

LEHIGH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 10TH, 2022

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, 4184 Dorney Park Rd., Allentown, PA 18104

Present were:

Directors:

Bill Erdman	Chairman/Public Director
Bill Royer	Public Director
Daniel Hunsicker	Vice-Chairman/Farmer Director
Bob Elbich	Comissioner
Adele Bon-Shannon	Public Director
Paul Semmel	Treasurer/Secretary/Farmer Director
Arland Schantz	Farmer Director

Associate Directors:

Staff:

Kevin Frederick	District Manager
Holly Kaplan	Assistant Manager
Marlene Mera	Executive Assistant
William McFadden	Conservationist

Agencies:

Linda Mackey	DEP/SCC Conservation District Field Representative
Austin Drager	NRCS Representative
Chris Strohler	Associate Director Wildlands Conservancy

Public:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS/AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Commissioner Bob Elbich conducted the appointment of Public Director to the LCCD Board.

Bob Elbich read the Oath of Office to Adele Bon-Shannon to become a Public Director on the LCCD Board of Directors; Adele accepted the position. Therefore, Bob Elbich declared Adele Bon-Shannon to be an LCCD Public Director.

Bob Elbich, the Commissioner, opened the nominations to appoint Chairman. Adele Bon-Shannon nominated William Erdman for Chairman, and Arland Schantz seconded it. The nomination was accepted and closed. All were in favor.

Bob Elbich thanked the Board of Directors for the opportunity given as he will be stepping down from commissioner.

Bob Elbich handed over the meeting to Chairman William Erdman and excused himself from the forum.

Arland Schantz nominated Dan Hunsicker for Vice Chairman, and Bill Royer seconded it. The nominations were accepted and closed. All were in favor. Arland Schantz nominated Paul Semmel for Secretary/Treasurer/Farmer Director, and Bill Royer seconded it. The nomination was accepted and closed. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9TH 2021 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and seconded by Paul Semmel to accept and approve the minutes from the December 9, 2021 Board of Directors' Meeting as written. All were in favor.

AGENCY REPORTS

Austin Drager, NRCS Representative, Austin highlighted the continued coordination between Amanda and himself in discussions of conservation planning and thanked Bill McFadden for his ongoing help. Overall, Austin gave a brief update about their busy year-end and future accomplishments.

Chris Stohler, Wildland Conservancy, shared their 2021 significant accomplishments and their 2022 projected outcomes. The Ecological Restoration staff was very busy with streams, restorations projects, and other programs. Also, there are several open positions for Grant Manager, Senior Communication Specialist, and great summer and seasonal jobs. Applications can be found on the website. Further discussions on several subjects were made.

Linda Mackey, DEP/SECC Conservation District Field, highlighted a couple of items from her report and mentioned that nineteen 2021 Growing Greener Grants were awarded. Also, two PACD awards were funded to reimburse farmers for their operations. Lastly, PACD awarded an amount of \$2,047.769 towards the Engineering Technical Assistance Program, which supports engineering positions across the state and watershed planning.

COUNTY UPDATES

TREASURER'S REPORT

Update on Contingency Monitoring

Kevin Frederick mentioned that the vendor balance details contained two different items: our annual professional liability insurance (Brown & Brown) and the audit (Cambell, Rappold & Yurasits, LLP). But, overall, our standard routine items remain the same.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS OF BILLS JANUARY 2022

It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and seconded by Arland Schantz to approve and accept the Disbursement of Bills for January 2022. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water Quality

Overall, the department continues to be busy.

DIRECTOR ACTION ITEMS

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Master Hill Rd Application – Weisenberg Twp (Low Volume)

Bill McFadden briefly explained that the applicant is requesting \$100,000 for the scope of the work that needs to be done. It was on motion by Dan Hunsicker and seconded by Bill Royer to approve and accept the Low Volume Master Hill Rd grant application. All were in favor.

Grist Mill Rd Application – N. Whitehall Twp (Dirt & Gravel)

Bill McFadden briefly discussed that the applicant requested \$125,000 for an existing culvert that needs repairs. It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and seconded by Dan Hunsicker to approve and accept the Grist Mill Rd Dirt & Gravel Road grant application. All were in favor.

Fountain Hill Alley Application (Low Volume)

Bill McFadden shared that the applicant is requesting \$30,000 for alley grass conversion of Long street in the borough of Fountain Hill. It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and seconded by Bill Royer to approve and accept the Fountain Hill Alley Grant Application. All were in favor.

MOU with North Whitehall Twp

William Erdman summarized that this MOU formalizes the relationship and roles between township and Districts. It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and seconded by Dan Hunsicker to approve and accept the MOU with North Whitehall Twp. All were in favor.

Strategic Plan Amendments to Goal 7 & 8

Kevin Frederick shared both goals for the Agricultural Outreach and Environmental Education were specific to our previous staff's vision. These goals and actions steps were brought forward to the committee to be revised more broadly and specifically towards the Districts vision. It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and seconded by Arland Schantz to approve and accept the changes of the Strategic Plan Amendments to Goal 7 & 8. All were in favor.

William Street Park Stream Stabilization Growing Grant awarded \$89,275.00

Kevin Frederick shared this grant will help install the linear feet fish habitat in the William Street Park Stream. It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and seconded by Dan Hunsicker to approve and accept the William Street Park Stream Stabilization Growing Grant awarded \$89,275.00. All were in favor.

Lehigh Parkway Stream Enhancement Growing Greener Grant \$74,800.00

Kevin Frederick quickly shared that this grant will also help install linear feet fish habitat in the Lehigh Parkway. It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and seconded by Dan Hunsicker to approve and accept the Lehigh Parkway Stream Enhancement Growing Greener Grant of \$74,800.00. All were in favor.

UAC22-LCCD Grant Application Board Resolution

Kevin Frederick shared this resolution is the approval and the completion of the Urban Agricultural grant project from NACD. It was on motion by Arland Schantz and seconded by Dan Hunsicker to approve and accept the UAC22-LCCD Grant Application Board Resolution as modified in both of the paragraphs discussed. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENT

CALENDAR

1. Office Closed for President Day **February 21**
2. Leadership Development Staff Conference Hybrid – State College and Virtual **February 23-24**
3. Leadership Development Regional Director Workshops – **various dates**
4. Conservation District & PA Agency All Ag Meeting Virtual **February 23-24**
5. 102/105 Topic-based Technical Training, Harrisburg **March 29-31**
6. Iron Pigs Game **April 22, 2022**

NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2021 – 7:00 pm – Virtual

ADJOURNMENT – Paul Semmel adjourned the meeting at

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Semmel
Secretary/Treasurer

Marlene Mera
Recorder 8:30