



**MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2023**

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

DISTRICT STAFF: Kristina Heaney, Lori Kerrigan, Roger Spotts, Mike Wilk, David Hooker, David Lucykanish, OC Hearthstone, John Motz, Barbara Bistras, Colleen Lidon, Brittney Coleman, Barrett Donna, Derek Lederer, Diana Flint, Delaney Henasey and Iwona O'Connor.

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL FUND: Leslie Berger, Patrick Calpin, Dr. Ian Foster, and Jim Lambert.

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Janet Creegan-DEP, Paula Heeschen- BWA, WCO Curt Tereschak and WCO Alec DeLong -PA Fish and Boat Commission, Jim Vogt- Penn State Extension, Logan Goddard- DCNR.

PUBLIC: Kristine Bush- Senator Rosemary Brown, Jacob Pride- Pennsylvania State Representative Maureen Madden,

Bob Armstrong called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.

Public Comment:

None

Board Meeting Minutes:

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the November 16, 2023, (revised on December 8, 2023) Board Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Sharon Laverdure to approve the November 16, 2023, (revised on December 8, 2023) Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

EE Report: The report was provided to the board in their packet. Roger Spotts notified the board that the EE Center is transitioning between the fall and spring programs. Spring program schedule is already filled. At this time, the educators are working with kindergarteners on the bird feeding program as well as the next summer schedule.

Bob inquired regarding the one day winter camp experience. Roger clarified that it is not an overnight camp, but a full, one day camp scheduled for December 28th. The Wildly Wintertime Camp allows children to leave their homes during the holiday break and explore exciting natural world with the experienced Kettle Creek staff.

Tech Report: The technical report was provided to the board in their packet. Lori Kerrigan wished Happy Holidays to all! She disclosed that in the month of November the general correspondence reached three hundred fifty five (355.) The District issued two (2) individual NPDES permit, processed two (2) records of decision, and acknowledged four (4) notices of termination. Chapter 105 activities consisted of six (6) applications reviewed, and six (6) General Permits acknowledged. The District conducted twenty six (26) inspections on twenty six (26) sites. Six (6) sites were complaints and five (5) were issued compliance notice or notice of violation. No sites were referred to the DEP in November.

Lori informed the board that the district's technical section is exploring the upgrade to a new database program. Bob inquired about the staff reviewing the program. Lori stated the Mike Wilk as the creator of our previous Access database, Barbara Bistras, and Kristina were collaborating. Bob asked Mike's opinion of the new database.

Mike elaborated that the existing 2008 Access software will soon encounter compatibility issues. The new system will be customized to track the projects review status required by the DEP delegation agreement. The current data will be migrated over to the new system allotting a smooth transition. A number of other conservation districts use this Realtek database program.

Craig Todd inquired regarding .9 acre disturbance site. Lori verified that the district inspectors coordinate and follow-up with municipalities' requirements for the stormwater.

Watershed Specialist Report: David Hooker unveiled that he wrapped up the first ACAP project. He completed all the required close out paperwork and project verification. In the month of November, Dave provided the landowner assistance for an AG program and worked on the Water Quality Study.

DGLVR: John Motz provided the last quarter's DGLVR financial statement to the board in their packet. He reported that the program held its QAB Meeting on December 4th 2023.

John received two (2) new applications for the Low Volume Roads program. He conveyed that \$231,000 would enable rehabilitation of 1,900' of the 4,100' Rosebay Road in

Chestnuthill Township. The project will entail applying 1700cy (2600T) of 2A base material, construction of 4' wide by 60' long sediment trap, 2' of fill on the incline to ease its grade, as well as an installation of 15" drainage pipes and grade breaks. All of the above will correct the environmental problems of entrenched road surface, eroded ditches and unstable road banks.

Bob asked for the approval of Low Volume Roads Project- Rosebay Road in Chestnuthill Township, in the amount of \$231,902.00.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Jason Smith, to approve the Low Volume Roads Project- Rosebay Road in Chestnuthill Township, in the amount of \$231,902.00. Brian Winot abstained from the vote for the reason that he is a DGLVR QAB chairperson. Motion carried.

The second application received was for Wilke Road Bank Stabilization in Pocono Township. Wilke is a road wedged in between Pocono Creek and the side of the Camelback Mountain. The road is always a challenge to maintain, and in couple of the areas the stream bank is getting close to reaching the road surface area. The Low Volume Roads grant will allow the township to target the two areas of the road, stabilize the stream bank and add some fish habitat structures. John supplemented that Chapter 105 permits for the work in the stream were previously obtained.

Bob asked for the approval of Low Volume Roads Project- Wilke Road Bank Stabilization Project in Pocono Township, in the amount of \$48,039.68.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Craig Todd, to approve the Low Volume Roads Project- Wilke Road Bank Stabilization Project in Pocono Township, in the amount of \$48,039.68. Brian Winot abstained from the vote for the reason that he is a DGLVR QAB chairperson. Motion carried.

