



MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2026

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

DISTRICT STAFF: Kristina Heaney, Samantha Benway, Julia Corr, John Motz, Charles Kelshaw, Jonathan Knuaff, Geoffrey Ioannidis, Mike Wilk, Angelena Campisi, Carol Luthar and Drew Wagner via zoom

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Janet Creegan – DEP and Deb Basalyga – NRCS via zoom

LEGISLATORS REPRESENTATIVES: Kristine Bush-Senator Brown

PUBLIC: Jim Vogt and Carolyn Lange

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

Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Executive Session:

No executive session was held.

Director Appointments:

Jason Smith was absent; his oath was tabled until the March 2026 Meeting.

Board Meeting Minutes:

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the January 15, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Sharon Laverdure, to approve the January 15, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Environmental Education Report:

Carol Luthar provided the EE report in the board packet. She reported that maple sugaring is underway, over 1,000 guests attended programs in January, and we have received survey feedback from teachers for class programs. Discussion took place regarding the survey results. Bob commended Carol on the positive

feedback from the surveys. Discussion took place regarding the Eagle bus trips along with new PA STEELS Standards.

Motion to approve: Policy Update-Program Refunds:

Carol and Kristina explained the new refund policy to the board. Members of the board addressed their recommended changes. Minor changes were suggested due to the need for additional language to address the Reserved Program participants.

The motion was tabled until the March 2026 Meeting.

Motion to approve: KC Vehicle Purchase:

Kristina provided information on the vehicle to be purchased for the Kettle Creek EE Staff to the board. The KCEF will be donating the funds to the MCCD to purchase the vehicle.

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the KC Vehicle Purchase.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Sharon Laverdure to approve the KC Vehicle Purchase. Motion carried.

Technical Report:

A copy of the technical report was provided to the board in their packets. Jonathan Knauff shared details of inspections that took place, trainings that were held with Mike and the inspectors on E&S and Plan reviews, and he informed the board of their new approach of regionalizing the inspectors. Kristina provided the board with details on the regionalizing plan. Craig Todd asked for an update on the SPEED project in Monroe County. Kristina and Drew provided an update on the SPEED project; Drew attended a meeting on 2/18/26 for the project.

Discussion took place regarding Swiftwater Solar Enforcement; Kristina commented that they have settled. Bob asked if the new tech fees have taken effect. Kristina informed him that the new fees went into effect on 1/31/26. Mike mentioned to the board the positive effect of the pre-application meeting; PMSD west took advantage of that, and it made for a very successful and fast-moving permit processing.

Watershed Specialist/Ag Report:

A copy of the Watershed Specialist report and Ag report were provided to the board in their packets. Charles shared details of the Watershed report informing the board that it was a big planning month for him to get events and meetings scheduled for Watershed. He informed the board he attended the Brodhead Trout unlimited meeting and met with Jared Green from the Cherry Valley Refuge. Charles informed the board of a complaint site he visited about sewage dumping at Candle Creek; Fish and Boat are following up with the complaint.

Charles provided details of the Ag report. He informed the board that he has been preparing for the new Ag Specialist to start, had the Hay program/meeting, and has been working to set up potential ACAP projects. Donna commented on the success of the Hay program/meeting, grateful for the grants provided through the district and a lot of education took place between the farmers at the Hay program/meeting.

Motion to approve: ACAP Admin Expenses:

Kristina informed the board that this motion is to approve the reimbursement of funds to the Murphy's for the money spent on supplies for the Hay Program in the amount of \$537.10.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the ACAP Admin Expenses.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Craig Todd to approve the ACAP Admin Expenses. Motion Carried.

DGLVR:

John Motz provided the board with the DGLVR report in their packets. John passed around the 2026 DGLVR Calander for the board to look at. There are two potential projects coming in for Hysie Gap Road in Tunkhannock Township and Chestnuthill Township. He will be working on setting up a QAB meeting within the next couple of weeks. Bob asked if he has updated the application form to electronic yet and John responded he is working on that while also waiting for the SCC policy and form updates in the coming months.

