

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 5, 2014**

The 754th regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at 7:30 PM, in the conference room of the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA.

**The following Directors were present:** Frank R. Burkhart, Chairman; Kenneth Meck, Vice-Chairman; Dan Heller, Herb Kreider, Robert Shearer, Jay Snyder, Sonia Wasco and Commissioner Craig Lehman.

**The following Associate Directors were present:** Lisa Graybeal, Robert Wagner, and Kent Weaver.

**The following District Staff were present:** Christopher Thompson, District Manager; Gerald Heistand, Business Manager; Jeff Hill, Agriculture Program Manager; Nevin Greiner, Assistant E&S Program Manager; and Andy Hake, Agriculture Conservation Technician.

**The following Cooperating Agency representatives were present:** Heather Grove, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Elwood Blake, PA DEP.

Chairman Frank Burkhart called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and Robert Shearer provided the invocation for the meeting.

There were no guests to be introduced at the meeting.

There were no additions to the agenda.

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

It was announced that there was an item for special attention: Chris Thompson encouraged directors to give some thought as to how the District should respond to the proposed pipeline project.

**Agency Reports**

**1. USDA, NRCS**

Heather Grove reported that this is a transition report as NRCS is starting a new fiscal year. Information is provided for fiscal years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

**2. PA DEP Field Rep Report**

Elwood Blake referred to the November 2014 DEP Field Rep Talking Points that were provided in the mailing packet, and he provided updates on the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road programs and the REAP program. He also provided an article on the spotted lantern fly and mentioned that the pest has been identified in two Berks County townships.

**Consent Agenda**

Chairman Frank Burkhart gave opportunity for directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion.

Gerald Heistand reported that in the minutes of the October 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting, Jay Snyder's name was inadvertently missed from the list of directors present.

Hearing that there were no items to be removed, Chairman Burkhart stated that Consent Agenda items numbered one through three would be considered. Jay Snyder moved to approve the Consent Agenda

## Item #II.1

with the correction, to the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes, of adding Jay Snyder's name to the list of Directors in attendance. Ken Meck seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Following are the Consent Agenda items that were approved:

- 1. Minutes of October 1, 2014 Board meeting**
- 2. Technical Assistance Requests/Cancellations**
- 3. Nutrient Management Plan Approvals**

### **Additional Business**

#### **2. Treasurer's Report**

Gerald Heistand referred to the Account Balance Sheet and noted that there was little change in the fund balances. Several net income figures were highlighted on the Income and Expense report, and it was noted what the figures would be without the interfund transfers. Reasonable balances were noted on the General Operations Cash Flow report. Several details were noted on the District Activities, Grants and E&S Quarterly reports. The treasurer's reports will be filed subject to audit.

#### **3. Budget & Finance Committee—Draft 2015 Budget**

Gerald Heistand made a few comments about the minor changes that occurred since the budget was first presented on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and Dan Heller commended the staff for putting together a balanced budget. Dan Heller moved to approve the 2015 Lancaster County Conservation District budget as presented in the mailing. Robert Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Conservation Plan Acknowledgement**

Jeff Hill remarked that the information presented is straightforward. The Board acknowledged the Conservation Plans as listed on page 18 of the mailing.

#### **5. Personnel Committee—COBRA draft Policy**

Ken Meck mentioned that the Board has talked about the COBRA Policy several times, and it is now being presented to the Board for formal action. Ken Meck moved to adopt the COBRA Policy as presented in the mailing. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ken Meck also reported that the Personnel Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed five of the 28 applications received for the E&S Secretary position. Three will be invited to return for an interview.

It was announced that this year Board members will be invited to participate in the annual review process. This will not be the actual performance evaluation, but a review of the results of the employee evaluation.

