

Item II.1
**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 2021**

The 828th 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, April 7, 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 and Sonia Wasco.

The following Associate Director was present: Greg Strausser.

The following District Staff were present: Christopher Thompson, Gerald Heistand, Kevin Lutz, Rich Snyder, Kent Bitting, Matt Kofroth, Samantha Adams, Sallie Gregory, Kevin Seibert, Adam SeitzAdam 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 7:30 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.

Ken Meck provided the invocation for the meeting.

Additions to the Agenda: Chris Thompson stated no additions to the agenda.

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.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

Chris Thompson highlighted a few talking points in the agenda packet. There is an update to the Manure Management Manual FAQ.

The Ag Energy Workshop is providing guidance towards grants and funds available.

Statement of Financial Interest need to be turned in by May 1, 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, Sonia Wasco moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included items numbered one through four. Bob Shearer seconded the motion. Herb Kreider stated he would be abstaining from the vote because of his connection to one of the Nutrient Management plans up for approval. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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The Consent Agenda includes the following approved items.

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

III. Additional Business

1. Items removed from Consent Agenda

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

2. Treasures Report

Gerald Heistand reported that the General Operations fund is currently very high and explained that we received the entire County Commissioners funding in a one lump payment, which is typically not the case other years.

Chris Thompson stated the reason we got the full allocation of County Commissioner funds all at once was that this year they paid us out of their Act13 funding – which is different from other years. And no guarantee it will be like this in following years.

3. Personnel Committee Report

Sonia Wasco reported that Sallie Gregory and Matt Kofroth interviewed candidates for the Summer intern position and Brianna Beers is being recommended for hire to the Board of Directors. Sonia also reported that the interviews were held to fill the position of Ag Program Manager and Kevin Lutz is being recommended for hire to the Board with a start date of tomorrow, April 8, 2021, if approved.

Sonia moved to accept the recommendations of the personnel committee to hire Brianna Beers and Kevin Lutz. The motion was amended to add that hiring Kevin Lutz would be retroactive to the day Jeff Hill left. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Dirt and Gravel Road Committee Report

Matt Kofroth reported on the QA/QC Report and proposed Settlement Agreement. The 2021-2022 allocations that we will receive this year will be reduced by \$192,000 due to some deficiencies and violations that were found in our program. The settlement agreement calls for a reduction of 60% in our allocation for next year plus a one-time penalty of \$25,000. Directors discussed the sustainability of the program and the proposed action steps.

Herb Kreider moved to accept the DGR settlement agreement. Roger Rohrer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Conservation Excellence Projects

Kent Bitting reported that we have eight applications this month that were reviewed by staff. All of the applications meet all criteria of the Grant. Kent Bitting and Kevin Lutz recommend to the Board the approval of all eight of these projects for CEG Funding in the amount of \$211,460.13.

It was also reported that the S.C.C. has made available and additional \$500,000 for the Lancaster Program.

Bob Shearer moved to approve CEG funding amounts requested. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

6. PENNVEST/Andy III

Scotch Hill Solutions submitted an application for a PENNVEST Grant project for \$750,000 and are requesting the District to be a sponsor of this project. The Board is being requested to approve sponsoring the application for this project. Roger Rohrer moved that the District apply to be the sponsor for this project. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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IV. Reports/Information

1. Correspondence, News and Updates

- Thank You – Charlotte D. Sprenkle to Kevin Seibert for assisting – Andy Nissley – March 17, 2021
- Obituary – Patrick J. Fasano – Lancaster Newspaper – February 26, 2021
- Article – Spotted Lanternfly – Lancaster Newspaper – March 26, 2021
- Letter – Capital RC&D – Annual Dues Request – April 1, 2021
- Pamphlets – Sample of the South-Central Task Force pamphlets for Agricultural Emergencies – Revised February 2021

2. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Rich Snyder reported that in March 2021 the workload in the E&S department is above normal. E&S had 81 total new submissions for the first quarter. Complaints for March had a very high volume with a total of 26 complaints for March. Chapter 102 and 105 e-permitting has some updates to the program including a brand-new system that replaced Greenport without any notice to the District until it was live on March 22nd. On March 23rd and 24th the system went down to do glitches in the new Greenport (Keystone) system.

Rich reported on a new workload sharing program that DEP is putting into effect. DEP is short staffed and the program manager at DEP said they are over 400 projects behind in reviewing. DEP is going to be work-sharing the work out to the DEP Regional Offices and there are 18 Lancaster projects being reviewed by another region.

Dan Heller asked if the majority of the complaints are due to storm runoff. Rich stated that currently trout stocking is being conducted in our streams and as PA FBC Staff are driving around the County, they are seeing disturbances and reporting complaints. Rich also thinks that people working from home are having more time to drive around are seeing more to report. Rich wanted to emphasize that they are definitely legitimate complaints for a variety of reasons for the many complaints and not all due to run off.

3. Tree Sale Update

Sallie Gregory reported that the committee is working next week to package more than 400 orders. Thursday, April 15, 2021 is the drive thru to pick up the orders. The new communication database system, that was bought with a grant, worked well and saved the committee time.

4. Compliance and Complaint Investigations

Kevin Seibert reported that the new compliance employees who started February 1st are still in training. Kevin stated that the expected 300 annual inspections will not be met due to losing two employees so close together and hiring new employees that need to be trained. DEP has been informed of the current situation.

Kevin also reported on a complaint that was called into the District at beginning of March 2021. It was a complaint of a Christmas tree farm switching over to a pastured pig farm and the pigs are causing major damage and erosion issues. Kevin forwarded the complaint to DEP on March 10th. The complaint will be handled by DEP.

5. PACD Regional Director Meeting Report

Sonia Wasco reported that Conservation week will be April 18-24. The joint PACD/SCC meeting will be held this Summer via zoom. Plans are for the managers to meet this Fall for the first in-person meeting.

Chris Thompson suggested the Board consider submitting a proposal at the next Executive Council Meeting to discuss sharing multi-functional buffer project administrative dollars between Districts and PACD.

6. Banquet Update

Chris stated that the Banquet Committee is suggesting that we recognize the 2020 recipients later this Fall or hold them over to the regular 2022 banquet and recognize them then.

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Additional Public Comment:

Chris Thompson announced that there is a new virus that is highly contagious to horses. There has been several out-brakes in the State. A link to the information will be sent after the meeting. He wants to get word out to the plain sect about this new virus.

Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Heller officially adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm.

Suzanne Kopp
Recording Secretary