

**MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joe Hanyon, Patrick Ross, Heidi Secord, Bob Armstrong,  
and Charlie Garris

**DISTRICT STAFF:** Adam Schellhammer, Roger Spotts, Lori Kerrigan, Mike Wilk,  
Drew Wagner, Barbara Bistras and Denise Smale

**ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS:** Chuck Gould and Edith Stevens

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** Evan Makuvek, MCPC and Jennifer Matthews, NRCS

**SOLICITOR:** Douglas Blazey, Esquire of Elliott Greenleaf, P. C.

**Public:** Craig Todd, Resident; Kathleen Flynn, Trout Unlimited & Pocono Heritage Lands Trust; Rodney Stark, Trout Unlimited; Paula C. Heeschen, Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA); Don Baylor, Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA), Trout Unlimited & Pocono Heritage Lands Trust; Gary Bloss, Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA); David Albright, Chestnuthill Township Manager; Patti O'Keefe, Resident; Drake Stinson, Papillion and Moyer; State Representative Jack Radar, Dr. Pat Kennedy, Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA) and Pocono Heritage Lands Trust.

Joe Hanyon, Chairperson, called the November 16, 2017, meeting of the Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors to order at 8:00 a.m.

At 8:01 a.m. Joe Hanyon called to order the Executive session 8:01 a.m. - 8:16 a.m. discussing personnel matters.

Joe spoke in the matter of Karen Boyle. A request was made during the executive session to temporarily fill her position while she is out on medical leave. The position will be starting in February with a 30 to 40 hour work week and running until August. A motion was made and passed by Heidi and Bob seconded the motion.

Public Comment on agenda: none.

Joe called for motion to approve the minutes for October 19, 2017. A motion was passed to approve the minutes by Heidi and Bob seconded the motion.

**EE REPORT:** Roger, "We had our bird seed sale a few weeks ago in October .With the warm fall that we've been having the bird numbers at feeders have been down. They are starting to pick up now. Our sale was down slightly as well for the year. We do have bird seed in stock and in the gift shop we are carrying a little bit higher inventory than normal because our sale was down. We did have an Eagle Scout complete his project up in Meesing. Santiago Churion completed a project up in the sugar bush. He upgraded the remainder of the trails with gravel, took rocks out, lined them and now we'll have a much easier time walking through the woods with all the groups and the public. It'll also be a little easier to clear snow off of them when we get the snow events and also to collect sap. He did an excellent job on that and he will be highlighted in the next newsletter with that information. Our photo contest this year had over thirty-five entries, all of very good quality. The staff judged the photos and 12 winners were picked to go in the calendar. One grand prize winner was picked which goes on the cover of the calendar. The calendars are out in the gift shop and ready for sale. This was the third year and by far the most entries we had with good quality photos. We picked 12, but there were easily 20 in the running. Our membership drive started and we sent out membership renewal notices to all our members. We are now doing it on a calendar year. All memberships run out on December 31. We are getting a lot of those back and the response has been positive. It'll take a few more weeks before we get the final results. We have managed to clean up the membership list pretty well which will help us in the future. Joe asked Roger, "How is membership doing?" Roger, "A lot of renewals and still getting new ones.

We won't have all the final numbers because of the way we purged the system. Our membership now is at 483 and is as high as it has been in a while. We hope that it will get a little higher by the end of the year when all the renewals come in." Bob, "How was that sent out?" Roger, "It was sent by email to the people that had email on their list and regular mail to our general member list."

**Tech Report:** Lori, "We currently have twenty seven applications under review, nine new ones received in October. Four NPDES permits were issued. One in Paradise, one in Tobyhanna, Mount Pocono and Hamilton, the one in Hamilton was an ongoing violation and is now in compliance. There were three Records of Decision that were sent to DEP for issuance of NPDES individual permits. We held a Realtor's Workshop that was well attended. Covering topics such as identifying storm water BMP's that may need operation and maintenance on the site and what a new owner's responsibility may or may not be. Also, we covered wetland indicators and flood maps. This way they can provide more information when showing people around. There was one pollution event on an NPDES onsite inspection to highlight; New Ventures Park SR115. However, they did correct it immediately."

**District Managers Report:** Adam, "We did meet with the Commissioners and Heather Smeltz from NRCS to go over their dry dam repair program. They do have some funding options to get our dry dams up to code and other issues. We have been in contact with some of the other counties on how to go through that process. They evaluated our two large dry dams Goose Pond's Leavitt Branch, they are aging extremely well which is good. NRCS did make some suggestions." Charlie, "The County is probably looking to settle up to a million dollars in upgrades for these two dams in the next couple of years starting with this year's budget and with the help of Adam and NCRS for additional funding." DCNR Grant opportunities and potential projects were discussed. Adam, "We also had the 102 Listening Sessions in Wilkes-Barre with DEP. This pertained to PAG02 one of our general permits. It looks like that will be reissued unchanged and they are hoping that there will be no lapse in coverage. If there is, DEP has already given us guidance on how to handle those."

**Financial Report for August:** Motion passed to approve the August Financial Report by Pat and Bob second the motion.

**Invoice List:** Heidi, "We have a couple of big items. There is the bird seed that we purchased. We paid \$8,600.00 and we sold \$11,000.00 on that. The other thing to highlight was the Pleasant Valley Schools 4<sup>th</sup> grade bus reimbursement \$1, 583.00. That actually came out of the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund." Pat made the motion to pass the invoice list and Bob seconded the motion.

Pat, "Roger and his staff should be commended for the work that they have been doing because of Darryl being gone and Karen out. They didn't miss a beat doing that. Thank you Roger, you have always done it, but thank you for stepping up to the plate."

#### **Other Business:**

- **Out of County Travel Requests:** Pat made the motion to pass the Out of County Travel and Heidi seconded the motion.
- **Camp Insurance Renewal:** We have an invoice here from the Dreher Agency. Our camp insurance is due at the cost \$500.00, which remains the same as last year it would remain effective from January 1, 2018 through 2019. Discussion was had on whether or not the insurance would be cheaper through the county. The item was tabled until December providing time to get more information from the county.
- **Commercial Activity Agreement Renewal with DCNR for Maple Sugaring at Meesing:** Adam, "Last is for our Maple Sugaring Program. It's the agreement with DCNR and it costs \$250.00 which remains the same from this year and it allows us to carry out our programming for the season." Pat made the motion to approve the agreement and Bob seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## Cooperating Agency Reports:

- **DEP NERO:** Shane was not present.
- **DCNR:** Garrett Beers, "We have two new additions to the State Forest, three hundred and thirty five acre tract in Price Township which borders Snow Hill Road. We also purchased three hundred and twenty acres in Porter Township in Pike County that fills in part of an inholding and preserves some unique habitats that are there. Monroe County is now in a Spotted Lantern Fly quarantine area. I went out with your staff, Matt Giamba and Adam to some local farmers to try and look for them." Discussion was held on wildfires and suppression of wildfire and some of its benefits. Discussion was held on the impacts of the quarantine and the life cycle of the Spotted Lantern Fly.
- **NCRS:** Jen reviewed the details of her report.
- **MCPC:** Evan reviewed three pending farms for 2017.
- **Legislators/Representative:** Jack Radar updated the board on the state budget.
- **Public Comment:** None

Meeting adjourned 8:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Smale

Recording Secretary

THE NEXT MCCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M. AT STROUDSMOOR COUNTRY INN-STONE ROOM IN STROUDSBURG, PA.