



MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Armstrong, Charlie Garris, Dave Moyer,
Roger McFadden, Chuck Gould and Randy Rice

DISTRICT STAFF: Adam Schellhammer, Barbara Bistras, Amber Funk, Emily Paul
and Lori Kerrigan

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Jennifer Matthews, NRCS; Ryan Hill, Monroe County Planning
Commission; Shane Kleiner, DEP

PUBLIC: Rodney Stark, Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited; Drake Stinson, Borton-Lawson;
Bob Heil, BWA; Jack Fossett, Resident; Jack Rader, State Representative; Craig Todd,
Resident; Jay Grobelny, Auditor; Amalia O'Brien, Tobyhanna Army Depot; Paula Heeschen,
BWA

Bob Armstrong called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Staff Introductions: Adam Schellhammer introduced new staff Emily Paul and Amber
Funk, and they briefly summarized their experience.

Public Comment: None

June Meeting Minutes Approval: Bob asked for approval of the June 20, 2019 Board
Meeting minutes. Roger McFadden made the motion, Chuck Gould seconded the motion,
motion carried.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Charlie Garris
Roger McFadden
Bob Armstrong
Chuck Gould
Randy Rice
Dave Moyer

Audit Information: Jay Grobelny from Riley & Co. gave a brief overview of the 2018 audit.
The Conservation District financial statements have an unqualified clean opinion. No fraud
or non-compliance issues. One miss-statement was identified as a result of audit

procedures that was corrected, it was an accrual adjustment related to the Dirt & Gravel Road projects. Jay discussed the new accounting standards for the lease of the building. Roger McFadden commented that there were no issues with the audit. Roger McFadden made a motion to accept the audit as it stands, Chuck Gould seconded the motion, motion carried. Roger McFadden discussed the difficulty of preparing the data for the audit and Dirt and Gravel Road program, and commended Barbara Bistras for her work.

Technical Report: Lori Kerrigan reviewed the technical site status report for the month of June. We received eleven new applications; there are thirty four plans under review. Four individual NPDES permits issued in Tunkhannock, Polk, Ross, and Pocono Townships. The District is continuing to receive a lot of complaints. Eight new sites for fill issues were investigated. Some were local sources, and were okay just to be stabilized, but several others have been reported to DEP and the Waste Authority and they are investigating. Lori stated that Adam Schellhammer and herself attended the State Conservation Commission and PACD meeting. Resolution from the PACD Conservation Committee to get PA's clean fill standards in line with neighboring states has been passed at the state level, and will be reviewed at the regional level in the fall of 2019. The Conservation District is continuing to work with the DEP and Waste Authority.

EE Report: Roger was at Conservation Camp at the time of the meeting. Adam Schellhammer gave the report in Roger's absence. Conservation camp had 28 campers. There is a good turnout for Conservation Camp for Kids coming up, August 5-16th, open to ages 7-13. Scheduling has begun for school programs for 2019- 2020. BugFest had a good turnout.

District Managers Report: Dirt and Gravel Road site review and project prep at Brady's Lake. That was the last project to get the full allocation for 2020. New Dirt and Gravel allocations were approved. Funding will remain flat at \$100,000. Low Volume Road will increase by \$2571 to \$128,000 total.

PACD poster contest judging and winners were posted on the website and posters are displayed around the art gallery. None of the submissions placed at the state finals.

Moving forward with the Spotted Lantern Fly grant – hope to get approvals for more educational materials. Project that was initially looked at looks like it will exceed the \$10,000; will wait for future allocations to tackle the project.

All technical staff have spent time this month getting new team members up to speed. DEP's Clean Water Academy has been used and is an effective tool for training.

PACD/SCC joint conference: CDFAP funding was approved for ACT position \$16225. ACT38 funding was approved to increase from \$14,000 to \$15000 for our delegation agreement. Presented and discussed the issues of clean fill in the county. They were able to pass a resolution to support any legislation for clean fill standards to be in line with the standards of neighboring state. Bob Armstrong asked "Do you know if NY and NJ are the same standards?" Shane Kleiner explained that they have higher standards there than in

PA. Adam also explained that the DEP Bureau of Solid Waste has a spreadsheet of where everyone's range falls. He said that they are close, but they do have some differences.

