

**LUZERNE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
325 SMITHS POND ROAD, SHAVERTOWN, PA 18708
March 19, 2026**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chairman Moyer called the meeting of the Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors to order at 12:00 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 – DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

John J. Wilkes, Jr., Chairman	Excused
Gary A. Moyer, Sr., Vice Chairman	Present
Tracey Chonko, Secretary/Treasurer	Present via phone
Leonard J. Burger, Jr.	Present via phone
Thomas Herbert	Present
Patty Krushnowski	Present
Gary Williams	Present
Jerry George, Associate Director	Present via phone

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES:

Hunter Bednarczyk, Conservation Coordinator (E&S)	written report submitted
Keith George, Deputy Director	Present/written report submitted
Heather Graham, Conservation Coordinator (E&S)	written report submitted
Lauren Holder, Conservation Specialist (MDC & Cons. Edu.)	written report submitted
Deborah Josuweit, Office Administrator	
John Levitsky, Watershed Specialist	Present/written report submitted
Joshua Longmore, Executive Director	Present/written report submitted
Jennifer Merryman, Conservation Specialist (Ag)	Present/written report submitted
Michael Schlauch, Conservation Coordinator (Ag & Roads)	Present/written report submitted

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

Esther Ermlick	NRCS	Present/written report submitted
Janet Creegan	DEP	Present via Phone/written report submitted

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

1. MINUTES:

****Motion by Burger, seconded by Herbert to approve February 19, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.**

2. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Moyer noted the financial reports for February were provided and invited questions.

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

3. COOPERATING AGENCY REPORTS:

USDA – Ermlick provided a verbal and written report.

DEP – Creegan provided a verbal and written report.

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

4. STAFF REPORTS:

Staff reports were included in the board packet.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS:

5a. PENNVEST Resolution for Balliet Ag BMPs Project

Longmore explained the process associated with sponsoring PENNVEST Ag BMP projects. Merryman provided information on the Long Hollow Cattle Company (Balliet) Ag BMP project in Luzerne and Columbia Counties. The estimated total for both sites is \$1.4 million.

****Motion by Williams, seconded by Burger, to approve the PENNVEST Resolution to Apply for the Long Hollow Cattle Company Ag BMP Project. The motion passed unanimously.**

5b. Update on Other Potential PENNVEST Projects

Merryman provided updates on several other potential projects that are moving through the evaluation process and which may be presented for consideration of district sponsorship in the future.

5c. Contractor Selection for Earth Conservancy Tree Planting Project

Levitsky presented three quotes for the Earth Conservancy Nanticoke Creek Tree Planting Project.

****Motion by Burger, seconded by Chonko, to accept Green Valley Landscaping's proposal for \$36,100 for the Earth Conservancy project, contingent upon contractor responsibility verification by DEP. The motion passed unanimously.**

5d. Contractor Selection for Dallas School District Tree Planting Project

Levitsky presented three quotes for the Dallas School District Planting Project.

****Motion by Herbert, seconded by Krushnowski, to accept Green Valley Landscaping's proposal for \$9,600 for the Dallas School District project, contingent upon contractor responsibility verification by DEP. The motion passed unanimously.**

5e. Use of PTC Stream Funding for DiPasquale Site on Shickshinny Creek

Levitsky described the ongoing serious erosion at the DiPasquale site on Shickshinny Creek. He and Longmore discussed the potential use of the district's PA Turnpike Commission stream mitigation funds or existing CAP Implementation Grant funding to address the site.

****Motion by Herbert, seconded by Williams, to pursue agency approval to use funding from either or both sources to address the DiPasquale site on Shickshinny Creek. The motion passed unanimously.**

5f. Lebanon CCD's Proposed PACD Policy Regarding Testing of Biosolids

Longmore noted the Lebanon CCD's proposed policy for PACD to support requiring testing of biosolids for PFAS and PFOS prior to application on agricultural lands and a mandatory moratorium until testing is enacted, that was provided by PACD for consideration by membership.

****Motion by Williams, second by Krushnowski, to support the Lebanon CCD's proposed PACD policy regarding testing of biosolids. The motion passed unanimously.**

5g. Contracting for IT Services

George is requesting quotes from IT consultants to assist in migrating Google Workplace and provide enhanced cybersecurity options. He and Longmore will meet with consultants and evaluate the proposals.

****Motion by Krushnowski, seconded by Chonko, to allow Longmore and George to vet IT consultants and to choose one to provide the services as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.**

5h. MDC Seasonal Technicians Hiring

George reported on the process of filling the two seasonal technician positions and requested board approval to hire the top two candidates as Conservation Technicians, Step 3, as covered under the MDC Program grant.

****Motion by Williams, second by Herbert, to authorize George to hire two seasonal MDC technicians as Conservation Technicians, Step 3. The motion passed unanimously.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

3/24/26 – “Back to Basics” Board Member Orientation Workshop @ Monroe CCD

4/16/26 – April LCD Board of Directors Meeting at 12:00 PM

4/21/26 – Luzerne County Envirothon at Camp Kresge

4/30/26 – PACD Northeast Region Meeting at Pike CCD, 10am-noon.

5/1/26 – Statements of Financial Interests (PA Ethics Comm.) forms due

Longmore reported that Susan Traver emailed him and Wilkes informing them she resigned as an associate director.

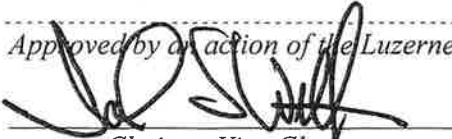
PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

****Motion by Krushnowski, seconded by Chonko, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

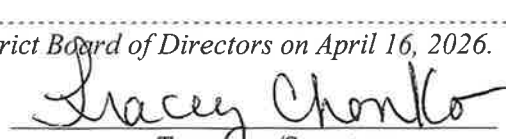
The meeting adjourned at 1:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Josuweit, Office Administrator.

Approved by action of the Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors on April 16, 2026.



Chair or Vice Chair



Treasurer/Secretary

RESOLUTION TO APPLY

The undersigned, an authorized representative of Luzerne Conservation District (the "District") (Borrower), hereby certifies that at a meeting held on the 19th day of March, 2026, after due notice, at which a quorum was present, the District (the "Governing Body") unanimously adopted the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the Governing Body shall be, and the same hereby are authorized to submit a Financial Assistance Application to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST), substantially in the form presented at this meeting for the purpose of partially financing the construction of the agricultural systems at the Long Hollow Cattle Company farms in Butler Township, Luzerne County and Beaver Township, Columbia County, Pennsylvania. Appropriate officers of the Governing Body are hereby authorized to execute all certifications and documentation required in connection with the application."

I hereby certify that the above Resolution is in full force and effect as of the 19th day of March, 2026.



John J. Wilkes, Jr., Chairman