



**MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Armstrong, Sharon Laverdure, Roger McFadden, Craig Todd (via Zoom,) Brian Winot, and Donna Foulk.

Jason Smith was absent.

DISTRICT STAFF: Kristina Heaney, David Hooker, John Motz, OC Hearthstone, Barbara Bistras, and Drew Wagner.

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Janet Creegan-DEP (via Zoom,) and Deborah Basalyga-NRCS (via Zoom)

PUBLIC: Paula Heeschen- BWA, Alex Jackson, and Rodney Stark

Bob Armstrong called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Public Comment:

Paula Heeschen, on behalf of the Brodhead Watershed Association, questioned the incident in Mount Pocono where the warehouse site eroded badly and created some flooding at 5-points. Kristina responded that this particular site will be included on the next month's report and the District initiated compliance and enforcement action which cannot be discussed at a public meeting at this time.

Kristina asked for an approval to add to the Agenda the Advertising and Hiring of an Environmental Educator.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Roger McFadden, to approve the Agenda Addition to Advertise and Hire Environmental Educator. A roll call vote was requested.

Bob Armstrong voted yes,
Sharon Laverdure voted yes,
Roger McFadden voted yes,
Motion carried.

Craig Todd voted yes,
Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.



Board Meeting Minutes: Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the June 15, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Brian Winot to approve June 15, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was requested.

Bob Armstrong voted yes,
Sharon Laverdure voted yes,
Roger McFadden voted yes,
Motion carried.

Craig Todd voted yes,
Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.

EE Report: The report was provided to the board in their packet. Kristina Heaney announced that the conservation camp is underway with twenty one (21) campers. The Bug Fest took place last weekend and it was a huge success with over two hundred (200) attendees.

Tech Report: The technical report was provided to the board in their packet. Kristina disclosed that last month the district conducted twenty five (25) site inspections. Thirteen (13) were complaint, five (5) notices of violation were issued, and two (2) sites were referred to the DEP. The District received nine (9) new applications and issued two (2) individual permits and one (1) general permit.

Craig Todd noticed excess of Chapter 105 violations. Kristina expressed her opinion that it is caused by residential construction, lakeside properties bought sight unseen and often containing wetlands, that are now attempted to be developed. John Motz added that it is still post pandemic fallout of no need to comply and the government resistance. The 105 has taken a lead and John is the only person on staff trained to review the plans and issue the permits. The Fish and Boat Commission became a great support and partner in responding to the complaints and obtaining compliance. Some receptive Home Owner Associations with lakes are asking for assistance with rewriting of their policies.

Watershed Specialist Report: David Hooker provided his report in the board packet. David stated that last month he was working on the EWP program's big streambank stabilization project with NRCS and the DEP. He reported that the 2022 Stream Table Environmental Education grant was completed and reimbursed. David also submitted 5-year Watershed Specialist grant application. In the aspect of Agriculture, one of Monroe County's beef farms received a substantial EQUIP contract of almost \$420,000.00, and the draft ACAP application and policy documents were completed.



DGLVR Report: John Motz announced that the program's statewide annual summary report and the new stream continuity brochure are now available. He reminded the board that the annual maintenance workshop will be conducted in Scranton, PA at the end of September. John reported the expenditure of the Brady's Lake project since its commencement in 2015. The project included two bridges at a cost of \$15,000.00. The drainage above the bridge in the North section was completed in 2019, with a grant for \$51,000.00. The South section containing nine (9) cross pipes and the fill that was completed in 2021 for \$87,000.00. It all summed up to almost \$200,000.00, or about \$60/foot. But the highlight of this project is that the Game Commission will continue the work on the remainder of this road using these practices regardless of grant funding. That's a win for the program.

Bob questioned the program's certification requirement for the Municipalities. John clarified that it only requires two (2) days of the ESM certification training valid for five (5) years by a municipal employee to qualify. For the recertification, only one (1) day is needed at the annual maintenance training municipal day, which is a field trip day looking at projects. John announced that the program still has \$40,000.00 in available funds for the Dirt and Gravel Program, as well as \$120,000.00 available for the Low Volume Roads, with more money soon to be allocated for the next year.

District Managers Report: Kristina Heaney provided her report in the board packet. This month she was focusing on creating training programs for the new district staff. She also collected data and an easement information on dry dams for the public meeting scheduled for April 2024.

Craig asked if there were any additional municipal meetings regarding the Act 167. Kristina informed the board that the district only met with Middle Smithfield Township. Tobyhanna Township submitted the Right to Know request regarding the 150' buffer clarification. Smithfield Township requested clarification of the definition of vernal pools, ponds and lakes. Craig noted that only Price and Stroud Townships advertised as compliant.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of NRCS EWP Sponsorship Letter.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Sharon Laverdure, to approve NRCS EWP Sponsorship Letter. A roll call vote was requested.