Spotted Lantern Fly was listed as a federally recognized invasive species. That could open up more funding for treatment through PA Farm Bill. Strategic planning grants through the SCC will be made available in the near future. The amount has been increased from \$1000-\$1500.

State budget has been approved. Funding remained flat, although a 10% percent increase was requested. One item of concern is the District's line item is now rolled up in the Environmental Stewardship fund line item. We strongly oppose this because we would rather be highly visible than be tucked into a different line item. Going to push for our line item removed from the Environmental Stewardship Fund.

On July 24, we met with Strauser's Nature's Helpers to go over scope of work to make certain repairs to the flood control dams in Barrett Township.

Discussion followed with questions from the public about the clean fill, which Adam and Lori reiterated the information from the PACD conference regarding the resolution that was made.

Discussion was held on the PennDot Agility Agreement and potential projects that could be completed. Craig Todd suggested that the Meesing parking lot needs to be expanded. Parking can extend down the road on the maple sugaring days, and can be pretty difficult especially during poor weather.

Financial Report: A motion was made by Chuck Gould and seconded by Roger McFadden to accept the June 30, 2019 financial statement and balance sheet as presented, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the items on the Invoice sheets. Motion was made by Roger McFadden and seconded by Chuck Gould to accept the June 21, 2019 through July 24, 2019 Invoice Lists as presented, motion carried.

Other Business:

Out of County Travel: A motion was made by Chuck Gould and seconded by Roger McFadden to approve the out of county travel as presented, motion carried.

2019/2020 Act 38 Budget and Staff sheet: A motion was made by Chuck Gould and seconded by Randy Rice to approve the staff sheet replacing Matt Giambra with Amber Funk, motion carried. A motion was made by Charlie Garris and seconded by Roger McFadden to approve the Act 38 Budget for 2019/2020, motion carried.

Ramp repair and design: Discussion was held about the specifications for the ramp repair. A motion was made by Chuck Gould and seconded by Dave Moyer to approve the ramp

repair bid sheets and the permission for Peter's Consultants, Inc. to move forward with advertising the project, motion carried.

Stream Gage contract: A motion was made by Roger McFadden and seconded by Chuck Gould to approve the 2020 Stream Gage contract for the amount of \$17,800, motion carried.

Cooperating Agency Reports:

DEP- Shane Kleiner from the DEP informed that there isn't a field rep. to replace him yet. They are trying to split responsibilities in the meantime. There is difficulty getting approval through Harrisburg to fill the position. At this time, Carl DeLuca will be the first contact.

There is a new proposal in the Ag. Bill for urban agriculture. There is \$500,000 available for urban agricultural projects around the Commonwealth. Up to \$50,000 is allocated for community projects, and up to \$2,500 for individual needs. There is a website for more information: <https://www.ESAdced.state.pa.us>

They are looking at a fall grant program for Growing Greener. There will be a longer application period of at least sixty days.

Discussion was had about the ditches along the road sides, and the salt/brine that is used. Lori explained that we are looking into grants for a hydro-seeder program to address ditch stabilization.

USDA – Jen briefly discussed her report and explained that they are working on additional contracts. Adam shared that Jen has a slate of comprehensive nutrient management plans that residents of Monroe County and other regions are looking to get approved. They are cost prohibitive, so they are looking for third-party funding to receive grant money.

Public Comment:

Bob Heil with the Brodhead Watershed Association has been trying to rally the MS4 discussion. The BWA will be the advocate for the discussion. He promoted the Summer Ramble at Buck Hill Falls which occurs on 8/4.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 am by Bob.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Paul
Office Assistant, Senior

**THE NEXT MCCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY,
August 15, 2019 AT 8:00 AM AT THE MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICES
STROUDSBURG, PA.**