

LEHIGH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING HELD ON APRIL 11TH, 2024

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

Associate Directors:

Staff:

Kevin Frederick	District Manager
Holly Kaplan	Assistant Manager
Marlene Mera	Executive Assistant

Agencies:

Austin Drager	NRCS
Janet Creegan	Conservation District Field Representative

Public: Kurt Gerhard ACAP Project Bids

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS/AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

APPROVAL OF MARCH 14TH, 2024, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

It was on motion by Antonio Pineda and seconded by Bill Royer to accept and approve the minutes from the March 14, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting as written. All were in favor.

AGENCY REPORTS

Austin Drager, an NRCS representative, shared some work with the Conservation Stewardship program in March. A couple of applications in Lehigh County did not move forward. A heavy-use area has been pre-approved, and a conservation plan through EQUIP is being worked on. It was not a very busy month in the Lehigh Valley. Overall, Austin looks forward to having our new staff members on Board to help out.

Janet Creegan, Conservation District Field Representative, emphasized several procedural changes outlined in her talking points. Additionally, she shared about upcoming mentor training sessions across various districts in the Northeast. Furthermore, the Growing Greener Grant is scheduled to be open for applications from April 22 until June 23. Janet expressed gratitude to the county for extending the MS4 invitation.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin Frederick highlighted that we are above 100k in between the two months. These are from our 3rd and 4th quarter reimbursements.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS OF BILLS FOR MARCH 2024

It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and Bill Royer to accept and approve the Disbursement of Bills for March 2024. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water Quality-

Kevin Frederick shared that the department continues to be busy.

Agriculture

Kevin shared that two staff members have been hired for the Ag program.

VBDC

Kevin Frederick announced that Louise Bugbee is expected to retire by the end of this year, prompting forthcoming changes. The proposal is to appoint Jessica Koch, our MS4 coordinator, as the program coordinator and seek a technician. We will also write our grant for the upcoming year since the idea is to become independent.

DIRECTOR ACTION ITEMS

NACD MOU

Kevin announced that the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Lehigh County Conservation District have finalized an agreement for the NACD TA Grant, which was applied for in 2023. This grant, totaling \$15,858, will support staff time dedicated to NRCS projects. It's worth noting that this is an annual grant application, with our matching contribution set at \$3,964.50. It was on motion by Antonio Pineda and seconded by Adele Bon-Shannon to accept and approve the NACD MOU. All were in favor.

Ag Ventures Nutrient Management Plan

The nutrient management plan for Ag Ventures Inc. in New Tripoli has been created in anticipation of constructing a new Manure Storage Facility and Compost Facility in 2024, 2025, and 2027. The plan has undergone review by the PA Dept of Ag, which recommends approval by the LCCD Board. It was a motion by Bill Royer and seconded by Arland Schantz to accept and approve the Ag Ventures Nutrient Management Plan. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Gerhard ACAP Bid

Bids received for the Gerhard ACAP project will be opened and recorded

PUBLIC COMMENT

CALENDAR

1. 1 SCC Hybrid Meetings – May 14, July 17, 2024
2. SCC Conference Calls 8:30 – 10:00 am, April 9, and June 11, 2024
3. LCCD Envirothon April 23 & 25, 2024 Covered Bridge Park, SWT

NEXT MEETING DATE: **Thursday, May 9, 2024 – 7:00 pm**

ADJOURNMENT_– Paul Semmel adjourned the meeting at

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Semmel
Secretary/Treasurer

Marlene Mera
Recorder 7:45 pm