

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2014**

The 753rd regularly scheduled Board Meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District was held on Wednesday, October 1, 2014, at 7:30 PM, in the multi-purpose 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, and Dick Shellenberger.

The following Associate Directors were present: Darrell Becker, Lisa Graybeal, Stuart Herr, Roger Rohrer and Kent Weaver.

The following District Staff were present: Christopher Thompson, District Manager; Gerald Heistand, Business Manager; Jeff Hill, Agriculture Program Manager; and Kevin Seibert, Agriculture Compliance Coordinator.

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

The following guests were present: Earl Ray Zimmerman and Aaron Larsen.

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

It was mentioned that Luke Brubaker of Brubaker Farms received a prestigious award recently. Chris Thompson volunteered to look into the details.

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

Addition to the Agenda—Chairman Frank Burkhart announced the addition of an Executive Session which would occur at the end of the Reports and Information section of the meeting.

Robert Shearer introduced Earl Ray Zimmerman, who was invited to the front to accept the Chesapeake Bay Clean Farm Award. His was one of three farms in the state that received the award. The Board thanked him for all of the conservation BMPs that he installed and for sharing his conservation philosophy with others.

Dan Heller introduced Aaron Larsen to the Board. Aaron worked with the District from 2007 through 2009 as an Ag Conservation Technician and then went overseas to do international work in the Republic of Congo. He has obtained a Master's Degree in International Agriculture and is planning to return to do sustainable agriculture work in Tanzania. Heller mentioned that it is good to increase our connections with this effort. Aaron provided a PowerPoint presentation where he talked about the "Holistic Farming" concept. He plans to start a farm with a one year Intern training program to take locals and make them into a type of extension agent. Since many of the trainees are pastors, this will increase their overall effectiveness at changing lives for the better. A point was made that about 75% of the earth's population depends on subsistence farming. Aaron envisions that this farm will become sustainable in 5 or 6 years.

Agency Reports

1. USDA, NRCS

Heather Grove reported that this is the final report of the 2013/2014 fiscal year.

2. PA DEP Field Rep Report

The PA DEP Field Rep Report was provided in the meeting handout packet.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Frank Burkhart gave opportunity for directors to withdraw any of the items from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion. Hearing that there were no items to be removed, Chairman Burkhart stated that Consent Agenda items numbered one through three would be considered. Robert Shearer moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included items numbered 1 through 3. Dan Heller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Following are the Consent Agenda items that were approved:

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

Additional Business

2. Treasurer's Report

Gerald Heistand referred to the treasurer's reports on pages 9 through 12 with a few comments. The treasurer's report will be filed subject to audit.

3. Budget & Finance Committee Report

Dan Heller reported that the committee is looking to provide a more standardized one page report that summarizes all of the individualized budgets into one (General Operations, Erosion and Sedimentation, District Activities, Scholarship, Youth Conservation School and Grants). The new format should tie into a similarly formatted treasurer's report. He reported that the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed all of the detailed budgets. The bottom line is that the committee is projecting a balanced budget with some contingency allowances for calendar year 2015. Heller referred to the adjustments found at the bottom of the budget page to mention that it would be misleading to only see the \$169,729 figure on the net revenue over expense line. The budget will be brought back at a future meeting for Board approval.

4. Conservation Plan Acknowledgement

The Board acknowledged the Conservation Plans as listed on page 13 of the mailing.

5. LCCD Board Meeting Dates for 2015

Discussion on Board meeting dates indicated that we should continue to hold the planning meeting on the same day as the January Board meeting. Since the third Monday is a holiday, there was a consensus that the Annual Planning Meeting should be held on January 12 with the Board meeting following at 1:00 PM. Ken Meck moved to approve the listed Board Meeting dates (page 14 of the mailing) with the January meeting adjusted to January 12, to coincide with the Annual Planning Meeting. Robert Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The February 4th meeting will remain scheduled as a regular Board meeting.

6. Correspondence

The following correspondences were passed around the room for the benefit of all meeting attendees:

- A letter endorsing Ron Kopp as an SCC member
- A thank you letter from SVPS for the monetary memorial donation in honor of Nevin Greiner's Mother
- A letter of support for the 10 million dollar allocation to the RCPP program

Item #II.1

- A letter with PJM's response to the proposed net metering interconnection rule changes to the PUC
- PennAg Journal article on the Governor candidates
- Atlantic Sunrise Project information on the pipeline schedule
- An invitation to Representative Mindy Fee's Farmer's Breakfast
- A flyer on the workshop "Unlock the Secrets in the Soil and Streams"
- A sign-up sheet for the Stroud tour was also circulated. Board members were asked to select the dates that were best for them.

Reports/Information

1. E&S/NPDES Monthly Projects Report

Chris Thompson reported that the numbers for E&S have once again increased.

2. Personnel Committee

i. COBRA draft Policy for Review

Chris Thompson reported that this policy will be brought back for a vote at the November Board meeting.

ii. Ag Staff transition

Robert Shearer reported that the information on the Ag staff transition on page 22 of the mailing (relocating Adam Hartz into the vacant Ag Conservation Technician position) was self-explanatory.

3. Ombudsman and SWAT Agreements

Gerald Heistand compared the funding between PDA and DEP for the Ombudsman program.

4. Letter of Support—USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Chris Thompson mentioned that the letter to support this effort had already been circulated. He will keep the Board posted as anything develops.

5. Stroud Water Research Center Workshop for LCCD

The sign-up sheet had already been started around the room.

6. NACD Annual Meeting—February 1-4

Any director interested in attending should see Chris Thompson or Chairman Burkhart.

Executive Session:

At 8:40 PM, Chairman Burkhart called for an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. On a motion by Dick Shellenberger and second by Dan Heller the Board meeting resumed 21 minutes later. The Board took action approving a Personnel Committee recommendation that the Board recognize Don McNutt's years of dedication and service to the District by giving him a bonus of \$5,000. The motion was made by Ken Meck and the second by Dan Heller. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment

Ken Meck moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM. Herb Kreider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.