



MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 18, 2024

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

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

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Janet Creegan-DEP, Paula Heeschen- BWA, Jim Vogt- Penn State Extension, Julia Sherer- MCPC, and Deborah Basalyga- FPAC-NRCS, PA.

PUBLIC: Kristine Bush- Senator Rosemary Brown, and Erin N. DeRosa.

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

Public Comment:

None

Director Appointments:

Oath of Office: Sharon Laverdure and Roger McFadden were sworn in as directors of MCCD Board.

Election of Officers:

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Roger McFadden, to approve Bob Armstrong as Chairperson, Brian Winot as Vice-Chairperson, Craig Todd as the Secretary, and Roger McFadden as Treasurer. 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.



Executive Session:

Bob Armstrong called an executive session at 10:15 AM to discuss personnel matters. The board members returned to the regular session at 10:44 AM.

Board Meeting Minutes:

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the December 14, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot to approve the December 14, 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.

Tech Report:

The technical report was provided to the board in their packet. Lori disclosed that in the month of December the general correspondence reached two hundred forty one (241.) The District issued one (1) individual NPDES, processed six (6) co-permittee applications, held seven (7) pre-application and three (3) pre-construction meetings, and reviewed one (1) notice of termination. The Resource Conservation Specialists conducted twenty nine (29) inspections on twenty seven (27) sites. Five (5) sites were complaints and four (4) were issued compliance notice or notice of violation. No sites were referred to the DEP in December.

Lori provided 2023 year-end review report in the board packet. She informed the board that MCCD review times averaged fifty seven (57) business days as compared to the state permit decision guarantee of one hundred and seven (107) business days. Project acreage increased to 5,643 in 2023 as counted against 2,675 acres in 2022. Few sizable projects such as Transcontinental Pipeline and Swiftwater Solar as well as permit renewals large sites such as Camelback contributed to this increase. Furthermore the PPL enlarged their facilities by adding avian guards intended to prevent bird from nesting on their power equipment. Lori year-end report included graphs of projects and complaints received per Municipality for years 2021 to 2023. Pocono and Tobyhanna Townships grouped the most projects. Pocono and Stroud were frontrunners in complaints received by the district.



EE Report:

The report was provided to the board in their packet. Roger Spotts notified the board that the Environmental Education Center is gearing up for the 47th year of Maple Sugaring. Public Sugar Bush tours are scheduled for March 2nd and 9th, 2024. Tree sponsors reached one hundred and twenty five (125.) The center's spring schedule is already filled with local schools, and a new kayak program was offered to all of them. Furthermore the environmental education staff is continuing to develop a sustainability program with the MCWA.

Roger provided 2023 year-end review report in the board packet. He informed the board that in 2023 the programs' total exceeded six hundred (600) and the attendance eighteen thousand (18,000.) The program income was \$96,707.56 all inclusive. The TCBOG added \$6,215.00. Both amounts were the best numbers since 2014. The Bog Walks remained very popular last year despite the fact that their price per walk increased to \$6.00. The gift shop income supplemented \$4,734.56 to the program. This amount was smaller than last year due to few rain barrels remaining unsold. Bus trips and day camps were top contributors to the program's notable revenue.

Watershed Specialist Report:

David Hooker unveiled that he completed the 2022 Monroe County Water Quality Study report and the required aquatic collector's permit report for the 2023 study. He attended December Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District board meeting, reviewed their strategic plan and drafted objectives for the watershed management committee.

Agriculture:

David Hooker reported that he prepared two (2) manure management plans for small equine operations. He helped a landowner with a well and watering system design.

The MCCD Agricultural program's recent immense achievement was acquiring a Growing Greener Grant in an amount of \$407,599. This award will help fund permitting and construction necessary to implement agricultural BMPs on the beef operation farm in Ross Township. The Brown's farm is located in Pine Creek subwatershed of Buckwha Creek. The one hundred nineteen (119) acre farm has fifty two (52) cow pairs, twenty eight (28) feeders and two (2) bulls. It is preserved under easement with the Monroe County Preserved Farmland Program. The project will provide two (2) stabilized stream crossings, 2300' of exclusionary fencing and 2.65 acres of riparian buffer with 50' setback along Pine Creek, as well as roofed heavy used area, manure storage and watering system for a



rotational grazing system. The goal of the project is to reduce nutrient laden runoff from animal concentrated areas. Estimated pollutant reductions will be 1,614 lbs. per year of nitrogen, 513 lbs. per year of phosphorus and 45 tons per year of sediment. The Brown's farm will receive an EQIP fund match of \$420,163 from USDA-NRCS.

