

**LUZERNE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
325 SMITHS POND ROAD, SHAVERTOWN, PA 18708
April 11, 2019**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Timothy Ference, Chairman called the meeting of the Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors to order at 6:07 PM at the district's office and noted that the meeting was being recorded to aid in the preparation of the meeting minutes. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL - BOARD MEMBERS:

Timothy Ference	Chairman	Present
John J. Wilkes, Jr.	Vice-Chairman	Excused
Timothy J. Connolly, Jr.	Treasurer	Present
Tracey Stevens	Secretary	Excused
Leonard J. Burger, Jr.	Member	Present
John P. Hanish, Jr.	Member	Present
Chris Maylath	Member	Excused
Gary A. Moyer, Sr.	Member	Present
Matthew Vough	Member	Present

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES:

Hunter Bednarczk, Program Technician	written report submitted
Heather Graham, E&S/NPDES Program Coordinator	written report submitted
Deborah Josuweit, Office Administrator	Present/written report submitted
Jennifer Lauri, Ag Conservation Specialist	written report submitted
John Levitsky, Watershed Specialist	written report submitted
Joshua Longmore, Executive Director	Present/written report submitted
Amber Martin, Conservation Specialist (MDC Program)	
Michael Schlauch, Conservation Specialist (Ag & Roads Programs)	written report submitted

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

Andrew Kearse	NRCS	Present/written report submitted
Shane Kleiner	PA DEP	written report submitted

ORDER OF BUSINESS

(**Denotes motion or action taken by the district board)

PUBLIC COMMENT: Walter Kochan and William Monk (citizens), requested their comments be presented at the end of the board meeting. Ference granted the request.

MINUTES: Submitted by Josuweit.

****Motion by Moyer, seconded by Vough to approve the March 14, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Submitted by Josuweit.

Longmore noted E&S Program fees are maintaining about the same level as last year with increased activity throughout the county.

****Chairman Ference ordered the Financial Reports to be filed for audit.**

ACTION ITEMS:

Bids for Krispin Farm Ag BMP Project

Longmore reported on the bids for the Krispin Farm Ag BMP project which includes a heavy use area, manure stacking area and associated practices. Only one bid was received by the deadline for a total of \$201,660.00.

Two more bids were received in the afternoon mail but were not opened since they were received after the deadline. There is about \$179,000 available in the grant for this project. Longmore suggested the board reject the bid since it exceeds the available grant funds and re-post for new bids with some slight modifications to the design. Contractors who attended the earlier mandatory site showing would not be required to visit the site again, but new contractors would need to make arrangements with Lauri to view the site.

****Motion by Burger, seconded by Vough to reject the bid that was received on the Krispin Farm project and to re-bid project as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.**

Well Drilling Quotes for Krispin Ag BMP Project

Longmore explained that a new well was not included in the larger project bidding for the Krispin Farm project, because of the unknown costs related to drilling a well. Lauri requested estimates from seven local well drillers, but only two provided eligible quotes – Sorber Well Drilling and Van Fleet Drilling. Longmore reviewed the quotes for comparison to make sure they quoted the same depth and specs. After adjusting accordingly, Van Fleet had the lower estimate at \$9,475.00.

****Motion by Hanish, seconded by Moyer to contract with Van Fleet Drilling to drill the water well at the Krispin project site at a cost of \$9,475.00. The motion carried unanimously.**

Longmore reminded the board that the amount is an estimate, and the cost could be more or less than quoted depending on the actual depth needed.

****Motion by Hanish, seconded by Connolly to amend the wording of the previous motion to “estimated cost”. The motion carried unanimously.**

2015 Growing Greener Ag & Stream Grant Scope of Work Change

Ference noted a discussion was held during the March meeting on 2014 Growing Greener Grant scope of work changes. Longmore explained this agenda item should also refer to the 2014 grant, instead of the 2015 grant. Since the grant still has significant funds available and expires at the end of this year, Schlauch has proposed a few potential projects: one for a comprehensive nutrient management plan on the Burd Farm in Hollenback Township estimated at \$6,000 to \$7,000 and another for a diversion repair project on the Drasher Farm estimated at \$15,000 to \$16,000. Longmore requested approval for a scope of work change to add these projects.