District Managers Report: Kristina Heaney provided her report in the board packet. She thanked the management team, staff, board, partners and the Kettle Creek Fund for another great year and for joining her at the holiday luncheon. Kristina informed the board that she received the acknowledgment from Monroe County that Delaney Henasey will be a joining the district as an official county employee. She notified the board that the bungalow demolition fund grant was submitted to the Redevelopment Authority. In 2024, Kristina will work to establish the Nominating Organizations Luncheon and host the Board of Directors workshop. Kristina invited all to the Regulatory Forum, concerning permit and inspections world, on January 25, 2024 at the district office.

Kristina Heaney asked for approval of 2024 Board Meeting Dates.

A motion was made by Bob Armstrong, seconded by Sharon Laverdure, to approve the 2024 Board Meeting Dates. Motion carried.

Kristina Heaney asked for approval of moving of camp accounts to First Northern Bank & Trust in 2024.

A motion was made by Bob Armstrong, seconded by Jason Smith, to approve Moving of Camp Accounts to First Northern Bank & Trust in 2024. Motion carried.

Kristina Heaney asked for approval of the Camp Insurance Renewal for 1/1/2024 until 1/1/25.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Jason Smith, to approve the \$500 Camp Insurance Renewal for a period 1/1/2024 until 1/1/25. Motion carried.

Bob asked for the approval of Schoonover Demolition/ Entry Pond Project Contract in the amount of \$9,600.00.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Jason Smith, to approve Schoonover Demolition/ Entry Pond Project Contract in the amount of \$9,600.00. 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 Bob Armstrong to approve Out Of County travel. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

Invoice Lists for December 14, 2023:

Bob Armstrong requested approval of the December 14, 2023 Invoice List.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot to approve the Invoice List for December 14, 2023. Motion carried.

Balance Sheet as of 11/30/2023:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Jason Smith to approve the Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2023. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agency Reports:

DEP-Janet Creegan provided the DEP report in the board packet. She informed the board that the revised Fertilizer Law designed to reduce nutrient runoff into Pennsylvania waterways will be effective January 2024. The Chapter 105 Program announced availability of a new and innovative Bridge & Culvert Maintenance Repair Tool online.

Logan Goddard- DCNR introduced himself as a new service forester in the Monroe County. He reported that DCNR will be relocating to a new office on Route 402 in Swiftwater, near Bushkill this summer. Forester Goddard continued to speak on the subject of forest insects and diseases such as Spongy Moth and beech bark disease in the young trees. He conveyed that DCNR implements intensive spray and ground injections programs addressing these issues. He recommended bio diversity and tree staggering as a long term planning tool. Goddard reported on approaching fire season and a need for more helicopter landing sites to help address forests' issues. He concluded that the winter ATV season will open soon.

Alec DeLong- PA Fish and Boat Commission reported that he finishes up investigation with John Motz which will conclude in a settlement for PAFBC. The agency also completed the preliminary trout stocking schedule.

Public Comment:

Kristine Bush on behalf of Senator Rosemary Brown conveyed Senator's support for Senate's environmental bills 689 and 690. The Bill 689 titled: "An Act amending the act of November 26, 1978, known as the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, providing for issuance of and conditions for continuous maintenance permits." The Bill proclaims that "The department shall develop a continuous maintenance permit for which the Department of Transportation or a municipality may apply. The permit shall allow permittees to maintain, inspect and monitor watercourses, water obstructions, appurtenant works and encroachments as specified within the permit." The Senate Bill 690 "Amending the act of November 26, 1978 (P.L.1375, No.325), entitled ""An act providing for the regulation and safety of dams and reservoirs, water obstructions and encroachments; consolidating and clarifying the programs of the Department of Environmental Resources and Navigation Commission for the Delaware River; establishing penalties and repealing certain acts,"" providing for county conservation district stream reconstruction emergency permit authorizations." Kristine Bush reported that the Senator provided Clean Streams funding this and last year, and supported additional monies towards Clean Stream Funding which will include eighty (80) to eighty five (85) billion dollars this year.

Jacob Pride- Pennsylvania State Representative Maureen Madden reported that their September's Town Hall meeting at the Northampton Community College only received questions regarding warehouses and development at the 115th District.

Bob Armstrong thanked all the board members and the MCCD staff for a successful year 2023 and a great number of received grants. He conveyed that the board supports the district, environment and growth within the county.

Bob Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 11:24 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

O'Connor

Iwona O'Connor
Office Assistant Sr.

**The next MCCD Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday,
January 18, 2023, at 10:00 AM at the Monroe County Conservation District.**