



**MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Armstrong, Sharon Laverdure, Roger McFadden, Craig Todd, Brian Winot, Donna Foulk and Jason Smith.

**DISTRICT STAFF:** Kristina Heaney, Roger Spotts, David Hooker, David Lucykanish, OC Hearthstone, Drew Wagner, Barbara Bistras and Iwona O'Connor.

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** Janet Creegan-DEP, Paula Heeschen- BWA (via Zoom,) Jim Vogt- Penn State Extension- Master Watershed Stewart Program, Christine Meinhart-Fritz (via Zoom) and Julia Sherer (via Zoom) - MCPC.

**PUBLIC:** Tarah Probst- Pennsylvania State Representative (via Zoom), Linda Snyder, Janet Dooner and Rodney Stark.

Bob Armstrong called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Meeting Minutes:**

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the January 18, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Roger McFadden to approve the January 18, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

**EE Report:**

The report was provided to the board in their packet. Roger Spotts notified the board that trees were tapped and sap is being collected for Maple Sugaring. One hundred ninety (190) gallons of sap were just collected the day before. Two weeks of group programs are



scheduled Feb. 26- March 8. Public Sugar Bush tours are scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and over one hundred (100) people already registered. The EE center's spring schedule is already filled and prioritized with local schools. Three (3) bus trips were recently advertised and all the seats are already filled. One (1) additional, two (2) days, trip with kayaks to New York Finger Lakes region will be advertised this week and it is expected to sell out quick. Bob inquired regarding Envirothon schedule. He was informed that the Senior Envirothon will take place at the end of April, and the Junior Envirothon in May. An oral component of the competition will be organized at the District's office in May as well.

### **Tech Report:**

The technical report was provided to the board in their packet. Kristina disclosed that in the month of January the District received eleven (11) new applications, issued four (4) individual NPDES permits and acknowledged three (3) notices of termination. The Resource Conservation Specialists reviewed sixteen (16) Erosion Sediment Control and twelve (12) Post Construction Stormwater Management plans. Kristina reported that in January, the District received seventeen (17) complaints. One (1) dirty dirt complaint, where NJ trucks were delivering suspected contaminated fill, resulted in five (5) sites being referred to the DEP Solid Waste.

### **Watershed Specialist Report:**

The watershed specialist report was provided to the board in their packet. David Hooker discussed his recent work with PA DEP to design updated watershed assessments in the county. The contract with NRCS for the EWPP-sponsored streambank stabilization project has been reviewed and design discussions are underway. He submitted an application to PACD's Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) mini-grant program and received a \$2,000.00 grant to fund the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual NPS prevention workshop and tree planting at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

### **Agricultural Report:**

David Hooker provided the agricultural report in the board packet. In January, David drafted the Growing Greener contract documents. He attended a pre-design conference and completed the topographic survey for the Brown Farm heavy usage area with NRCS and the landowner. David also reviewed and submitted reimbursement request of \$10,130.00 for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan with NRCS.



**District Managers Report:**

Kristina Heaney provided her report in the board packet. She informed the board she is working with David Hooker to establish a Natural Resource Committee. This new community based ensemble will provide feedback to how the District can better serve Monroe County. In January, Kristina also worked with the NRCS on the County dry dams' public meeting and joined the district engineers in planning the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 NPDES workshop for engineer trainees and new AutoCAD technicians.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of 2023 Year End Financials- Pending County Reimbursement.

Barbara Bistras, the Finance Manager, explained that the roof replacement and a purchase of new Ford F150 truck both came in under budget. The ACAP grant expense was lower in 2023 because the district completed only one (1) eligible project. Barbara continued to explain that the 2023 Year End income increased due to increased interest rates on bank accounts.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Craig Todd to approve 2023 Year End Financials- Pending County Reimbursement. Motion carried.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of \$4,000.00 Parking Drainage Improvements.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Jason Smith to approve \$4,000.00 Parking Drainage Improvements. Brian Winot abstained from the vote because he is affiliated with the contractor who performed the work. Motion carried.

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval to enter the Expedited Reviews Delegation Agreement.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Donna Foulk to approve the Expedited Reviews Delegation Agreement. Brian Winot and Craig Todd voted against. Motion carried.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of Fee Schedule Modifications.

\*108.1(D) Formal Pre-Submittal Meeting- A redline review session with District engineers (Max of 2 hours) - \$1,500

\*Expedited Reviews- Applications that meet the Expedited Review Eligibility Criteria (please see Expedited Review policy) must pay the Formal Pre-Submittal Meeting fee 108.1 (D) and will be assessed three times the base fee found in 108.1 (b).



A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Craig Todd to approve Fee Schedule Modifications. Motion carried.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of SSR Growing Greener Rutledge Contract Extension until December 2024.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Sharon Laverdure to approve SSR Growing Greener Rutledge Contract Extension until December 2024. Motion carried.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of Advertising for Head Resource Conservationist.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Jason Smith to approve Advertising for Head Resource Conservationist. Motion carried.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of \$2,000.00 NPS Mini-Grant: Water Quality Benefits of Buffers.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Donna Foulk to approve \$2,000.00 NPS Mini-Grant: Water Quality Benefits of Buffers. Motion carried.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval to close ESSA Bank Camp Accounts.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Craig Todd to approve the Closure of ESSA Bank Camp Accounts. Motion carried.

### **Out of County Travel:**

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of Out of County Travel.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Jason Smith to approve Out Of County travel. Motion carried.

### **Work Session Report:**

Bob Armstrong requested approval of the January 2024 Work Session Minutes.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Brian Winot to approve January 2024 Work Session Minutes. Motion carried.

### **Resource Conservation Committee Report:**

Bob Armstrong requested approval of the Resource Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes.



A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot to approve Resource Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion carried

### **Financial Report:**

#### **Invoice Lists for February 15, 2024:**

Bob Armstrong requested approval of the February 15, 2024 Invoice List.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Craig Todd to approve the Invoice List for February 15, 2024. Motion carried.

#### **Balance Sheet as of 1/31/2024:**

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2024.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot to approve the Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2024. Motion carried.

### **Cooperating Agency Reports:**

**DEP-Janet Creegan** provided the DEP report in the board packet. She conveyed that the Growing Greener awards will open again in early spring. Janet reminded the board to complete the Statement of Financial Interest forms before May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**MCPC- Julia Sherer** reported that the Planning Commission is currently accepting applications for the preserved farmland.

### **Public Comment:**

**Tarah Probst- Pennsylvania State Representative** stated that she supports the efforts of MCCD and thanked the District for all it does to keep the water and waterways safe. She conveyed that she is still challenging PennDOT's I-80 expansion project intended to create nine hundred (900) acres of concrete going over the streams and creeks.

**Janet Dooner** from Polk Township and **Linda Snyder** from Chestnuthill Township articulated regarding new solar farms in Monroe County. They voiced their concern for farmlands, woodlands and wildlife, as well as stormwater runoff. Linda quoted the statistics of losing 1.4 acres of farmland in this country every minute. 6,000 acres of Boy Scouts' camps a month. She continued reciting that it takes seventy five (75) trees to produce oxygen for just one (1) person sufficient for one (1) day. Ladies were saddened by

emerging metal trees. They both believe that real trees are more beneficial than solar farms. Kristina replied that the Conservation District will always advocate for the resource and it will schedule a solar power education workshop soon. Tarah Probst encouraged the ladies not to stop fighting even if there is only the two (2) of them. She added that she supports their effort.

Bob Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 11:06 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Iwona O'Connor  
Office Assistant Sr.

**The next MCCD Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 AM at the Monroe County Conservation District.**