



MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Armstrong, Sharon Laverdure, Roger McFadden, Craig Todd and Brian Winot.

DISTRICT STAFF: Kristina Heaney, Lori Kerrigan, Roger Spotts, Steven Baade, John Motz, Mike Wilk, David Hooker, David Lucykanish and Diana Flint.

Cooperating Agencies: Jennifer Matthews-NRCS, Alec DeLong-PA Fish and Boat Commission.

PUBLIC: Paula Heeschen-BWA

Bob Armstrong called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

Public Comment- None.

Executive Session-A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Craig Todd, for the board to enter an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Motion carried.

The board meeting was back in session at 8:20am. Bob mentioned that Chuck Gould put in his resignation for the board. The board will start the process of finding a replacement.

Board Meeting Minutes: Bob Armstrong asked for approval of the September 15, 2022 board meeting minutes, with a correction at the end of the minutes to state the next meeting date as October 20, 2022.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Sharon Laverdure, to approve the September 15, 2022 board meeting minutes with an edit to the next meeting date to be stated as October 20, 2022. Motion carried.

Tech Report: Lori Kerrigan provided the technical report in the board packet. Lori stated that they continue to have pre-application meetings, inspections and complaints. Lori stated that the in stream and bank work has been completed at Sand Spring Run and that there is one problem area that is being stabilized. Bob asked if there was water running through and if so, he asked what the depth of the water was. Lori responded that water is running through and it's about 1 ½ feet deep. She mentioned that they're already seeing trout. Bob asked if there was an end date on the project, Lori responded that it will be by the end of the year. She said that the bulk of the construction has been completed and that they will shortly go into maintenance mode and continue planting. Bob asked if Sand Spring would be publicized and Kristina replied that it definitely will be. Sharon mentioned that Ariel, who does the social media for the county, could help to publicize the project. Next, Lori mentioned that we have the trailer for the kayak program and that nine kayaks are being delivered tomorrow. The center currently has three kayaks, so this will bring the total to twelve for the Kayak Education Series grant.

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Brian Winot, to hire Iwona O'Conner for the position of Office Assistant, Sr. Motion carried. Sharon abstained from the vote.

EE Report: The report was provided to the board in their packet. Roger mentioned that the fall school programs are finishing up and are now back to pre-Covid levels. The bird seed sale is on Saturday and there is extra seed available. The finch seed didn't come in so there were refunds issued for that. Roger noted that bird seed prices have gone up and that pre-order sales are down a bit. Next, Roger stated that the Kettle Creek Fund dinner held on September 29th was a success, with \$19,000 being raised. He noted that this amount is higher than the last several dinners and that the Fund and staff did a great job. Bob asked if Roger thought that eliminating the membership fee has increased attendance at the programs. Roger mentioned that social media and PR is now reaching a much larger amount of people and that programs such as Kettle Creek for Kids and Owlnet are maxed out. Kristina also noted that the number of website sign ups has gone up significantly. Bob asked about the Chamber of Commerce and Kristina responded that they are coming in November and that we'll be promoting programs for next year. Roger also noted that WNEP was here yesterday and filmed a segment on the Bog and Kettle Creek.

District Managers Report: Kristina Heaney provided her report in the board packet. She informed the board about the PA agricultural assistance program. Monroe County will potentially be receiving \$300,000 over a three year period. There are about 255 farms in the county and this funding will assist the farmers. David Hooker will put together an assessment sheet and farmers can get assistance with the applications if needed. Kristina noted that the funds need to be spent by 2026. She also noted that David Hooker will get certified to be a conservation planner. David will be working on getting projects lined up now in order to best utilize the funding available. Jennifer Matthews explained that this will be another source of funding to help farmers and will work in conjunction with other funding that's currently available. Kristina explained that we may be able to pull funding from other counties if they haven't used all of their allotted funds. David mentioned that there is a State Conservation Committee meeting on November 19th which will finalize the details of the program.

DGLVR Program: DGLVR Program:

John Motz stated that the QA/QC report was presented to the county commissioners and was well received.

Extension request for Polk Township Hell Hollow Rd.-Dirt and Gravel

John stated that Brady's Lake Road and Hell Hollow DSA projects were unable to get the material locally to complete these projects this season. Polk Township has asked for an extension for the Hell Hollow Road project.

A motion was made by Brian Winot, seconded by Sharon Laverdure, to accept the extension to 9/30/23 for Polk Township Hell Hollow Road. Motion carried.

Pocono Township Park Lane Amendment Request-Low Volume Road

John noted that the Park Lane culvert replacement is completed and paved. The project total came in a little over the estimate for materials but within the allowable range for funding. The Township is asking the District to cover some of the additional costs.

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Roger McFadden, to accept an amendment to the Pocono Township Park Lane project for \$16,065.92. Motion carried.

QAB Opening

John also mentioned that there is a board appointed position available with the District DGLVR program since Chuck Gould has resigned. He stated that it is a non-voting chair position and they would need to attend several meeting per year. Kristina will add this to the next board meeting agenda.

A motion was made by Sharon Laverdure, seconded by Roger McFadden, to accept the out of county travel requests. Motion carried.

Committee Meeting Reports: Committees did not meet last month.

Invoice Lists for October 19, 2022:

A motion was made by Craig Todd, seconded by Brian Winot, to approve the invoice list as of October 19, 2022. Motion carried.

Balance Sheet as of 9/30/2022:

A motion was made by Roger McFadden, seconded by Craig Todd, to approve the balance sheet for 9/30/2022. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agency Reports:

PA Fish and Boat-Alec DeLong stated that trout stocking was pushed back about two weeks due to issues at the hatcheries. Alec will be stocking Brodhead Creek today and Tobyhanna Lake and Hidden Lake will be stocked on November 15th. Alec will send a stocking schedule to Kristina in the spring.

DEP-Jennifer Matthews will share more information on the agricultural assistance program with the board once she has the details. The Equip and AMA program deadlines are November 1st.

Public Comment: None

Bob Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 9:18am.



Diana Flint
Office Assistant Sr.

**THE NEXT MCCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY,
November 17, 2022 AT 8:00 AM at the Monroe County Conservation District**