#### **6. Altria—No-till Planter Grant Update**

Chris Thompson provided background on how we got to this place of proposing ownership of a no-till planter. The District received a grant to build and own a no-till planter, and we were working with Penn State to take ownership; however Penn State recently updated their policy to say that only employees of Penn State would be able to operate the planter. The bottom line is that if we own the equipment we will need to manage it and move it between farms. Herb Kreider voiced a concern that even though we say that Dennis Eby is the only individual who will move the planter on the road, how do we keep the farmer from doing it? In addition, how do we get proof that a farmer is self-insured? Chris Thompson agreed to pull this as an action item and table it until the December Board meeting.

## **7. Correspondence**

Chris Thompson circulated the following items and made several comments:

- LCCD Storage Shed Update & Bid Opportunity
- PENNVEST Letter to LCCD—Electrocell Loan Repayment Update
- Oregon Dairy Farm—2015 Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability Award Support Letter
- Don McNutt Retirement Bonus Thank You Letter to Board of Directors
- Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology Thank You Letter to Sallie Gregory
- PA Institute for Conservation Education Certificate of Appreciation and Thank You Letter to Sallie Gregory and Lancaster Co. Conservation District (Youth Conservation School) for donation to support two students (Bryce Workman & Sam Welk).
- PA Institute for Conservation Education’s Wildlife Leadership Academy Annual Report (noting YCS students).

A card for Kevin and Keith Lutz, who lost their auction building in the Green Dragon fire, was circulated for Board members to sign.

## **Reports/Information**

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

The E&S Projects report was provided on page 25 of the mailing.

### **2. PennVest Contractor Block**

Chris Thompson reported that the Contractor Block was not due to any incorrect actions of the District. Since the District is not legally responsible for ElectroCell’s loan repayment, it should not have been penalized with the Contractor Block. PennVest blames a computer glitch for the mishap.

### **3. Extraordinary Give—To Benefit the Conservation School**

Sonia Wasco mentioned that the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County has offered their non-profit organization and the District is providing a link on its main page to the Extraordinary Give project. This will provide a means to raise funds for the Youth Conservation School. She explained that every dollar donated to Extraordinary Give projects through this site will be stretched by \$250,000 from the Lancaster County Community Foundation. She encouraged directors and staff to be part of this fund raising effort.

### **4. Team Building Tree Planting Event**

Chris Thompson reported that he and Matt Kofroth are coordinating a tree planting event in the New Holland area as a team building project. Board members were welcomed to be part of the effort. The team building event for 2015 will be the trip to the Stroud Research Center on February 19. This will give Board members opportunity to interact with staff.

### **5. Position Statement on Gas Line through the County**

There was a consensus with Board members that as a regulatory agency we cannot take sides on the pipeline issue. We can, however, see that attention is paid to the sensitive areas that the pipeline will cross. Thompson mentioned that he will inform staff that they need to remain neutral in the debate and hold everyone they deal with to the same high standard of environmental compliance. Dan Heller moved that the District will not take a position (pro or con) on the pipeline project; but whenever possible, we will take an active role in being an advocate for protecting our natural resources as the project develops. Sonia Wasco seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Agriculture Industry Banquet**

Chris Thompson provided opportunity for Board members to sign up to attend the Ag Industry Banquet.

**7. NACD Annual Meeting—February 1—4**

Any director interested in attending should contact Chris Thompson or Chairman Burkhart as soon as possible, in order to take advantage of early registration.

**8. PACD South Central Region Meeting Review and Update**

Chris Thompson and Ken Meck attended the meeting on October 27. Meck reported that the biggest discussion item was on how to best distribute gas well funding for those counties that have the wells.

**Additional Comments**

Nevin Greiner thanked the Board for their contribution to the SVPS in honor of his Mother. Greiner also provided numerous remarks about the different projects he is working with as an E&S Technician. He verified that, contrary to what the newspaper reported, the District did not review a stormwater plan for the Rock Lititz Studio.

Sonia Wasco reported that several Outstanding Cooperator Committee members have voted, and the Outstanding Cooperator photo has been selected.

**Meeting Adjournment**

Ken Meck moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. Robert Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Gerald M. Heistand  
Recording Secretary