

**LUZERNE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
325 SMITHS POND ROAD, SHAVERTOWN, PA 18708
October 20, 2022**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chairman Jack Hanish called the meeting of the Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors to order at 6:01 PM, noting that the meeting was being held in-person and via video/phone conference and that it was being recorded, and he led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL - BOARD MEMBERS:

John J. Wilkes, Jr.	Excused
John P. Hanish, Jr.	Present
Tracey Chonko	Excused
Leonard J. Burger, Jr.	Present via phone
Thomas Herbert	Present
Gary A. Moyer, Sr.	Present
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.	Excused

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES:

Hunter Bednarczyk, Conservation Specialist (E&S/NPDES Program)	written report submitted
Heather Graham, E&S/NPDES Program Coordinator	written report submitted
John Gentilesco, MDC Program Technician	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
Michael Schlauch, Conservation Specialist (Ag & Roads Programs)	written report submitted

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

Andrew Kears	NRCS	Present via phone
Caitlin Skibiel	DEP	Present via video

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

****Motion by Moyer, seconded by Herbert to approve the September 15, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Hanish noted the financial reports in the board packet and invited questions. Longmore noted E&S fees are trending close to the budget and a new account has been opened for the advance working capital for the 2020 GG grant.

****Hanish ordered the Financial Reports to be filed for audit.**

COOPERATING AGENCY REPORTS:

NRCS – Kears provided a written and verbal report.

DEP – Skibiel provided a written and verbal report.

Longmore gave a brief update on the CAP implementation grant Skibiel referenced. He noted staff met with CAP Coordinator Josh Glace, Larsons Design Group, to discuss potential projects to include in the application. They

include a riparian buffer planting project, funding for maintenance on older agricultural BMP projects, and funding for a new Ag BMP project. The also discussed an Environmental Education Grant application for forestry education and outreach.

PACD – A written report was included in the board packet.

STAFF REPORTS:

Hanish noted that staff reports were included in the board packet as item 4.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Contract Amendment for Black Creek Township LV Roads Project

****Motion by Moyer, seconded by Herbert to approve the contract amendment to extend the contract for the Black Creek Township Park Street Low-Volume Roads Project until 12/31/2023. The motion carried unanimously.**

Contract Amendment for Union Township DG Roads Project

****Motion by Moyer, seconded by Herbert to approve the contract amendment to extend the contract for the Union Township Baer Road Dirt and Gravel Roads Project until 12/31/2023. The motion carried unanimously.**

Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program Update

Longmore gave an update on the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and reviewed information from the State Conservation Commission that was included in the board packets. The SCC has invited comments from districts on the draft documents, which are due by October 21st. Longmore reported that he will provide a few comments, but overall, the SCC's proposed program appears promising. He noted that Lauri sits on the SCC's advisory workgroup that has been providing input on aspects of the program. Longmore expects a delegation agreement will be brought before the board for consideration in November or December.

Update on 2023 Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program Status

Longmore gave a brief update to the 2023 MDC program. DEP has indicated that Luzerne County is not interested in operating the program, and merging operations into another county's MDC program is not an option. Longmore is working on a scenario by which the district could continue administering the program under more favorable conditions, and he will discuss it with the Executive Committee at an upcoming meeting. It was the consensus of the board to continue administering the program if a more favorable situation can be arranged.

Employee Step Increase Acknowledgment

Longmore noted that this agenda item was not applicable this month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PACD NE Regional Meeting in Pottsville (w/ virtual option) – 10/25/22 at 10:00 AM

November LCD Board of Directors Meeting – 11/17/22 at 6:00 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

****Motion by Moyer, seconded by Herbert to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Josuweit, Office Administrator.

Approved by action of the Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors on November 17, 2022.


Chair or Vice Chair


Treasurer/Secretary