****Motion by Burger, seconded by Vough to authorize a scope of work change to the 2014 Growing Greener Ag BMP Grant as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.**

Building & Grounds Maintenance Project

Longmore requested the board’s approval for sealcoating the parking lot and driveway. He contacted three companies – Douglas Seal Coating, B&J Paving, and Mayo Striping. He would like board approval to move forward with this project with the lowest bidder. The other project is for staining the decks, shed and parts of the building that held old air conditioner units. Longmore hasn’t received a quote but would like to use Classical Painting, the same contractor who has done the previous work on the building.

****Motion by Vough, seconded by Connolly to authorize Longmore to engage in a contract with the lowest bidder for sealcoating and to use Classical Painting for the staining project. The motion carried unanimously.**

Additional Items

DGLV Roads Funding

The SCC wants districts to spend all of the funding they were allocated under the previous 5-year Roads Program agreement allocation funds by June 30, 2019. Ference reported the SCC categorized each district on the status of their spending which will determine future allocations. Longmore reminded the board of the approval at last month’s meeting of the grant for Ross Township’s low-volume paved road project. With that action, our district should be in good standing with the allocations committed to projects that will be completed within the required timeframe.

State Budget

Longmore reported on the state budget process, explaining the district receives money from the PA Departments of Agriculture (PDA) and Environmental Protection (DEP). In the governor’s current proposal, the funding from PDA has remained steady and in-place, but the DEP funding was pulled from the agency’s general budget and moved into the Environmental Stewardship Fund, which is a special fund that primarily pays for Growing Greener Grants. PACD is concerned with this proposal and does not support it. Longmore suggested that board members contact their legislators regarding the governor’s proposal. PACD has scheduled Conservation Week to

begin on May 5th and run through May 11th. Capitol Day will be held in Harrisburg on May 8th, and districts are invited to meet with state legislators. Longmore asked about interest from board members, and Ference, Vough and Moyer expressed interest in visiting Harrisburg with Longmore on May 8th.

Ference noted staff reports were included in the board packet.

COOPERATING AGENCY REPORTS:

NRCS – Kease provided a written and verbal report. He highlighted concerns about the Spotted Lanternfly. Longmore noted that PDA has been funding districts in the quarantine area to do educational and outreach programs. If Luzerne County gets included in the quarantine in the future, they may reach out to the district to consider doing programs which may work well with the MDC program. Kease also reported that a local NRCS/CD Workgroup meeting is being planned for July 10, 2019 at Nescopeck State Park and encouraged everyone's participation.

FSA – Annual report is provided in the packet. Quarterly report made available for review.

PA DEP – Kleiner provided a written.

PACD – Ference noted the quarterly meeting that he attended with Hanish and Longmore. The Ways and Means Committee is looking into a possible increase in dues for 2019/2020. PACD's old office has not been sold, so they are working with a new Realtor. If anyone is interested in receiving newsletter updates they can provide their email address to the office to be forwarded to PACD.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Luzerne County Envirothon will be held on Tuesday, April 30th at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds.
- Reminder that the State Ethics Commission Statements of Financial Interest are due May 1st.
- April LCD Board of Directors Meeting – 4/11/19 @ 6:00 PM.

Ference opened the floor for public comment.

William Monk from Butler Township asked if New York State is taken into account when they measure pollutants that go into the Chesapeake Bay. Longmore reported that the Susquehanna River Basin Commission does have monitors near the borders and just as Pennsylvania is accountable for meeting CB pollution requirements, so is NY. PA has a larger portion of land area that drains into the bay, so the reductions are larger for PA. Monk also asked if the district will publish information about the Spotted Lanternfly. A brief discussion was held on the topic and Longmore will look into it.

Walter Kochan from Kunkle, Dallas Township asked if the district has any recommendations to help provide guidance to protect against erosion on his property that has occurred since the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline was installed on his property. He is looking for someone to oversee the contractor's planting the proper seed mixture and installing it properly. Longmore offered to review the issue and gather information of possible consultants that could help Mr. Kochan. Mr. Kochan also asked if the district has authority over erosion and E.coli contamination from cow pastures. Longmore explained that the district only has authority over erosion and sedimentation on active earth disturbance. The issue of the pasture not being stabilized can be addressed by the district, but he'll need to research the concerns about E.coli.

****Motion by Hanish, seconded by Stevens to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

This meeting was recorded on a digital recorder to assist in the preparation of the official written minutes.

Respectfully Submitted by: Deborah Josuweit, Office Administrator

Approved by action of the Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors on May 9, 2019.


Chair or Vice Chair


Treasurer or Secretary

