

Lancaster County Conservation District
Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2022 at 2:00 PM
Zoom Meeting Only

Attendees: Chris Thompson, Gerald Heistand, Dan Heller, Roger Rohrer, Kent Weaver, Sonia Wasco, Jay Snyder, Kevin Lutz, Sallie Gregory, Kent Bidding, Adam Stern, Robert Hoffman

2:00 PM Meeting Called to Order

On November 3rd, the Board gave approval for the Budget and Finance Committee to make an investment decision pending feedback from the SCC. The committee had met with Robert Hoffman a Fulton Financial Investment Advisor, about investing some of the District's reserve funds to generate additional capital, and administration received a response from the SCC that we needed to update our Financial Investment policy. An updated Investment policy was adopted by the LCCD Board on Dec 2, 2021. Since District program managers were not part of the discussion with Robert Hoffman, a meeting was announced to allow staff responsible for "managing" District funds to ask clarifying questions about the investment proposal in an open forum.

The Committee reconvened to discuss the options and settled on the decision to still require the 50/50 share for any committees/programs participating in the investment opportunity. The compromise is the B&F Committee has promised to revisit that requirement after the first year's reconciliation. If the portfolio is performing as expected, the Committee would modify the proposal and eliminate the 50/50 sharing and offer 100% of the annual earnings back to the initial investing participants. The two caveats to this plan are; 1) the self-insured risk management to cover a loss would end and 2) if there was ever a need for the earnings as well as any of the Assigned or Unassigned funds, they could be transferred to the General Fund, in consultation of the participating committee/program, by a vote of the LCCD Board of Directors. The Board has currently has this authority. After a year of "testing the waters" and getting comfortable with the investment strategy the committees and programs are expected to receive 100% of the earnings.

The Committee has a goal to move forward with opening the FFA portfolio by the end of March. Committee chairs were informed that if they did not want to participate, or if they wanted to participate at a lower amount than what was shown of the Example Balance Sheet, that they should notify Gerald or Chris by Wednesday, March 23rd so administration could plan accordingly.

Meeting Adjourned 2:59 PM