LEHIGH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING HELD ON JUNE 13TH, 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:

Dan Hunsicker Vice-Chairman/Farmer Director

Bill Royer Public 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

Laura Hopek Environmental Education

Brendan Delany Agriculture Resource Conservationist

Agencies:

Austin Drager NRCS

Janet Creegan Conservation District Field Representative

Public:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Brendan Delany introduced himself as the new Ag Resource Conservationist

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS/AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

APPROVAL OF MAY 9TH, 2024, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

It was on motion by Antonio Pineda and seconded by Bill Royer to accept and approve the minutes from the

May 9, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting as written. All were in favor.

AGENCY REPORTS

Austin Drager, an NRCS representative, shared his updates for May. The livestock project was approved but is pending signature. Austin also met with Cody and talked about some conservation planning. Austin is currently busy and looking forward to working with Brendan.

Janet Creegn, Conservation District Field Representative, emphasized key points from her report and noted that the Growing Greener Grant application deadline is approaching. Also, agricultural training sessions, director's meetings, and webinars are scheduled for the future.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul Semmel noted a $100,000 variance from last month, and reimbursements for the upcoming quarter will be arriving gradually.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS OF BILLS FOR MAY 2024

It was on motion by Adele Bon-Shannon and Bill Royer to accept and approve the Disbursement of Bills for May 2024.

All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water Quality

Holly Kaplan shared that the department continues to be busy and that the staff has exerted effort to meet deadlines.

Dirt and Gravel

A three-year audit of the program was concluded.

Environmental Education

Laura thanked the Board and LCCD for judging her annual 2024 Poster Contest, which placed 3rd in the nation.

Agriculture

Brendan shared that he attended an ACAP training convention at State College.

VBDC

Kevin Frederick shared that the program is fully staffed for the season.

DIRECTOR ACTION ITEMS

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Grant Agreement – Parks and Gardens/Resilience Park

This grant provides $3,200 to support the improvement and upkeep of four demonstration gardens at Resilience Park in Allentown. Additionally, it will facilitate the installation of a chipped nature trail and a metal leaf-rubbing plaque activity, which will be designed and fabricated by students from Lehigh University. It was on motion by Antonio Pineda and seconded by Adele Bon Shannon to agree on the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Grant Agreement- Parks and Gardens/Resilience Park. All were in favor.

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Grant Agreement – Seasonal Wild Walks

This grant of $2,500 is allocated to offer complimentary outdoor experiences to residents of Cedar View Apartments, veterans, and homeschool students. The funds will be utilized to procure hands-on environmental education tools assembled into backpacks. These backpacks will be used during organized nature walks led by Laura Hopek and collaborating partners, including the Lehigh Valley Zoo, a former PA Master Naturalist, the PA Fish & Boat Commission, homeschool educators, the Office of Veterans Affairs, and the Lehigh County Bureau of Parks & Recreation. It was a motion by Antonio Pineda and seconded by Bill Royer to accept and approve the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Grant Agreement – Seasonal Wild Walks. All were in favor.

PADEP - Bee-autiful Watersheds: Climate Change and Pollination Connections

This grant provides $5,000 to facilitate field experiences for 325 students at Whitehall High School. These experiences will include nature hikes focused on learning about stormwater runoff, watersheds, and the impact of pollutants in local streams. Additionally, the school will receive an Enviroscape model to educate students about non-point source pollutants and encourage better environmental stewardship. Students will also engage in activities exploring pollination connections and participate in monarch butterfly migration studies through tagging and releasing. The Wildlands Conservancy is the partnering organization for this grant, providing expertise and educational content across these various subject areas. It was a motion by Antonio Pineda and seconded by Bill Royer to accept the PADEP

Bee-autiful Watersheds: Climate Change and Pollination Connections. All were in favor.

ACT Application FY 24/25 Funding Request

This is our annual application to the State requesting $20,000 in funding to support our agricultural assistance initiatives in Lehigh County. It was a motion by Paul Semmel and seconded by Adele Bon-Shannon to accept and approve the ACT Application FY 24/25 Funding Request. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

LCCD Scholarship Award

LCCD received five applications for our scholarship awards. We have selected a recipient who will attend our July Board meeting to receive his award.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CALENDAR

1. SCC Hybrid Meetings – May 14, July 18, 2024
2. SCC Conference Calls 8:30 – 10:00 am, June 11, August 20, 2024

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

ADJOURNMENT– Paul Semmel adjourned the meeting at

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Semmel Holly Kaplan

Secretary/Treasurer Recorder 7:40 pm