

MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Armstrong, Sharon Laverdure, Roger McFadden,
and Randy Rice

DISTRICT STAFF: Kristina Heaney, Roger Spotts, Clara Stalter, Barbara Bistras, Matt Giambra
and John Motz

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS: John Lyman, Brendon Carroll, Amalia O'Brien and Craig Todd

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Ryan Hill, Monroe County Planning Commission, Kelly Gallo, BWA,
Paula Heeschen, BWA, Jennifer Matthews, NCRS

PUBLIC: Leslie Berger

Bob Armstrong called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. We waited until more members joined to be able to have a quorum. Meeting officially started at 8:07am

Roll call for the board was taken and all board members listed above were in attendance.

Public comment: None

Board Meeting Minutes:

Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the October 15, 2020 board meeting minutes. Roger made the motion to accept the minutes, Sharon seconded the motion. Motion granted.

Technical Report: Kristina gave a review of the October technical report. The team fielded 84 telephone calls related to Chapter 102, they attended 37 meetings and conducted 28 Erosion and Sediment Control (E&S) reviews and 18 Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) reviews. The staff attended 9 pre-application meetings. For Chapter 105, 28 phone calls were taken and Technical Report shows breakdown in detail. There were no questions.

John Motz – DGLVR – added that Middle Smithfield is finishing up Freeman Tract Project and we are expecting a request for amendment for increased cost of stone. Looking to work with them in next week or so. There were no questions.

EE Report: Roger provided report in board packet. Highlighted the recent wind storm and dead ash trees that have come down recently on MCCD property. He will continue to monitor these trees to ensure

there is no danger and will keep eye on for next year or two. Kettle Creek worked with 3 Eagle Scouts on their badge projects – one at the Bog and another at Kettle Creek doing some trail work. One of the Scouts has repaired our water garden at no charge to Kettle Creek. We have been working on virtual programs with various schools. The birdseed sale was the best in 5 years from an income standpoint. Birdseed still available via curbside pickup. 2021 Kettle Creek calendars are now available for purchase. We are looking for new site to hold Conservation Camp. Stony Acres through ESU is not available and it is proving difficult to find a site now due to Pocono camps holding their own functions. Suggestions are welcome if anyone has ideas for Roger. There were no questions.

District Managers Report: Kristina provided report in board packet. Highlighted working with Monroe County on FEMA grant for LaBar Village. During recent flooding events, the entire bank has eroded and put some properties in danger of major flooding damages. Worked to put grant together along with Jennifer Strauch County Grant Writer, Emergency Management and the Planning Commission and was able to get grant out before deadline. This is one of many District efforts in support of flood mitigation within the county. Currently working on providing technical assistance to area home owners. Kristina and John Motz met with Senator Mario Scavello at a site within the county that was struggling with some flooding issues. Offered technical assistance and a solution that would fix issues. Work is continuing with Strategic Planning. 25 people besides the board have already signed up. KH is actively collaborating with staff on 167 – Stormwater Management plan renewal. We are planning to offer spring and fall 2021 Chainsaw Safety Workshops. John Motz has offered to hold a training program to staff members who are interested on how to cut down trees safely – this includes classroom instruction and live demonstrations. Would like to offer a bigger course to the public – geared toward women. Safety gear would be provided to a point but would ask participants to bring their own equipment as well. Maximum size of 15 participants per class. A similar program offered in Maine and John has been in contact with that facilitator and working with them to model our program training. People are showing an interest in this offering.

LaBar Village FEMA grant – Approximately \$530,500. The grant will cover the implementation, design, permitting and post inspections to ensure consistent stabilization of site.

Strategic and Grant Planning: Kristina discussed interest in hiring a facilitator and has already reached out for estimates. The one estimate was for a minimum of 3 hours with a charge of \$5,000. The PACD Strategic Planning grant received was for \$1,500. Peter Wolfhurst from Penn State has offered to help and the price would be \$2,261. Kristina would like to move forward with this plan and hire Peter. He has provided workbooks and packets to help facilitate the project. Information was in the October board packet for board to review the details. Roger McFadden made the motion to accept the Strategic Planning Facilitator, Sharon seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion granted.

Camp Insurance: This is typical each year we just need to renew the insurance – rates have not changed but this is necessary to ensure safety of campers and staff. Need motion to accept. Bob Armstrong asked for dollar amount of this policy and Barbara responded it is \$500 per year. Roger McFadden made the motion to accept the Camp Insurance renewal and Sharon seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion granted.

Floor Cleaning: Since we are not open to public we did not use the funds this year. These funds will carry over to next year and the contract amount has not changed. A motion needs to be made to renew the yearly contract. Sharon made the motion to renew the floor cleaning contract and Roger McFadden seconded the motion. Motion granted.

December 2020 Board Meeting: - Usually held at the Stroudsmoor but this year they cannot accommodate. Based on current situation, we are moving all meetings to Zoom so as to not put anyone in unnecessary danger due to pandemic. The December meeting was originally advertised in the Pocono Record to begin at 10:30am on 12/10/20 but since it will not be held at the Stroudsmoor and will be done via Zoom, the meeting date and time will change to the third Thursday in December – 12/17/20 @ 8:00am. Bob made a motion to change the date of the December meeting. Roger McFadden and Sharon seconded. This will be re-advertised for 12/17 @ 8am in Pocono Record by the end of this week.

Financial Report:

Financial Statement/Balance Sheet as of 10/31/20: A motion was made to accept the Financial Statements as presented by Roger McFadden and seconded by Bob Armstrong, motion carried.

Invoice List as of 11/20/20: A motion was made by Roger McFadden to approve the invoice list seconded by Sharon Laverdure, motion carried.

Cooperating Agency Reports:

NCRS: Jennifer Matthews – rec'd copy of report – starting to rank and reassess CST Enrollment. Currently working on 3 - ranking equipment EMA during the next few months.

MCPC: Ryan Hill - Water Quality Study report to Commissioners and was approved. He will send out to all. Thanks to MCCD for their help on the report. Currently working on a Water Quality Study Story map accessible to those who want to read it. Ryan will send this to MCCD for editing and quality control. Kristina thanked Ryan for his work on FEMA project to ensure it was submitted on time. Jen has put in a lot of work as well and Ryan wanted to help.

BWA: Nothing to report on, but Kelly Gallo introduced herself and stated she is excited to be working with everyone. Board invited her to join monthly meetings and she accepted and stated she would.

Public Comment: None

PennDOT / DEP learning session is still on for today at 10am. This meeting was not advertised as per sunshine law there is no deliberation occurring and it is for informational/ educational purposes. Some of the DEP reps have double booked meetings so may not attend. The meeting will be same format as this meeting. Open dialogue between agencies to determine where all stand in opinions and how to support each other during extreme storm events. Craig asked if there will be minutes and yes there will be. Kristina will send the email with zoom link again to all who want to attend.

Bob Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 8:35am

Respectfully Submitted,

Clara Stalter

Clara Stalter
Office Assistant Sr.

**THE NEXT MCCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY,
December 17, 2020 AT 8:00 AM via Zoom.**