

**LUZERNE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
325 SMITHS POND ROAD, SHAVERTOWN, PA 18708
July 20, 2023**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Wilkes 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. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL - BOARD MEMBERS:

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

Tim Ference, Director Emeritus, was present.

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES:

Hunter Bednarczyk, Conservation Specialist (E&S/NPDES Program)	written report submitted
Keith George, Program Coordinator (MDC & Special Projects)	written report submitted
Heather Graham, E&S/NPDES Program Coordinator	written report submitted
Lauren Holder, MDC Technician	written report submitted
Deborah Josuweit, Office Administrator	Present/written report submitted
Jennifer Lauri, Ag Conservation Specialist	written report submitted
Morgan Lancenese, MDC Technician	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:

Caitlin Skibiel	DEP	Present via video/written report submitted
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ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Martin Murray was present and questioned the status of his Ag BMP project.

MINUTES:

****Motion by Hanish, seconded by Herbert to approve the June 15, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Wilkes noted the financial reports in the board packet and invited questions.

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

COOPERATING AGENCY REPORTS:

NRCS – None

DEP – Skibiel provided a written and verbal report via video.

PACD – A written report was included in the board packet. Longmore noted that he, Hanish, and Herbert attended the SCC/PACD Joint Annual Conference.

STAFF REPORTS:

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

BUSINESS ITEMS:

ACAP Grant Recommendations from Ag Advisory Workgroup

Longmore announced the launch of the district’s Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and provided minutes from the advisory workgroup meeting which included recommendations on the three applications that were received.

****Motion by Hanish, seconded by Wolovich to accept the workgroup’s recommendation to approve ACAP funding for the Venesky project in the amount of \$117,593.07 with a 20% contingency for additional project costs. The motion carried unanimously.**

****Motion by Moyer, seconded by Hanish to accept the workgroup’s recommendation to move forward with phase 1 BMPs for the Eric Steven’s project using Huntington Creek Watershed Growing Greener funds prior to the grant expiration date and to approve ACAP funding to complete conservation and nutrient management plans for the operation. The motion carried unanimously.**

****Motion by Hanish, seconded by Herbert to accept the workgroup’s recommendation to approve ACAP funding for phase 1 of Kyle Stempien’s project to complete Ag E&S and manure management plans and generate project cost estimates based on the practices identified in the plans. The motion carried unanimously.**

DEP’s Abandoned Mine Land/Acid Mine Drainage Reclamation Grant Program

Longmore provided information on DEP’s AML/AMD Grant Program. Local governments and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for the grants. Levitsky and Longmore will work with local entities to consider opportunities to partner on potential projects. Ference provided information on the Jeddo Mine Tunnel, a major AMD discharge in Butler Township. No formal action was requested.

Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program Personnel Recommendation

Longmore reported the program is running well under George’s leadership. A new mosquito-borne disease, known as the Jamestown Canyon Virus, has been identified in Luzerne County for the first time in the state. Mosquito samples from Hanover and Butler Townships recently tested positive for West Nile Virus. Program staff are stepping up treatments in those areas. Longmore made a personnel recommendation because of Holder’s excellent job performance. He and George recommend a promotion for her from a Program Technician Step 8 to Step 13.

****Motion by Moyer, seconded by Wolovich to approve the personnel recommendation to promote Lauren Holder to Program Technician, Step 13. The motion carried unanimously.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

6/30/23 - Letter from PA Envirothon Regarding Board of Director Nominations in the packet, item 6 (please let Longmore know of interest by 8/11/23).

8/3/23 - CREP Workshop in Muhlenburg from 9AM-1PM

8/17/23 - August LCD Board of Directors Meeting at 6PM

8/22/23 - Soil Health Field Workshop at Bloss Farm in Hobbie from 10AM-3PM

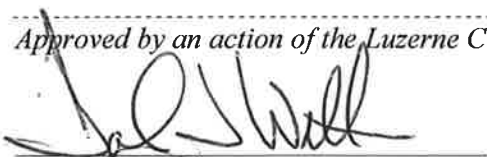
PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

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

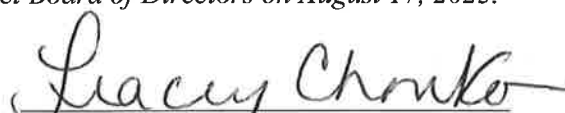
The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Josuweit, Office Administrator.

Approved by an action of the Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors on August 17, 2023.



Chair or Vice Chair



Treasurer/Secretary