District Managers Report:

Kristina Heaney provided a copy of the District Manager's report to the board. She reported her focus has been the 2025 Annual Report, meeting with contractors for flooring, bathroom renovations and HVAC replacement, costing for vehicles for EE and AG, and getting online program registration set up and live on the website. She informed them of personnel meetings, PER meetings and RTK requests/meetings taking place.

Discussion took place regarding the Annual report. The board would like the Annual Report sent to more people to gain more outreach. Discussion took place regarding the potential bathroom renovations and replacement of the bubble floors throughout the building.

Out of County Travel:

Bob Armstorng asked for approval of the Out of County travel.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Brian Winot to approve the Out of County Travel. Motion Carried.

Motion to approve: AG Vehicle:

Kristina discussed the need for an AG vehicle due to the new AG tech coming in. She is working on getting alternative quotes on vehicles. Right now, she is just looking for a motion to approve gathering quotes for potential Ag vehicles.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the AG Vehicle.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Brian Winot to approve the AG Vehicle. Motion carried.

Motion to approve: Meesing Insurance Policy:

Kristina explained to the board members that it is now required that the district have its own insurance policy for coverage to use the Meesing property for maple sugaring. She provided the board with the price of \$7,188 for the policy.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the Meesing Insurance Policy.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Donna Foulk to approve the Meesing Insurance Policy. Motion carried.

Motion to approve: Candidate Approval-Resource Conservation Specialist-ACAP:

Kristina informed the board that this is a motion to approve the hiring of Adrian Kalinowski as the Resource Conservation Specialist-ACAP, with a start date of March 9, 2026. Craig asked for an update on the EIT position. Kristina informed the board she will be scheduling a personnel meeting to discuss that matter.

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the Candidate Approval-Resource Conservation Specialist-ACAP.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Craig Todd to approve the Candidate Approval-Resource Conservation Specialist-ACAP. Motion carried.

Motion to approve: January 15, 2026, Work Session Minutes:

Bob Armstorng asked for the approval of the January 15, 2026, work session minutes.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Donna Foulk to approve the January 15, 2026, work session minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

Samantha provided the financial report to the board in their packets. She discussed the online registration set up, herself and Carol have been working on invoices, and she is beginning to work with Jay on the audit.

Discussion took place regarding the Practice Keeper program bill and the Strausser snowplow bill. Samantha and Kristina explained that the Practice Keeper bill was supposed to be invoiced in 2025 as a 2025 expense but was not until January 2026. They explained the Strausser snow plow bill was from a discrepancy prior to 2026.

Invoice Lists for January 15, 2026:

Bob Armstrong requested approval of the Invoice List for February 18, 2026.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Roger McFadden, to approve the Invoice List for February 18, 2026. Motion carried.

Balance Sheet as of 1/31/2026:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Sharon Laverdure, to approve the Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2026. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agency Reports:

DEP- Janet Creegan thanked the district for allowing DEP to hold the AG 102 training here at the district. She invited the board to the DEP Funding training to take place on 2/20/2026 here at the Monroe County Conservation District. She mentioned the PACD Leadership and Development Training upcoming here at MCCD on March 24th. She informed the district that all links on DEP website should now be up to date.

NRCS- Deb informed the district of the new material on ranking and that the local workgroup will be virtual on March 4th at 9am, she will be sending the link to the board members.

DCNR- No representative present.

MCPC- No representative present.

Senator Rosemary Brown- Kristine Bush reported Senator Rosemary Brown gave budget address a few weeks ago, there are 35 proposed data centers in Lackawanna County, and they ask to send in any comments on the matter to Senator Browns office, and she informed everyone that Senator Rosemary Brown secured \$3.2 million for Route 33 barriers project to come.

Public Comment:

Carolyn Lange from MWS/APWC gave a shoutout to Charles for his newsletters. She commented on the potential bills being proposed regarding degrading streams for stormwater management. Discussion took place amongst the crowd regarding that matter.

Kristina informed the board that the mural in the critter room is currently being painted.

Bob Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 11:34am.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia Corr

Administrative Specialist II

**The next MCCD Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday,
March 19, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the Monroe County Conservation District.**