



MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2025

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

DISTRICT STAFF: Kristina Heaney, Mike Wilk, John Motz, Charles Kelshaw, Jonathan
Knauff, Iwona OConnor, Samantha Benway, Lena Campisi and Geoff Ioannidis
and Via Zoom Drew Wagner.

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Jay Grobelny – Riley and Company, Janet Creegan – DEP, Kristine
Bush and Rese Schlameuss – Senator Rosemary Brown and Via Zoom Paula
Heeschen- BWA and Deb Basalyga – NCRS

Bob Armstrong called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Public Comment:

None

Executive Session:

No session

Board Meeting Minutes:

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the May 15, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden seconded by Sharon Laverdure to approve the May 15, 2025,
Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Audit Report 2024:

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the 2024 Audit Report.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot to approve the 2024 Audit Report.
Motion Carried.

Environmental Education Report:

A copy of the Environmental Education report was provided to the board in their packet. Kristina Heaney presented the report during the meeting. Kristina advised that Carol is working diligently with EE team, completing staff trainings on a myriad of different topics to prepare for the new Science Standard Training. Kristina and Carol have been meeting frequently to analyze the topics that we currently teach and rework them to make the programs more relevant and more student lead. This month focus was spent continuing the Critter Room improvements. The district has contracts with professionals for new critter room displays and with a local artist to design a new brochure of our maps as well as a large map rendering of the MCCD trails. Carol, Kristina and Iwona have been working together on the program menu and their fees to have the entire program be more streamlined and cost effective for the district. This month, KEEC saw high attendance records, the likes of which have not been seen since pre-Covid programs. The staff is completing more programs this year than ever completed before and Kristina is very optimistic about the direction the program is heading.

Technical Report:

The Technical report was provided to the board in their packet. Jonathan Knauff shared the tech highlights. In the month of May, the Tech team had five (5) complete applications, conducted four (4) initial technical reviews and four (4) PSCM follow-up reviews. There were three (3) records of decisions, one (1) Individual NPDES permit issued, and one (1) Notice of Termination acknowledged. Jonathan also advised that there were twenty-five (25) On Site Inspections completed in May, which he was very happy with considering there were staff vacations to work around and training taking place for the newest Tech staff. Geoff and Lena attended a Chapter 102 Basics training course in Harrisburg which went very well for them both and they are looking forward to additional training seminars.

Watershed Specialist:

Charles Kelshaw included a report in the board packet for the board members to review. Charles advised that May was a very busy month for the Watershed program. The final plans and arrangements were made for the Delaware River of the Year Festival, taking place on June 18th. Charles stated that a heavy focus of his time in May was spent on public outreach. He assisted with the Envirothon and Biology through Ecology events and with bringing to fruition the newest interactive display for KEEC, "Science on a Sphere". May also saw the official end to his part in the 2024 Watershed Quality Study with the Monroe County Planning Commission. An exciting highlight from the month was that MCCD was awarded with the DEP Environmental Education Grant. This grant is specifically for training, safety, and the ability to obtain an electrofishing backpack. Having this electrofishing backpack will allow the CD to acquire data in regards to fish health and population of Monroe County water courses that can be provided to DEP and to analyze creeks at different levels than we previously had been able to. This type of new data will lead

into Charles' partnership with Northampton Community College to develop a curriculum based on Fisheries Biology.

PA DEP Environmental Education Grant - \$10,400:

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the PA DEP Environmental Education Grant for \$10,400.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Jason Smith to approve the PA DEP Environmental Education Grant for \$10,400. Motion Carried.

DGLVR:

John Motz advised the board that the DGLVR program received the bids for the Chestnuthill-Rosebay Road project. John was pleased with the bids as they all came in significantly under budget and is hopeful this means the remaining funds can be used for more work completed on the project. In May, as part of the State Conservation Commission (SCC) audit, a stream survey on Scot Run was completed with John and the SCC team, along with field visits to several completed DGLVR sites in the county. The audit was very successful, and John was left with high remarks from the SCC stating that they had no recommendations for improvement for MCCD's DGLVR program.

District Managers Report:

A copy of the District Managers report was included in the board packet. Kristina Heaney informed the board that May was an active month for her. Kristina smoothly navigated working on multiple building improvement projects and staff training for current and new staff. She is exceptionally proud of the newest Tech staff, Geoff and Lena for hitting the ground running, making the most of their training and already beginning to work independently. A thanks was sent to John Motz and Jonathan Knauff for all their help with the tech training and support they are offering. She went to great trainings at the county to work on topics she was very interested in, such as Reasonable Suspicion and working with the Department of Labor to learn more about labor with minors. Our summer work crew began work at the beginning of June and their time is already invaluable. The entire MCCD is happy to have them on board.

Out of County Travel:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of Out of County Travel.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Brian Winot to approve Out of County travel. Motion carried.

Recommendation for Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist Position:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the Board's Recommendation for an Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist Position.

A motion was made by Jason Smith, seconded by Donna Foulk to approve the Board's Recommendation for an Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist Position. Motion carried.

Work Session Minutes:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the May 2025 Work Session Minutes.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Brian Winot to approve the May 2025 Work Session Minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

Invoice Lists for June 11, 2025:

Bob Armstrong requested approval of the Invoice List for June 11, 2025.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Sharon Laverdure to approve the Invoice List for June 11, 2025. Motion carried.

Balance Sheet as of 05/31/2025:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2025.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Jason Smith to approve the Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2025. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agency Reports:

DEP- A DEP Talking Points report was provided to the board in the packet. Janet Creegan thanked the CD for allowing her to join the field day portion of the SCC audit. Going Greener grant is closing June 20th. There is an upcoming Basic Hydric Soil workshop in August that she encourages staff to attend. PennState Extension is hosting a Solar Law Symposium in August that she is recommending all districts in the state to attend.

NRCS- Deb Basalyga stated that the NRCS report was included in their board packet. The NRCS team has finished up the Equip Grant and are now focusing on getting obligations ready to go for CSP that is due at the end of June.

Senator Rosemary Brown- Kristine Bush spoke at the meeting on behalf of Sen Rosemary Brown. Kristine introduced the newest intern to the board, Rese. She also took a moment to remind everyone present that the Senator's Act 37 bill passed and took effect on June 5th. This act prohibits the use of any handheld cell phone devices while driving. Kristine shared with the board several dates for upcoming community events Sen. Rosemary Brown will be hosting or participating in during the month of June and July. Kristine also advised that their office has received a lot of requests centered around data centers.


Senator Brown's office is planning on hosting a policy hearing in July to focused around the topic of data centers.

Public Comment:

Paula Heeschen – BWA spoke out via zoom during the public comment portion to ask two questions related to county business.

Bob Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 10:58AM.

Respectfully submitted,


Samantha Benway
Office Assistant Sr.

**The next MCCD Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday,
July 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Monroe County Conservation District.**

