

MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Armstrong, Sharon Laverdure, Chuck Gould, Roger McFadden, Pat Ross, Dave Moyer, and Randy Rice

DISTRICT STAFF: Kristina Heaney, Barbara Bistras, Emily Paul, Roger Spotts, Amber Funk, and Lori Kerrigan

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS: John Lyman, Brendon J.E. Carroll, Brian Winot, Amalia O'Brien

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Ryan Hill, Monroe County Planning Commission, Ed Vinton, NRCS

PUBLIC: Paula Heeschen, BWA; Leslie Berger, Resident; Jack Rader, State Representative; Rodney Stark, TU; Annie Lamberton, Resident; Drake Stinson, New Lines Eng.; Jack Fossett, Resident; Mackenzie Strunk, Rep. Brown.

Pat Ross called the meeting to order at 8:00 am:

Board Members Present:

Dave Moyer
Roger McFadden
Bob Armstrong
Chuck Gould
Pat Ross
Sharon Laverdure
Randy Rice

Public comment: None

Board Meeting Minutes:

Pat asked for approval of the January 16th Board Meeting minutes. Kristina requested to have the salary for the Environmental Educator position removed from the minutes. Chuck Gould made the motion to accept the amended minutes, Bob Armstrong seconded the motion, motion carried.

Executive Session:

Executive session began at 8:03am and ended at 8:13am. This session was to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Committee Appointments: Pat appointed Sharon Laverdure to the Budget & Finance Committee and the Building and Site Committee. Pat asked for the Associate Directors to let him know which committees they would like to be on, so that we can finalize the list.

Technical Report: Lori Kerrigan reviewed the technical report for the month of January. We issued two NPDES Individual permits in the municipalities of Barrett and Jackson. There was one Record of Decision that went up to DEP. In the Chapter 105 program, we had three permits that were acknowledged. We are getting ready for our audit from DEP which will be in September. Our NPDES Workshop will be on February 25, 2020 at 8:00 am at Northampton Community College, Monroe Campus. We have 230 people signed up. DEP will be co-hosting in the afternoon with us.

Amber Funk reviewed the Agriculture report. The Farmers Appreciation Banquet was held on the first of February at the Polk Township fire hall. There were approximately 175 attendees. It celebrated the hard work of every farmer throughout the year. The 2019 Conservation Farmer of the Year award was also presented. This year's recipient was Jeff Berger. We also did a special recognition, and this year it went to the next generation of upcoming farmers.

EE Report: Roger Spotts reviewed the Environmental Education report for the month of January. We finished up our winter bird feeding program, and now we are fully immersed in maple sugaring. Our programs start next week, but we have already tapped trees and made some syrup. These programs will go into the third week of March. Public day will be Saturday, March 7th. Scout Day will be March 14th and we have close to 150 scouts signed up for that day. We have 189 trees sponsored, but there is still time to sponsor trees. Sharon asked about global warming having an effect regarding the maple sugar process. Roger S. answered that there is definitely a change. Thirty years ago, they didn't start tapping the trees until President's Day. This year, they started tapping trees February 10th and he believes they could have started tapping trees two weeks prior to that. The season used to last until the beginning of April, now, typically, they are lucky if they get to the end of March before the season ends. People are concerned that if the season continues to shorten, there won't be enough temperature change that is required to the sap flow. Sharon suggested getting this information out to the public, so that climate change can be seen locally. We have interviews scheduled for next week for the Office Assistant, Senior position.

District Managers Report: Kristina reviewed the District Manager report for the month of January. The Back to Basics Regional Director Training will be February 27th at MCCD. She has been working on reading through the policy books and is looking to revise older policies to bring them up to date. Kristina attended the recent PACD meeting with Lori, Chuck Gould, and Roger McFadden. During the meeting, the discussion of clean fill came up. We voted that we would like to see stricter regulations regarding clean fill at the PACD meeting to follow the parameters of our neighboring states. We would like to educate the public regarding the ads for “free fill.” Representative Jack Rader asked about the regulations and what needed to change, and said that he would be happy to try to do that. Discussion was had regarding clean fill.

Financial Report:

Financial Statement/Balance Sheet: A motion was made by Roger McFadden and seconded by Chuck Gould to approve the Financial Statement/Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2020 as presented, motion carried.

Invoice Lists: A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure and seconded by Chuck Gould to approve the invoice lists for January 2020 as presented, motion carried.

2019 Year End Report: A motion was made by Roger McFadden and seconded by Sharon Laverdure to approve the 2019 Year End Report as presented, motion carried.

2020 Budget Revisions: A motion was made by Roger McFadden and seconded by Dave Moyer to approve the 2020 Budget Revisions as presented, motion carried.

ADA Ramp: A motion was made by Dave Moyer and seconded by Chuck Gould to reject all bids for the ramp due to being over budget, motion carried. Dave Moyer suggested that he and John Lyman would work with Drew Wagner, MCCD, to come up with an alternative plan and budget estimate for doing a ramp along the side of the building and the eventual demolition and improvements of the front steps/ramp.

Out of County Travel: A motion was made by Bob Armstrong and seconded by Sharon Laverdure to approve the out of county travel as presented, motion carried.

Solicitors: A motion was made by Dave Moyer and seconded by Chuck Gould to approve the termination of Doug Blazey’s contract as solicitor, motion carried. Roll call vote was unanimous. A motion was made by Chuck Gould and seconded by Dave Moyer to approve Jeff Durney as an attorney on as needed basis, motion carried. Roll call vote was unanimous.

Cooperating Agency Reports:

NRCS: Ed Vinton reported that the deadlines for applications are being delayed due to computer upgrades and new programs.

MCPG: Ryan Hill reported that the Ag Preservation program is now accepting applications. It opened January 31 and will close April 3rd.

Rep. Jack Rader: Asked about the Ash trees and the Emerald Ash Borer and what can be done. Roger Spotts answered that the treatment for Ash is very expensive and not highly successful. They have been saving seeds in a bank to replant Ash trees once the bug cycles through. Their theory is when all the Ash trees die then the bug dies.

Public Comment:

Sharon Laverdure asked about what she should do if she receives calls about I-80 plans. Pat Ross said that any plans have to go through the Conservation District. Lori Kerrigan reported that PennDOT is good about bringing plans to MCCD before anything is done.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Paul
Office Assistant, Senior

**THE NEXT MCCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY,
March 19, 2020 AT 8:00 AM AT THE MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OFFICES STROUDSBURG, PA.**