

LEHIGH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL 14, 2016

Chairman Bill Erdman called a regular meeting of the Lehigh County Conservation District Directors to order at 7:00 PM at the Lehigh County Conservation District Office located at 4184 Dorney Park Rd, Allentown, PA 18104

Present were:

Directors:

Bill Erdman	Chairman/Public Director
Mary Ellen Snyder	Public Director
Bill Royer	Public Director
Anton Shannon	Farmer Director
Geoff Brace	Commissioner Director
Paul Semmel	Farmer Director

Associates Directors:

Chris Strohler	Wildlands Conservancy
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Agencies:

Linda Mackey	SCC/DEP Conservation District Field Representative
Pete Zakanycz	NRCS/USDA

Staff:

Bill McFadden	District Manager
Cammy Kiechel	Executive Assistant
Kevin Castro	Resource Conservationist

Public:

Alex Tamerler	
Andrea Tessier, Penn State Extension	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR CHRYS BUCHMAN FROM NCCD

(The District will be making a donation to the Northampton Co. Envirothon in honor of Chrissy)

INTRODUCTIONS

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

NO ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS/AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

OATH OF OFFICE

Geoff Brace, Commissioner Director, performed the swearing in of the reappointment of William Erdman as Public Director and the new appointment of Paul Semmel as Farmer Director to the LCCD.

Robert Souder tendered his resignation as Farmer Director subject to the appointment of Paul Semmel. He would like to remain with the District as an Associate Director/Secretary/Treasurer.

It was on motion by Anton Shannon & seconded by Bill Royer to appoint Robert Souder as Associate Director/Secretary/Treasurer. All were in favor

APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S BOARD MEETING MINUTES

It was on motion by Geoff Brace & seconded by Anton Shannon to accept & approve the minutes from the March 10, 2016 Board of Directors' Meeting as written. All were in favor.

AGENCY REPORTS

Andrea Tessier, Director of Penn State Extension Office, Lehigh & Northampton Counties, reported that their mission is to strengthen the economic viability of the Ag community. They also work on strengthening the health and welfare of our community. A list of their events are available each month.

Linda Mackey, SCC/PADEP Conservation District Rep. noted that a lot of her written report is about the Chesapeake Bay since that is the hot issue right now. If anyone has questions regarding the Regional Updates on her report or as she gets new updates they are welcome to contact her. Linda talked to Paul Semmel about doing the orientation with him as a new District Director.

Chris Strohler, Wildlands Conservancy, reported on the many projects that the Wildlands are working on or have on their agenda for 2016. His report was included in the Directors' packet for review. There was much discussion.

Pete Zankanycz, NRCS/USDA, reported that there has been a lot of rain damage in the fields in both counties especially in the soybean fields. He discussed some of the issues that need to be addressed to help the farms in the Counties. There was much discussion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Contingency Monitoring

Bill Erdman noted that the Operating Funds & Balance sheet are in the packet. The funds are a little lower. Bill McFadden reported that the District recently received money due from the state.

Approval of Disbursement of Bills for March 2016

It was on motion by Geoff Brace and seconded by Bill Royer to accept and approve the Disbursement of Bills for March 2016. All were in favor.

Geoff Brace made the helpful suggestion to Paul Semmel, the new Farmer Director, to talk with Robert Souder and Bill McFadden to learn more about contingency and legacy costs for the District.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative

Bill Erdman noted that he has handed out LCCD Committee lists to the Directors for review. He would like to finalize any changes at the May board meeting.

He also reported that work is being done on the presentation to the County for May or June. The presentation will include a high level of what was presented at the March meeting regarding the Legacy Costs as well as the Power Point presentation that was shown at the Developers' Forum.

Bill Erdman reported that the Developers' Forum went well. There were good questions asked & it was a very interactive event.

Water Quality

Kevin Castro reported that the staff is very busy. Projects continue to be submitted. They would like to do more information sessions as time allows.

DIRECTOR ACTION ITEMS

Delegation Agreement for Water Quality

Bill Erdman reported that two Delegation Agreements were discussed at the March meeting. He asked if there were any questions.

It was on motion by Mary Ellen Snyder & seconded by Bill Royer to accept & approve the two Water Quality Delegation Agreements as presented. All were in favor.

Mini-Grant for Clark Mantz

Bill McFadden presented the scenario that an emergency permit needs to be issued by DEP to clean up the channel that is causing flooding on the Mantz property.

It was on motion by Geoff Brace & seconded by Anton Shannon to approve the \$3,000.00 Mini-Grant for Clark Mantz. All were in favor.

Geoff Brace noted that the District should communicate with elected officials when the project is completed to inform them of how the resources of the District were employed.

Cooperator's Agreement for William S. Harrison II Farm

It was on motion by Paul Semmel & seconded by Mary Ellen Snyder to approve the Cooperator's Agreement for a conservation plan for William S. Harrison II Farm. All were in favor.

Cooperator's Agreement for Keith D. Harwick

It was on motion by Paul Semmel & seconded by Anton Shannon to approve the Cooperator's Agreement to update a conservation plan for Keith D. Harwick. All were in favor.

NO NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

Update on Performance Evaluations

Bill Royer noted that the performance evaluation sheets are on schedule & will be presented to the Board in May. Bill Royer also noted that there was a recent conflict training for the staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were a lot of informative topics discussed during this part of the meeting.

CALENDAR ITEMS

NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2016 – 7:00 PM – Classroom #108

ADJOURNMENT – Bill Erdman adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Souder
Secretary/Treasurer

Cammy Kiechel
Recording Treasurer