

Conserving Natural Resources for the Future

MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES Thursday, June 20, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Ross, Bob Armstrong, Charlie Garris,

Roger McFadden, Chuck Gould and Randy Rice

DISTRICT STAFF:

Adam Schellhammer, Barbara Bistrais, Roger Spotts

and Lori Kerrigan

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS: Edie Stevens, John Lyman

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Jennifer Matthews, NRCS, Ryan Hill, Monroe County Planning

Commission

PUBLIC: Rodney Stark, Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited; Drake Stinson, Borton-Lawson; Bob Heil, BWA; Mackenzie Strunk, Rosemary Brown's office; David Albright, Chestnuthill Township, Jack Fossett, Resident, Pat Calpin, Kettle Creek Environmental Fund.

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Charlie Garris
Roger McFadden
Bob Armstrong
Chuck Gould
Patrick Ross
Randy Rice

Executive Session: From 8:00am to 8:34am discussion was held on personnel issues.

Public Comment: None

<u>May Meeting Minutes Approval</u>: Pat asked for approval of the May 16, 2019 Board Meeting minutes. Charlie Garris made the motion, Roger McFadden seconded the motion, motion carried.

Technical Report: Lori reviewed the technical site status report for the month of June. We received nine new applications, there are twenty four plans under review, two individual permits were issued for NPDES, under Chapter 105 there was one GP2 acknowledged and three Record of Decisions sent to DEP for permit issuance. We are continuing to get complaints on wetland fills and about suspect material that were sent to DEP for sampling. Educational materials were sent out to Home Owner Associations on fill and the checklist that was shared with the municipalities. We are also working on getting media coverage for fill issues. Adam added that we do have involvement from other county and state agencies along with interstate agencies. In July, Adam and Lori will be attending the SCC/PACD conference in Williamsport. DEP and the Department of Agriculture will be in attendance also and they asked us to bring our report on fill issues and present it to the rest of the committee. We hope we will be able to talk about legislation wide-scale to address what we are seeing here in Monroe County. Our neighboring counties have been alerted. They have seen a couple things but not to the extent that we are seeing here. about site #17, the salt and diesel fuel issue. It was a complaint which we followed up on and no issue was found. Pat asked about #20 St. Lukes., It had to do with their permit requirement for riparian buffer monitoring. Roger McFadden asked about #28 PennDot. There were several issues that involved a contractor that pulled out in the middle of stream work and it wasn't really done to plan specs. The structures that were put in mid-stream are undermining so we are coordinating with Army Corps of Engineering, DEP and Fish & Boat Commission to get those issues corrected. Edie asked about the Swiftwater Creek. There have been sightings of an off color treated discharge from Kalahari, the basins are discharging properly. Edie asked about #16 the timber harvest at Pocono Springs. It is an approved project for tree clearing, putting in a pad and a temporary trailer. They have an NPDES Permit and will be coming back in for a major modification for the greater project.

EE Report: Roger Spotts highlighted his report mentioning that we were able to get all of our spring school programs completed even though the weather has been challenging at times. The Boardwalk held up well from the repair, now we are gearing up for summer camps. Conservation Camp is July 20 – July 27 with family day being July 27 from 12pm to 230pm. This Sunday is our membership picnic and open house from 12pm -3pm. Our summer work crew started Monday and have managed to get trail work done despite the weather. He asked to add to the agenda, advertising to fill an open EE position by September 1 with a permanent fulltime person, which is currently occupied by a seasonal employee. A motion was made by Roger McFadden and seconded by Charlie Garris to advertise for the full time environmental educator position.

District Managers Report: Adam mentioned it was a busy month reviewing resumes and conducting interviews. We also had our three year Dirt & Gravel QAQC audit, we met expectations and hopes that some of the sites will actually exceed expectations. Adam discussed the collaboration committee with representatives from the Monroe County Planning Commission and the Pocono Mountains Economic Development Corporation. The goal is to meet early in the process to highlight challenges, opportunities and provide the best path forward for the project. We continue to have additional meetings on solid waste concerns. We met with the planning commission and our interns to map BMP's for permitted sites which will be a new tool for county use that will highlight where the BMP's

are and long term maintenance. Coming up in July we have the SCC/PACD Joint Conference which will be discussing the clean fill issue as well and better cooperation between agencies with DEP and the State Conservation Commission, all board members are invited. The US Dept of Agriculture is working with us on Spotted Lanternfly Issues to coordinate efforts. Charlie asked about the PennDot Agility Agreement. Nothing has been done yet but we are on track to do the engineering work for the undercut road by the Glenbrook golf course. Discussion was held on our new PennDot signs, which seem to be having a positive effect on getting new folks to our center.

<u>Financial Report</u>: Pat suggested we move funds from our regular checking to a better interest bearing account. Charlie suggested we speak with the county treasurer for suggestions on how they work with PLIGIT and how they have increased the amount of interest the county is getting substantially. A motion was made by Roger McFadden seconded by Bob Armstrong to accept the May 31, 2019 financial statement and balance sheet as presented, motion carried.

Adam highlighted the installment to the auditors. Discussion was held on the Budget & Finance Committee meeting with the auditors prior to the next board meeting to discuss changes in new reporting standards. The other item noted was the final payment for the Hell Hollow Road D&G Project. A motion was made by Chuck seconded by Charlie to approve the invoice lists, motion carried.

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

New Staff Hires:

A motion was made by Chuck Gould and seconded by Charlie Garris to accept the staff's recommendation to hire Emily Paul to fill the open Office Assistant Sr. position with a start date of July 9, 2019, motion carried

A motion was made by Charlie Garris and seconded by Bob Armstrong to accept the staff's recommendation to hire Amber Funk to fill the open Resource Conservation Specialist with a start date of July 1, 2019, motion carried.

Other Business:

Discussion was held to change the date for the July board meeting to July $25^{\text{th.}}$ We will need to advertise.

Cooperating Agency Reports:

Jen discussed the writing of current contracts on her report.

Public Comment:

Bob Heil mentioned discussions being held to help facilitate MS4 with local municipalities and on June 28th. The Center for Watershed Protection is putting on a training workshop

for municipal employees, part classroom and part walk through in Stroudsburg. Pat added that we are finding more and more consequence to using so much salt on the roads and that in an area of New Jersey, wells of residents are being contaminated.

Lori added as a follow-up to Dave's suggestions last month on roadside ditching. She has been looking into potential grants and costs for a hydro-seeder that can be utilized by municipalities across the county. When townships are doing their roadside ditching for drainage they can follow along to seed and mulch that to get grass growing on those areas so it is not becoming a conduit to convey water to our streams.

Charlie added that it could be very interesting as we go forward in the future with the use of salt, the water company is finding corrosion of water lines five feet down. Lori added that there are several pilot programs in Lake George Watershed using a beer sugar mix and there are also other pilot programs that other counties are using.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 am by Pat.

Respectfully submitted,

Barlara Distrais

Barbara Bistrais

Administrative Coordinator

THE NEXT MCCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, July 25, 2019 AT 8:00 AM AT THE MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICES STROUDSBURG, PA.