert Shearer reported that he felt great satisfaction to be a part of this organization as he drove around during the recent excessive rain. Sonia Wasco made some comments about what she observed during the flooding in the Lititz area. It was reported that the rain event in Mount Joy ranked as a 1,000-year storm event.

Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove, District Conservationist, reported that she received a panel of candidates, and they are interviewing for a Soil Conservationist position. In addition, NRCS expects to advertise for two additional positions in the near future.

Item II.1

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

Chris Thompson referred to the September 2018 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points, on page 4 of the mailing, and commented on the 2019 Director Nomination Process. He noted that Lancaster's two Board members with expiring terms (Roger Rohrer and Richard Shellenberger) are willing to serve again. Thompson also noted the following:

- Matt Miller, working with Leadership Development, will be an asset to new District Managers.
- Allegheny County Conservation District selected a new District Manager, as their previous manager had recently passed away.
- The Chesapeake Bay Ag Planning Reimbursement Program has been extended for another year.
- The Fall PACD Regional Meeting for this area will be held on October 23rd.

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. Hearing none, Dick Shellenberger moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included items numbered one through four. Robert Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda included the following approved items.

- #1 – Minutes of August 1, 2018 Board meeting**
- #2 – Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations**
- #3 – Nutrient Management Plan Approvals**
- #4 – Conservation Plans Acknowledgement**

Additional Business

1. Items removed from Consent Agenda

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion.

2. Treasurer's Report

Gerald Heistand referred to page 12 of the mailing, and reported that with the Nutrient Management Program reimbursement, the District has a good General Operations/Activities balance. The balance is well above the GASB-54 minimum guideline of one month's average actual operational expenditures of \$152,000. If the balance were to fall below that level, the Budget and Finance Committee is to be apprised of the situation. At that point a cash flow projection would need to be conducted with the use of District reserve funds. Heistand remarked that the E&S Department aims to keep one year's worth of reserve operating funds in their two reserve accounts (E&S and Clean Water). The Budget and Finance Committee has the authority to propose changes within the GASB-54 policy, and the committee will be meeting on September 11th. For the record, the Budget and Finance Committee did approve using forfeiture funds that were released by the Standard Company in 2015 and 2016 to offset plan costs during the latter part of 2018. As a result, a large part of the 457 plan fees incurred in 2018 will be paid by forfeiture funds. The treasurer's report will be filed subject to audit.

3. Personnel Committee Report

Sonia Wasco reported that the District received high quality applications for the E&S vacancy, and they plan to interview five candidates during the week of September 17.

Item II.1

4. RC&D Appointments

Gerald Heistand mentioned that there are three positions to fill on the Capital RC&D board representing Lancaster County: a 3-year Member-at-Large term, a 2-year Conservation District Representative, and a 1-year Alternate position. After discussion, Dick Shellenberger moved to appoint Gregory Strausser as the Conservation District Representative. Jay Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Anyone interested in serving as a Member-at-Large Representative, should see Chris Thompson within the next few days. A suggestion was made that this would be a good position for someone on the Foundation or Clean Water Partner boards. A District staff person could serve as Alternate since they would only need to attend when one of the other three directors could not attend. There are six meetings per year.

5. Ombudsman Agreement

Chris Thompson referred to the write-up for the PDA Ombudsman Agreement, on page 16 of the mailing. The Department of Agriculture is offering \$50,000 for the Ombudsman position. Lancaster is looking to get some additional funds due to WIP crossover. He noted that there is a SCC meeting the following week, where the additional funding will be voted on. Ken Meck moved to approve the \$50,000 PDA funding as presented in the write-up. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Nutrient Management Certification Re-Classification

Jeff Hill reported that all ag staff are certified under ACT 38 as Public. One of our employee's, Samantha Todt, is part of a family farm located outside of Lancaster County which is considered an ACT 38 volunteer operation. The request to change Samantha's certification from Public Review to Public Dual will allow Samantha to develop the Nutrient Management Plan for their family farm, which will help reduce cost and time. After a short discussion, Sonia Wasco moved that Samantha Todt's certification be upgraded from Public Review to Public Dual for the sole purpose of writing her family farm's Nutrient Management Plan. Ken Meck seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Low Volume Road QAB Recommendations

Herb Kreider and Matt Kofroth provided a 2018/2019 Low Volume Road Program Quality Assurance Board Meeting Recap handout sheet to all meeting attendees. They reported that the available funds covered less than half of what was needed. Herb mentioned that nobody got what they wanted, but everyone got something. Robert Shearer moved to approve funding the Low Volume Road projects as presented on the handout sheet. Dick Shellenberger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Spotted Lanternfly Project

