



Pike County Conservation District

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PIKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES Monday, July 17, 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: Kelly Stagen, Jay Morrow, John Milliken, Ken Coutts

Associate Directors: Paul Ranello, Carole Linkiewicz, Jo Ann Rose

Staff: Michele Long, Ellen Enslin, Lisa Dolci, Rachael Marques, Chris Meszler, Marianna Quartararo, Emily Mansfield

Cooperating Agency Representatives: Jen Matthews - NRCS, Janet Creegan – DEP, Patricia Dawson – Twin and Walker Creek Watershed Conservancy

Directors/Associate Directors Absent: Commissioner Ron Schmalzle, Mike Spencer, Scott Savini

Guests: Jeffrey DiFrancesco; Matt and Corbin Martin of Egypt Valley Farms, LLC

Kelly Stagen called the meeting to order at 9:06 am

PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS AGENDA ITEMS: None

ACTION ON MINUTES of June 26, 2023: Jay Morrow made a motion to approve the June 26, 2023, Board Meeting minutes. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The UGW Income is higher than normal due to an additional \$13k that was received. At the end of the year those funds will be redistributed. Report filed, subject to audit.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: The Legislative Breakfast was held on Friday, July 14th. There were several representatives in attendance, and we were able to discuss some of the current issues with them directly. Rich Negrin has been voted as the new Secretary of the state's Department of Environmental Protection. Included in the correspondence is a copy of the 102 Delegated – Agriculture Compliance survey that was completed by the District with Janet Creegan, DEP.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: Beginning July 31st, Michele will begin a part time position with the District as the Conservation District Management Consultant. Ellen Enslin and Marianna Quartararo are very busy keeping up with several projects, complaints, and inspections happening throughout the county. The Resource Conservationist position is still open, and we will be re-advertising the position. We have been getting a lot of calls regarding Spongy Moth and Michele reached out to the Chief Clerk with recommendations for next year. We have over 7500 tree orders waiting to be placed in the 10 Million Trees project, however, there are only a little over 200k trees available for the state. We are waiting to hear back in regard to how many trees we will be able to receive in the fall. The annual Dirt & Gravel Road training will be held in Scranton this year, if anyone would like to attend, please contact Ellen Enslin, Program Manager. There is another applicant for ACAP funding who will be meeting with us to discuss potential funding. The Homeowners Resource Fair will be held this Friday, July 21st at Brookfield, we have 16 partners participating this year. The July E-Newsletter theme is Invasives, Rachael Marques, will be attending a workshop on IMapInvasives that will help identify and map their locations in Pike County throughout August. Rachael is completing her Environmental Leadership Program training and will

graduate from the program at the end of July. The financial documents have been received from the accountant so the management discussion and analysis can be assembled. We are working with the County for clarification on our insurance coverage. With recent policy changes our general liability insurance coverage may have been affected. The Pike County Comprehensive Plan committee will be holding community sessions in August to get input from throughout Pike County.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

District Manager Search Committee, Kelly Stagen – We are interviewing some potential candidates and will continue to advertise the position.

NEW BUSINESS:

PCCD Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Michele Long – This is a basic continuity of operations plan that will provide guidance on what to do if there is an emergency and operations cannot be performed as usual. We have updated some of the wording, titles and added new program information. Jay Morrow made a motion to approve the plan and updates. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried.

ACAP Application Recommendation, ACAP Committee/Michele Long – We have received an application from Egypt Valley Farms, LLC owned and operated by Matt Martin in Tafton that is a grass-fed cow/calf/finish beef operation. Mr. Martin has requested \$311,020.90 in grant funding to install BMPs for a Waste Storage Facility, Roofs and Covers, Heavy Use Area Protection-Barnyard, Riparian Forest Buffer, Roof Runoff Structure and Trails and Walkways. The committee is recommending the amount of \$203,400 to be granted towards this project with \$100,000 up front, the remainder will be reimbursed to Mr. Martin after the project has been completed. Ellen Enslin has been working with Mr. Martin to obtain three GP-6 Permits. Mr. Martin is requesting a fee waiver of \$150 for the E&S Control Plan review. Jay Morrow made a motion to approve the application in the amount of \$203,400. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried. Jay Morrow made a motion to approve the fee waiver of \$150. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agency and Other Organization Reports:

PACD – The PACD Joint Annual Conference will be held on July 19th and 20th this year in Harrisburg, in person only. Michele Long and Kelly Stagen will be attending. The discussion will include the budget and approval will be made at the meeting. This will be Kelly's last meeting as President but will continue to serve on the committee.

NRCS – Jen Matthews report shows the current contracts under obligation. They have received a second wave of funding and are working on writing additional contracts.

DEP – Janet Creegan discussed documenting ACAP Projects with a lot of before and after photos, this will help with dedicating funds for the program in the future.

Twin and Walker Creek Watershed Conservancy – Patricia Dawson spoke about upcoming events at the conservancy. This summer they will begin an Education Series that will include information on Nitrogen and Phosphorus and how it affects the lake, Home septic systems, and Pollinators. These programs will be open for anyone to attend in person or through Zoom.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS: None

ADJOURN: Jay Morrow made a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors Meeting. Ken Coutts seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Dolci, Board Secretary