Bob inquired regarding another Growing Greener project- Sand Spring. Lori responded that the project will be applying for a permit extension due to growing season limits and dislodged stones after the removal of the temporary access bridge crossing.

District Managers Report:

Kristina Heaney provided her report in the board packet. She informed the board she is honored to be a part of hazard mitigation planning which will be a two (2) year process and will include stormwater and buffers surveys. Kristina acknowledged a meeting with the DEP's Act 537 sewer module planning. The meeting was an effort to coordinate warehouse plan reviews between MCCD and the DEP's sewer module department. Amy Balanca is their regional group manager and her program has a remarkable anti degradation policy that could be modeled for the future Act 167 renewals.

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the Conservation District Found Allocation Program- Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance (ACT) Delegation Agreement for a period from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot to approve the Conservation District Found Allocation Program- Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance (ACT) Delegation Agreement for a period from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028. 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 the approval of 8073 Running Valley Demolition Advertisement.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Brian Winot to approve the 8073 Running Valley Demolition Advertisement. 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 the approval of the RealTechs Database Services.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Sharon Laverdure to approve the RealTechs Database Services. 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.

2023 Donations:

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of 2023 Donations.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Brian Winot to accept the 2023 donations as follows: \$8,550.00 to the Stream Gage and \$19,676.79 to the EE Center.

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.

2024 IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of 2024 IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate of 67 cents per mile.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Craig Todd to approve 2024 IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate of 67 cents per mile. 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.

Out of County Travel:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of Out of County Travel.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot to approve Out Of County travel. A roll call vote was requested.

Bob Armstrong voted yes,

Sharon Laverdure voted yes,



Roger McFadden voted yes,
Craig Todd voted yes,
Motion carried.

Brian Winot voted yes,
Donna Foulk voted yes.

Growing Greener:

Bob Armstrong asked for the approval of the Growing Greener- Brown Farm: Agricultural Resource Enhancement Project in the amount of \$407,599.00

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Donna Foulk to approve the Growing Greener- Brown Farm: Agricultural Resource Enhancement Project in the amount of \$407,599.00. 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.

Financial Report:

Invoice Lists for January 18, 2024:

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

A motion was made by Donna Foulk, seconded by Brian Winot to approve the Invoice List for January 18, 2024. 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.

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2023:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023.

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



Revised 2024 Budget:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the revised 2024 Budget.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Craig Todd to approve the revised 2024 Budget. 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 to complete the Statement of Financial Interest forms and update the teams' sheets.

NRCS- Deborah Basalyga provided the NRCS report in the board packet. She reported that currently the agency is at the ranking process of 2024 applications.

MCPS- Julia Sherer reported that the new applications for the preserved farmland will be available at the County Planning Commission's office on February 1st, 2024.

Public Comment:

Kristine Bush on behalf of Senator Rosemary Brown informed the board that the Senator will host a free damaged license plates replacement event on April 18th, 2024 from 4:30-6:30PM at their Scotrun District Office located at 2398 Route 611. Kristine provided paperbacks of Human Service Directory for the Monroe County. It is a great resource compiled by the Senator's office including addresses and phone numbers of all the agencies in the Monroe County.

Paula Heeschen- BWA verified that the District's board members are aware of the report where the Governor recognized a record number of new young future farmers' members. The Governor's statement seem to reflect a growing interest among young people in the agriculture. Kristina replied that the District is planning another Ag Day in the Pocono Mountain School District. MCCD is also actively advocating for Young Agricultural Professionals.

Bob Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 11:34 AM.



Respectfully submitted,

O'Connor

Iwona O'Connor
Office Assistant Sr.

The next MCCD Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15th, 2023, at 10:00 AM at the Monroe County Conservation District.