



MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2024

Revised May 16, 2024

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

DISTRICT STAFF: Kristina Heaney, Roger Spotts, David Hooker, David Lucykanish, OC Hearthstone, John Motz, Drew Wagner PE, Mike Wilk PE, Barbara Bistras and Iwona O'Connor.

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Jennifer Matthews- NRCS (via Zoom), Julia Sherer- MCPC, Janet Creegan- DEP, Jim Vogt- Penn State Extension- Master Watershed Stewart Program

PUBLIC: Rodney Stark, Tarah Probst- Pennsylvania State Representative (via Zoom,) artzulick2024 (via Zoom.)

Bob Armstrong called the meeting to order at 9:59 AM.

Public Comment:

None

Board Meeting Minutes:

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the March 21, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Jason Smith to approve the March 21, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

EE Report:

The report was provided to the board in their packet. Roger Spotts informed the board that the program's schedule is filled into early June despite late April, and early May's State testing in schools. Summer Camps registration is currently open, and they are already at



seventy percent (70%) capacity. Two (2) camps for eleven to twelve (11-12) years' old children are full. Six (6) teenagers signed up for the Conservation Camp. In March, the EE program assisted with plant management and boardwalk repairs at the Bog. The educators will also attend April 30th Community Night to promote the summer camps.

Roger and Bob asked for the approval to Advertise Summer Work Crew.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Jason Smith to Advertise Summer Work Crew. Motion carried.

Roger clarified that the summer work crew consists of one (1) supervisor and two (2) laborers with wages ranging between \$10.00 and \$11.00 per hour, and the crew employed from June through August.

Tech Report:

The technical report was provided to the board in their packet. Kristina disclosed that in the month of March the District received eight (8) new applications, issued three (3) individual NPDES permits, processed one (1) minor modifications, completed three (3) Records of Decision, and did not acknowledge any notices of termination. The Resource Conservation Specialists reviewed fifteen (15) E&S and eleven (11) PCSM plans. The inspection report and project review status report were provided to the board in their packet as well. There were no dirty dirt sites reported last month. The board inquired regarding two (2) of the inspection sites. Kristina informed the board that Swiftwater Solar's site revisions were redline changes for sediment basins for an existing PennDOT's pipe, and a diversion sock alternatives. Metzger Road Bridge Replacement inspection was a site of a joint permit application for an existing bridge update.

Tarah Probst inquired regarding a State Representative attending the PennDOT I-80 expansion project's pre-application meeting. Kristina informed her that pre-decisional meetings discuss conceptual plans and draft documents that are ineligible for the Right-to-Know requests. Kristina forwarded Tarah's request to the DEP's Central Office, given that it is their delegated program, and she is awaiting their decision. Tarah insisted that once the project receives the rubber stamp, the creeks and streams will never recover. Kristina reiterated that the Conservation District is not a rubber stamping agency, and the District's engineers are great conservationists. She added that the District always encourages environmentally responsible development. Kristina thanked Tarah for being an active voice for our creeks and streams.

PACD Regional Meeting Report:



Craig Todd reported that he and the District Manager attended the regional PACD meeting. He informed the board that the PACD requested one (1) time \$500.00 donations from the sixty six (66) conservation districts for staff expenses that exceeded allowable and budgeted amounts.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot to approve \$500.00 Donation to PACD for Funding Deficit. Motion carried.

Craig Todd reported that he also voted against legislative streambank fencing augmenting that the resolution should be reached at a municipal level. *Craig clarified that he voted against the PACD's legislative resolution limiting municipal adoption of buffer protection-revised May 16, 2024.*

District Managers Report:

Kristina Heaney provided her report in the board packet. She informed the board that last month she was working on two (2) demolition projects. The bungalow demolition contract was awarded, and the pond project is ready to go through the bid process. The funding for a new pond will be provided by the Kettle Creek and the District will request a funding agreement.

