



Pike County Conservation District

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PIKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES Monday, April 15, 2024

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, Kelly Stagen, Jay Morrow, John Milliken, Ken Coutts, Mike Spencer

Associate Directors: Paul Ranello, Jo Ann Rose

Staff: Tara Mlodzienski, Ellen Enslin, Lisa Dolci, Chris Meszler, Ally McGee, Marianna Quartararo, Rachael Marques

Cooperating Agency Representatives: Janet Creegan – DEP, Jennifer Matthews - NRCS

Guests: Jeffrey DiFrancesco, Commissioner Christa Caceres

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS AGENDA ITEMS: None

ACTION ON MINUTES of March 18, 2024: Kelly Stagen made a motion to approve the March 18, 2024, Board Meeting minutes. Jay Morrow seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Travel expenses were higher last month due to several staff members attending multi-day conferences out of the County. There were building maintenance services and repairs completed. Report filed, subject to audit.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: There was a Memo from PCCD sent to the County and Municipalities regarding the 2024 Spongy Moth Public Messaging Initiative. An invitation was received from Lacawac Sanctuary for their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the opening of the new William E. Chatlos Environmental Education Center on May 14th, anyone is welcome to attend but must register before May 1. A statement was shared by the PACD Executive Board thanking the Districts for their support. A letter was provided from the Dingman Township Board of Supervisors regarding the Zoning Ordinance Amendment - §412 – Keeping of Chickens; removal of wording indicating to contact the District and was changed to PA Dept of Environmental Protection.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT: The Macro sampling has been pushed back due to high water levels. The activity with the delegated programs has been picking up. The Resource Conservationists have been doing more inspections and checking in on projects starting back up. The QA/QC for the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program is scheduled for July. We received an ACAP application in March, and a LAW meeting has been scheduled to review the application. We are working with Monroe County to coordinate the Engineer’s Workshop, scheduled for May 10. Envirothon is scheduled for April 16. We have begun planning the Legislative Breakfast that will be held at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center on July 26. Conservation District week will be the last week of April. We will be announcing our mascot naming contest at the beginning of the week. We are hosting a hike with Pocono Environmental Education Center on May 4 called “Hiking in Harmony” that will

showcase how the District works to protect our natural resources. A reminder that the Statement of Financial Interest Form is due by May 1. The District provided comments on the draft Imagine Pike County 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DEP Surface Water Monitoring Audit – Rachael Marques, Watershed Specialist stated that we passed the audit and are waiting for additional information from DEP on how we move forward. DEP has asked for additional sampling that will be at no cost to us.

NEW BUSINESS:

Memorialize: Letter of Support – 2024 for Statewide Riparian Buffers and Lawn Conversion for PACD (vote) – Tara Mlodzienski, District Manager. Due to time constraints, we had to provide a letter of support with approval from the Executive Committee because it was needed before the April Board meeting to PACD’s Community Conservation Partnership Program grant application to continue the riparian forest buffer and lawn conversion programs offered to the PA County Conservation Districts. Jay Morrow made a motion to approve the Memorialization of the letter of support. Mike Spencer seconded. Motion carried.

Pike County Tick Task Force Request for Funding for Brochures (vote) – Tara Mlodzienski, District Manager. Brian Synder from the Planning office has requested funding from the District to print the Tick 101 Brochure as we have in the past. The cost to print 5000 brochures is \$497.40. Kelly Stagen made a motion to approve \$500 to the Planning office to cover the cost of printing. Ken Coutts seconded. Motion carried.

Dirt and Gravel Road project contract, Panther Brook T-458 Road, Shohola Township (vote) – Ellen Enslin, Program Manager Panther Brook Road is a dead-end road about 4000 feet in Shohola Township. We began working with Shohola Township on this project years ago and last year it was ranked high enough to be approved for funding. However, some guidelines have changed, and the project does not meet the updated guidelines. The project was revised to focus on draining instead of fill; that would keep the project within the amount of funding available. The funding would be able to provide 13 culverts for drainage along the road. The total cost for the project and request for funding is \$106,430.00. Mike Spencer made a motion to approve the contract. Ken Coutts seconded. Motion carried.

PACD Nonpoint Source Pollution Mini Grant Rain Barrels (vote) – Ellen Enslin for Emily Mansfield, Communications Coordinator. The District would like to submit a grant application for the PACD Nonpoint Source Pollution Mini Grant for \$2000. With the grant we would like to hold an educational event called “Barrels and Breakfast.” The program will be an informational breakfast on stormwater management and nonpoint source pollution prevention. The grant money will be able to provide food for the program, promotion for the event, and 18 Rain Barrels to give to participants attending the meeting. Participants will be given a short quiz before and after the program to gauge the level of knowledge acquired from attending the program. Kelly Stagen made a motion to approve the letter of support. Jay Morrow seconded. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agency and Other Organization Reports:

PACD – Kelly and Tara attended the Northeast Region meeting recently, and it was unanimous that the Northeast Region supports voting to ask the Districts for a one-time voluntary donation to PACD for \$500. It is Kelly’s recommendation to support this donation request when it comes up for a vote.

DEP – Janet stated that the Growing Greener Grants will be open on April 22. A reminder to submit the Statement of Financial Interests by May 1. There are several in the field training opportunities coming up; emails were sent out to staff with more information about each training session.

NRCS – Jennifer stated the Local Work Group meeting has been scheduled for April 25. The meeting will be held virtually from 9 am to 12 pm. If you would like to register, please reach out to Jennifer’s office for the registration link.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS: None

The next Board Meeting scheduled for May 20 has been changed to May 13. The date change is scheduled to be advertised in the Pike County Dispatch and Tri-County Independent papers.

ADJOURN: Ken Coutts made a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors Meeting. Mike Spencer seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Dolci, Board Secretary

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