Chris Thompson reported that Pennsylvania received \$17,000,000 in funding to be used to combat the Spotted Lanternfly, and \$500,000 is being directed specifically to conservation districts. Thirteen districts will be eligible for this funding. Sonia Wasco moved to authorize submitting a request for up to \$50,000 for the first stages of education, control and eradication. Dick Shellenberger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates

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

- Lancaster County Magazine – September 2018 – advertisement for 4th Annual Denim & Pearls Farm-To-Fork Dinner Gala on Wednesday, October 10th, 6 PM – 9 PM, at Harvest View Barn at Hershey Farms, Elizabethtown
- Thank you Letter – from Pennsylvania Family Institute – for memorial donation in memory of Evelyn Robinson – August 10, 2018
- Thank You Letter – from Lancaster County Conservancy – to 2018 Sponsors of Lancaster County Water Week
- Thank You Letter – from PACD – to Lancaster County Conservation District for supporting the 2018 NACD Northeast Regional Meeting and PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference. – August 23, 2018
- News Article – Lancaster Conservation District Offers Kids Stream Study Program – Shopping News – August 1, 2018
- News Article – Lancaster Conservation District Holds Owl Program – Shopping News – August 8, 2018
- News Article – Sonia Wasco honored for volunteering – LNP – August 20, 2018
- News Article – Envirothon – Event hosted for young students by Lancaster County Conservation District (Columbia School District featured the Envirothon as a highlight for their schools) – LNP – Schools Section – August 20, 2018
- News Article – LandStudies Recognized –The Lititz Record Express – August 23, 2018
- Staff Recognition – Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay recognizing Matt Kofroth with 2018 Environmental Leadership Award – September 13, 6-9 PM – Annapolis, MD
- Farmer's Breakfast – Co-hosted by Representative Mindy Fee and Senator Ryan Aument – Thursday, Sept. 27, starting at 9 a.m. – The Gathering Place – 6 Pine St. in Mount Joy
- 2018 All-Bay Agriculture Network Forum – hosted by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – December 3-5, 2018
- Chester Water Authority 2017 Annual Report

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Nate Kurtz referred to the E&S Report, on pages 19 and 20 of the mailing, and noted that E&S is lagging behind in income compared to the previous year. He reported that there are more plans with less acreage.

Next week DEP is opening their e-permitting program for the 105 program (cattle crossing, bridge replacement). There is some talk of doing the same with Chapter 102 projects. Kurtz also reported that the E&S Committee met on August 23rd for an Enforcement Conference. Since the contractor has taken care of the issues, a Consent Assessment of Civil Penalties (CACP) will be issued.

3. Scholarship Committee Update

Sonia Wasco mentioned that in May 2018, the committee discussed changing some of the scholarship parameters. The dollar amount of the scholarships has not changed for many years. The committee decided to go from offering four \$1,000 scholarships to offering two \$2,000 scholarships (\$1,000 paid out when entering college, and the other \$1,000 paid out after successfully completing the first year).

Item II.1

The Board was apprised of one scholarship recipient who decided to become a certified Wildlife Guide. Since certification does not meet the standards of the scholarship's existing program guidelines, that scholarship will not be awarded. A subcommittee was formed to look into raising more funding for the scholarship program.

4. Youth Conservation School Report

Sonia Wasco referred to the Youth Conservation School report, on page 22 of the mailing, to say that a lot of effort goes into this endeavor. The final paragraph of the report sums up the great support from volunteers and the various companies that contribute.

5. Lancaster County's Growing Greener Grants Update

Matt Kofroth reported that this is an informational update on Lancaster County Growing Greener Grants (pages 23-25 of mailing). Numerous municipalities are submitting projects as they will need credits for stormwater promotion.

6. Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Update

Chris Thompson reported on the WIP update where states have mandated counties to come up with a plan to reduce excess nutrients being contributed to water supplies. One of the keys is to get community participation and engage as many groups as possible. The plan is due in October and the committee is looking for some big ideas on what can be done. There was discussion on what no winter spreading would mean to Lancaster County farmers.

Additional Public Comment:

Gerald Heistand reported that the Outstanding Cooperator Committee needed to select their photograph before leaving the meeting.

Chairman Dan Heller officially adjourned the meeting at 9:14 PM.

Gerald Heistand
Recording Secretary