Kristina informed the board that the annual 2024 NPDES workshop is scheduled for May 10th, 2024 at the Skytop Lodge and all of the board members are welcome to attend.

DGLVR Program Report:

John notified the board that four (4) Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Road projects will begin over the next four (4) weeks. Hell Hollow is scheduled to begin on May 13th, Whitey B on June 1st, Firestone is currently underway and Rosebay Road just held its pre-construction meeting. The program's old money balance declined to \$32,500.00.

Watershed Specialist Report:

The Watershed Specialist report was provided to the board in their packet. David Hooker informed the board that the Tanite Road Streambank stabilization project received seven (7) bids. The lowest bidder was DGR Excavating LLC in the amount of \$148,740.00.

Bob asked for the approval of Emergency Watershed Protection Program's Contract for Tanite Road.



A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Jason Smith to award DGR Excavating LLC the Emergency Waterhed Protection Program's Tanite Road Contract in the amount of \$148,740.00. Motion carried.

David and Bob asked for the approval of two (2) ACAP contracts.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Roger McFadden to approve Gould's Produce and Farm Market Multi-year Cover Crop Contract in the amount of \$5,610.36. Motion carried.

Jason Smith abstained for the vote as he conducts business with the farm and they are distant relatives.

David added that Gould's Farm Market ACAP agreement is a three (3) year contract for seeding.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Sharon Laverdure to approve Kresge Farm Rotational Grazing Improvement Project in the amount of \$48,935.60. Motion carried.

Jason Smith abstained for the vote as he is related to the farm owners.

David clarified that the Kresge contract will provide perimeter fencing for a beef farm's rotational grazing system.

David reported that the 2024 Water Quality Study began in March. This year's study is taking longer than usual due to the persistent rain and streams' high flow. He clarified that the District follows the DEP's protocols for collecting field meter measurements, water samples, habitat analysis and macroinvertebrate sampling.

Out of County Travel:

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of Out of County Travel.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Jason Smith to approve Out Of County travel. Motion carried.

Work Session Report:

Bob Armstrong requested the approval of the March 2024 Work Session Minutes.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Donna Foulk to approve March 2024 Work Session Minutes. Motion carried.



Financial Report:

Invoice Lists for April 18, 2024:

Bob Armstrong requested the approval of the April 18, 2024 Invoice List.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Jason Smith to approve the Invoice List for April 18, 2024. Motion carried.

Balance Sheet as of 3/31/2024:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2024.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Sharon Laverdure to approve the Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2024. Motion carried.

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval to move excess funds from our checking into our money market account.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Jason Smith to Move \$500,000.00 Excess Funds from our Checking into our Existing Money Market Account. Motion carried.

Barbara clarified that both accounts bear the same interest rate.

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of \$578,419.08 Year End Final County Reimbursement.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot to approve \$578,419.08 Year End Final County Reimbursement.

Cooperating Agency Reports:

DEP- Janet Creegan reported that the Growing Greener and 319 grants will be open on Monday, April 22nd, 2024 and run until June 23rd, 2024. She thanked Kristina for being a mentor and providing new staff training. Janet praised Dave Lucykanish for preparing a pond and lake management program for Watershed Specialists in the region.

NRCS- Jennifer Matthews reported that the second (2nd) virtual local workgroup meeting is scheduled for April 25th, 2024 from 9AM- 12 noon.

MCPC- Julia Sherer reported that the Monroe County Planning Commission and the District submitted the 2023 Water Quality Study Report for the Commissioners' approval.

Public Comment: None

Donna Foulk informed the board that the Grazing Coalition provides free mentoring program to the farms in the entire state.

Jason Smith took an opportunity to thank David Hooker and Kristina Heaney for their attention to the agricultural community and pursuing funds on their behalf. He congratulated David on his promotion to the Head Resource Conservationist.

Bob Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 10:56 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Iwona O'Connor
Office Assistant Sr.

The next MCCD Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 10:00 AM at the Monroe County Conservation District.