

LEHIGH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021

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
Dan Hunsicker	Vice-Chairman/Farmer Director
Bill Royer	Public Director
Adele Bon-Shannon	Public Director
Bob Elbich	Commissioner Director

Arland Schantz	Farmer Director
Paul Semmel	Treasurer/Secretary/Farmer Director

Associate Directors:

Staff:

Kevin Frederick	District Manager
Marlene Mera	Executive Assistant

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

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

It was on motion by Bill Royer and seconded by Paul Semmel to accept and approve the minutes from the December 10, 2020 Board of Directors' Meeting as written. All were in favor, Bob Elbich Commissioner Director and Adele Bon-Shannon, Public Director, abstained.

AGENCY REPORTS

Chris Strohler, Wildlands Conservancy reported they have been busy with planning and grant applications. They are focused on expanding access and adjacent parcels to the Nature Preserves. Property Stewardship has been busy focusing on the maintenance of the Dorothy Rider Pool Wildlife Sanctuary and the opening of 3 new Nature Preserves in the Lehigh Valley. There was much discussion regarding future projects.

Austin Drager, NRCS Representative, briefly explained that it had been a busy two months preparing funding applications. There are 15 applications in Lehigh county, with 4 being a high priority totaling \$360,000. In addition, Austin welcomed Anita Menegaux to the NRCS team. She will be the Civil Engineering Technician for PA Southeast 6, assisting Northampton, Lehigh, Buck, and Montgomery counties with projects. Austin has also been following up with Amanda Bunn on Conservation planning.

Linda Mackey, DEP/SECC Conservation District Field, highlighted a couple of items and questions in her report. First, Linda questioned if any Directors were up for nominations, which were quickly answered with a "no" and a brief explanation by Kevin Frederick. Next, Linda explained and shared that the Drone Policy was approved in January. Linda pointed out two valuable pieces of training to attend are coming up: Project Sharing & Success stories and Effective Boards. Brief questions were asked and answered.

## COUNTY UPDATES

### TREASURER'S REPORT

#### Update on Contingency Monitoring

Paul Semmel stated our balance sheet from December & January had a difference of \$31,000.

### APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS OF BILLS FOR DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021

It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and seconded by Dan Hunsicker to approve and accept the Disbursement of Bills for December 2020 & January 2021. All were in favor.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Managers update

Kevin Frederick highlighted that he would soon begin focusing on the strategic plan with committees to set goals for 2021.

### DIRECTOR ACTION ITEMS

#### Bear Rd – Lowhill Twp Low Volume Rd Project

Kevin Frederick shared that the project has been approved by the state and Dirt and Gravel road committee. Follow-up and site visits will occur until the project is completed. It was on motion by Paul Semmel and seconded by Bill Royer to approve and accept the Bear Rd – Lowhill Twp Low Volume Rd Project. All were in favor.

#### Growing Greener Grant, CCPW

A letter was received and stated we were selected to receive a Cedar Creek enhancement grant for \$60,375.

It was on motion by Bill Royer and seconded by Bob Elbich to approve and accept the Growing Greener Grant, CCPW All were in favor.

#### LCCD District Website Budget Amendment

Kevin Frederick quickly explained the changes on two line items in the budget. The first change was to reduce the employee professional development from \$25,000 to \$22,000, with the second change increasing the website maintenance budget line item with a shift of \$3,000. It was on motion by Paul Semmel and seconded by Arland Schantz to approve and accept the LCCD District Website Budget Amendment. All were in favor.

### NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

### OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

### PUBLIC COMMENT

### CALENDAR

1. February 8 - 12 Conservation District Staff Conference – Virtual
2. February 15-17 & 23 – 24 Building for Tomorrow Board Leadership Webinar Series

NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 7:00 pm – Remotely

ADJOURNMENT – Bill Erdman adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Semmel  
Secretary/Treasurer

Marlene Mera  
Recorder