



Pike County Conservation District

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PIKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES Monday, March 20, 2023

The Board of Directors meeting was also held via Zoom Video Conference call.
Information regarding the conference call was posted on the District website.

ATTENDANCE:

Directors: Scott Savini, Jay Morrow, John Milliken, Ken Coutts, Kelly Stagen

Associate Directors: Paul Ranello, Jo Ann Rose

Staff: Michele Long, Ellen Enslin, Lisa Dolci, Rachael Marques, Chris Meszler, Marianna Quartararo, Jeremy Oettinger

Cooperating Agency Representatives: Jen Matthews, NRCS

Directors/Associate Directors Absent: Commissioner Ron Schmalzle, Mike Spencer, Carole Linkiewicz

Scott Savini called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS AGENDA ITEMS: None

Oath of Office District Directors administered by Scott Savini: Scott Savini administered the oath of office to Ken Coutts as a District Farmer Director for a four-year term.

ACTION ON MINUTES of February 27, 2023: Ken Coutts made a motion to approve the February 27, 2023, Board Meeting minutes. Kelly Stagen seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The report is on track for this time of year. Report filed, subject to audit.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: Correspondence included: A letter of support for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' proposal for money to fund existing grants and contracts to expand watershed forestry work across the Delaware Basin and a staff member to aid in Lawn Conversion inquires/project; An email from PACD with a notice of the additional counties added to the Spotted Lanternfly quarantine zone and a grant opportunity for conservation districts to enhance spotted lanternfly quarantine compliance; Part of a presentation given by Nathan Reigner, PhD, the new Director of Outdoor Recreation at the Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources that outlines the outdoor funding and the money that is generated in PA; The Annual Report has been completed and will be sent to the State Conservation Commission as part of our delegation agreement. The report will be added to the website and sent out in our April Newsletter; An email from PACD regarding the Governor's proposed budget that includes the CDFAP line appropriations for the PDA and DEP budget.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: After the completion of the Chapter 102 program evaluation, a response letter has been sent to the Secretary's Office at DEP. The comments included suggestions on the evaluation process and how it can be improved. Working with the staff at DEP was a positive experience, however, there are some concerns that were outlined in regard to enforcement and compliance issues that we've experienced in the past. There will be a meeting this week with representatives from central office for the Pine Hill Farms NPDES permit violations and enforcement issues. The Chapter 102 Compliance/Enforcements Manual advisory group that Ellen Enslin is on, has completed a draft manual and the staff is currently reviewing it and will submit comments. Monroe County will be holding an Engineers/Contractors workshop on May 12th, Jeremy Oettinger, Resource Conservationist and Chris Meszler, District Engineer will be presenting. Ellen Enslin, Program Manager, has put together a meeting for the Pocono Sourcewater

Collaborative that was held on March 17th. The Conservation staff will be going to a Team Building workshop on March 21st at the Lackawanna State Park. Rachael Marques, Watershed Specialist, has been accepted into the Environmental Leadership Program. Today is Marianna Quartararo's 11-year anniversary at the District. Emily Mansfield has accepted the position of Communications Coordinator and will start on Monday, March 27th. Michele met with the Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership to discuss the operations after the ED is gone. Pocono Forest and Waters Group (DCNR) has offered to host the meetings. There will be another meeting in June to finalize the next steps. We will be holding our annual Road Clean Up day after the Board Meeting on April 17th, lunch will be provided for all those who volunteer.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Director Search Committee, Kelly Stagen – Applications for the Executive Director position have started to come in and are being reviewed. The deadline for applications is April 14th and interviews will be held after all applications have been received with the hope to select a candidate by May 1st with a start date of June 1st. Michele's last day will be July 28th. Kelly and Scott will be meeting with District staff for input after the meeting today.

ACAP Delegation Agreement, Michele Long – The ACAP advisory committee met and discussed the program requirements. There have been a number of questions regarding what should be included in the local policy in which we are awaiting clarification. There will be a meeting on April 5th with the committee to finalize the local policy. The board needs to officially appoint a non-voting chair and three representatives. Ken Coutts made a motion to appoint Kelly Stagen as a non-voting chair, Ellen Enslin, Program Manager at PCCD, Jen Matthews and Ed Vinton from NRCS to make up the committee. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Cooperating Agency and Other Organization Reports:

PACD – The PACD Northeast Region meeting will be held on March 30th, Kelly and Michele will be attending virtually from the District office. The Board is invited to attend.

NRCS – Jen Matthews stated that they have started putting contracts together for some of the applications selected for funding. They hope to have a list of funded applications available next month. More contracts will be completed as more funding is received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS: None

ADJOURN: Ken Coutts made a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors Meeting. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Dolci, Board Secretary