

LEHIGH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2023

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
Bill Royer	Public Director
Dan Hunsicker	Vice-Chairman/Farmer Director
Adele Bon-Shannon	Public Director
Paul Semmel	Treasurer/Secretary/Farmer Director
Antonio Pineda	Commissioner Director
Arland Schantz	Farmer Director

Associate Directors:

Staff:

Kevin Frederick	District Manager
Holly Kaplan	Assistant Manager
Marlene Mera	Executive Assistant
Amanda Bunn	Agricultural Resource Conservationist
Jessica Koch	MS4 Coordinator

Agencies:

Janet Creegan	DEP
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Public:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS/AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 09, 2023, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

It was on motion by Dan Hunsicker and seconded by Bill Royer to accept and approve the minutes from the November 9, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting as written. All were in favor.

AGENCY REPORTS

Janet Creegan, NRCS Representative, highlighted several important updates on Pennsylvania's water resources. The state is seeking District Directors for Regional Advisory Committees, the Department of Agriculture has enacted a revised Fertilizer Law, the Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comment on revised nonpoint source grant guidelines, training webinars on Sediment Traps and Basins Channels are open for registration, and the NPDES PAG-12 General Permit for Operation of CAFOs has been published as final. Additionally, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program is offering administrative training sessions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul Semmel referenced the variation in the amount over two months, which was clarified through discussion.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS OF BILLS FOR NOVEMBER 2023

It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and seconded by Bill Royer to accept and approve the Disbursement of Bills for October and November 2023. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HR COMMITTEE- Appraisals are being wrapped up for the end of the month.

DIRECTOR ACTION ITEMS

ACT Program Agreement

Kevin Frederick explained that this is the five-year renewal agreement for the Agricultural Conservation Technician (ACT) Program. Lehigh CCD receives \$20,000 for staff time to provide planning and technical assistance to local agricultural producers. This is purely for technical help and is not regulatory. The Board would be voting to accept the five-year agreement to continue providing this assistance to the Ag producers in Lehigh County. It was a motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and seconded by Bill Royer to accept and approve the renewal of the Act Program Agreement. All were in favor.

Pappy's Orchard ACAP Application

Kevin Frederick briefly shared that this proposed ACAP farm BMP project includes a roofed solid manure stacking structure, compost facility, runoff controls, outlets, heavy-use area, and critical area plantings. A Nutrient Management Plan has been prepared for the operation. The proposed BMPs will allow Pappy's Orchard to store manure, compost dead animals for six months, and manage waste as planned. The ACAP program presented the opportunity to implement a project that otherwise couldn't happen due to proximity to surface water. It was a motion by Paul Semmel and seconded by Bill Royer to accept and approve Pappy's Orchard ACAP Application. All were in favor.

LCCD Draft Audit

Due to the incomplete audit, this matter will not be discussed until the January meeting. As soon as the draft is available, estimated by Tuesday, December 19, it will be emailed for the Board's review.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Lehigh County MS4 Permit Renewal

Lehigh County's MS4 Permit renewal application is complete and will be presented at a public meeting before submitting it to PADEP in January. We aim to meet all regulatory requirements and execute the renewal process efficiently.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENT

CALENDAR

1. SCC Hybrid Meetings – January 23, March 12, 2024
2. SCC Conference Calls 8:30 – 10:00 am, February 20, April 9, 2024
3. PACD Leadership Development Fall Series December 13, 2023

NEXT MEETING DATE: **Thursday, January 11, 2024 – 7:00 pm**

ADJOURNMENT_– Paul Semmel adjourned the meeting at

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Semmel
Secretary/Treasurer

Marlene Mera
Recorder 7:38 pm