Bob Armstrong voted yes,
Sharon Laverdure voted yes,
Roger McFadden voted yes,
Motion carried.

Craig Todd voted yes,
Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of D&G PGC Brady's Lake DSA Invoice for \$30,500.00.



A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Roger McFadden, to approve D&G PGC Brady's Lake DSA Invoice for \$30,500.00. A roll call vote was requested.

Bob Armstrong voted yes,
Sharon Laverdure voted yes,
Roger McFadden voted yes,
Motion carried.

Craig Todd voted yes,
Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of ACAP Policy Documents.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Sharon Laverdure, to approve ACAP Policy Documents. A roll call vote was requested.

Bob Armstrong voted yes,
Sharon Laverdure voted yes,
Roger McFadden voted yes,
Motion carried.

Craig Todd voted yes,
Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of ACT Contract Renewal.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Donna Folk, to approve ACT Contract Renewal. A roll call vote was requested.

Bob Armstrong voted yes,
Sharon Laverdure voted yes,
Roger McFadden voted yes,
Motion carried.

Craig Todd voted yes,
Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of Advertising and Hiring of an Environmental Educator.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot, to approve to Advertise and Hire an Environmental Educator. A roll call vote was requested.

Bob Armstrong voted yes,
Sharon Laverdure abstained from the
vote because it was a personnel matter to
be discussed and voted at the next
commissioners meeting,

Roger McFadden voted yes,
Craig Todd voted yes,
Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.

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 Roger McFadden, to approve Out Of County Travel. A roll call vote was requested.



Bob Armstrong voted yes,
Sharon Laverdure voted yes,
Roger McFadden voted yes,
Motion carried.

Craig Todd voted yes,
Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.

Work Session Reports:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of June Work Session Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Brian Winot, to approve June Work Session Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was requested.

Bob Armstrong voted yes,
Sharon Laverdure voted yes,
Roger McFadden voted yes,
Motion carried.

Craig Todd voted yes,
Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.

Financial Report:

Invoice Lists for July 19, 2023:

Bob Armstrong requested approval for the July 19, 2023 invoice list.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Roger McFadden to approve the invoice list for July 19, 2023. A roll call vote was requested.

Bob Armstrong voted yes,
Sharon Laverdure voted yes,
Roger McFadden voted yes,

Craig Todd abstained from the vote
because he did not have the report to
review.

Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.

Motion carried.

Balance Sheet as of 6/30/2023:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the Balance Sheet as of 6/30/23.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot, to approve the Balance Sheet as of 6/30/2023. A roll call vote was requested.

Bob Armstrong voted yes,
Sharon Laverdure voted yes,
Roger McFadden voted yes,
Motion carried.

Craig Todd voted yes,
Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.



Cooperating Agency Reports:

DEP-Janet Creegan provided the DEP report in the board packet. She reminded the board that the ACAP requires before and after pictures. Janet thanked Kristina for organizing the mentor training.

Deborah Basalyga- NRCS provided the report in the board packet. It included the list of obligations that have been funded. Deborah stated that their office is now working on the next round of grants.

Public Comment:

Paula Heeschen asked how many warehouse type projects are underway in Monroe County. Kristina replied that it would be a better question for the Planning Commission as the District does not obtain the land use records. Roger McFadden elaborated that it is at least five (5) ongoing. Sharon added that at least six (6) are reviewed by the Commission each month. Paula had a follow up question relating to the size of these projects, and how can public officials feel confident that the existing environmental erosion controls and stormwater regulations are sufficient to prevent disaster, or bad flooding events, effecting nearby roadways and streams. Kristina responded that the district reviews the projects according to the state standards and based on the impervious area that is proposed, ensuring that the rate, water quality, and a volume control are examined in depth. Paula added that Penn Future released a model ordinance for the Municipalities. Craig responded that it does not address any environmental impacts for this type of project, but rather gives the Municipalities a tool to define the activities of a warehouse and a distribution center. Craig continued that there is a public perception that the Department permitting eliminates impacts, but in a reality, the local planning is the best tool to minimize those impacts. Certain areas of the landscape have environmental constraints, and if a warehouse or a distribution center's zoning is in that sensitive area, the environmental impacts are hardened by a municipal land use decision long before the department's permits are issued. Kristina added that every Municipality has the authority to request an environmental assessment to be conducted on any and all of the projects. Coolbaugh Township is utilizing review of impacts of particular projects for a more detailed evaluation of the warehouse projects. Brian Winot mentioned recent Riverkeeper's article regarding warehouse development near the Lehigh River. Kristina added that a poorly planned development using predated DEP regulations and no riparian buffers was the problem in that case.

Donna Folk spoke of the first successful pasture program event in the Northeast. Sixty six (66) people were registered and even more attended and learned about cover crops.



Bob Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 11:02 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

O'Connor

Iwona O'Connor
Office Assistant Sr.

**The next MCCD Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday,
August 17, 2023, at 10:00 AM at the Monroe County Conservation District.**