



Pike County Conservation District

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PIKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES Monday, June 17, 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, Jay Morrow, John Milliken, Ken Coutts, Mike Spencer

Associate Directors: Jo Ann Rose

Staff: Tara Burnham, Ellen Enslin, Lisa Dolci, Chris Meszler, Ally McGee, Marianna Quartararo, Emily Mansfield

Cooperating Agency Representatives: Janet Creegan - DEP

Guests: John Galanti and Jeff McQuaid-Stewards of Twin Lakes, Angie Smith, and Riley Smith-4H, Sabrina Llewellyn-Pike County Public Library

Directors/Associate Directors Absent: Commissioner Ron Schmalzle, Kelly Stagen, Paul Ranello, Carole Linkiewicz

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS AGENDA ITEMS: None

ACTION ON MINUTES of May 13, 2024: Ken Coutts made a motion to approve the May 13, 2024, Board Meeting minutes. Mike Spencer seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Groundwater level monitoring bill for the first quarter was paid. A 50% payment was sent to Shohola Township for the Dirt and Gravel Road project on Panther Brook Road. The interest income we have received this year has exceeded our projected budget for 2024. Report filed, subject to audit.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: A thank you letter was received from Brenda Shambaugh at PACD for our voluntary funding to help with the budgetary shortfall.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT: We are waiting for a draft contract from DEP with information detailing the District office becoming a courier drop-off location. Our macroinvertebrate samples have been delivered to the consultant for identification. The staff have been very busy with their projects, permits, and inspections. The PAG-02 general permit will be expiring at the end of the year, and the projects we are working on will need to be renewed. One application has been received for potential DGLVR Funding. The application will be reviewed and ranked at the upcoming QAB meeting on July 11. The ACAP Project for Vanderbeek Farm needs a signature to finalize their contract; we will be working with them this week to get the signature. The Egypt Valley Farm ACAP Project has begun construction on the Waste Storage Facility and Heavy Use Protection Area. NRCS continues to be on site for inspections along with Ellen Enslin checking in regularly on the project. The May Science on Tap program, "Pocono Lakes in a Changing World," had over 30 people in attendance. Our next program will be held on June 20, titled "Avoiding Bears & Meeting Bigfoot: Responsible Hiking while having fun!" The fifth episode of our Podcast was recorded with Peter Wulforst from Penn State Extension; "No More Pondering-Ponds Explained."

Our Municipal Lunch and Learn is scheduled for June 21 with a focus to provide municipal staff with our new Municipal Resource Guide. We have begun planning the Nominating Organization Breakfast for August 23 at Grey Towers National Historic Site, invitations have been sent out. The Twilight Pond Walk program will be held on June 24 with Rachael Marques, Watershed Specialist and Peter Wulfhorst of Penn State Extension. Rachael and Ellen attended the PA Groundwater Symposium in Harrisburg with valuable information that will be distributed within Pike County and the Pocono Source Water Collaborative. The District audit was completed on June 12, and the final report should be received by the end of the month.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PCCD Conservation Achievement Awards – Tara Burnham, District Manager. We have extended the deadline for submissions from June 1 to July 1. There have not been any nominations received for the Student Award category. We have two nominations for the General Award category and two nominations for the Educator Award category.

PCCD Environmental Education Grants 2024 – Tara Burnham, District Manager. One of the grant applications received was for a wildlife feeding site. At the recommendation of the Board, the applicant has been working with the PA Game Commission to ensure the safety of the public and general wildlife, and to address any concerns with the project. There were recommendations from the Game Commission on how to move forward with the project appropriately, and the applicant has agreed to make those changes. Ken Coutts made a motion to approve the grant application with the proposed changes. Jay Morrow seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

PCCD Environmental Education Grant 2023 Presentation – Angie Smith, 4H Extension Educator. Pollinator Project at Pike County Public Library, Dingman’s Branch. There were two educational sessions held for students to learn about different plants and types of pollinators. With the grant money received they were able to rehabilitate the current garden beds, re-plant using native pollinator friendly plants, install new fencing around the garden beds and provide educational signage and interior informational display.

Fee Waiver Request from Shohola Township for E&S Plant (vote) – Tara Burnham, District Manager. We received a request from Shohola Township to waive the E&S fee for the Panther Brook Road Dirt and Gravel Project. Mike Spencer made a motion to approve the fee waiver. Jay Morrow seconded. Motion carried.

Letter of Support-2024 PACD’s Growing Greener Grant Application for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (vote) – Tara Burnham, District Manager. A request has been received to provide a letter of support for PACD’s Growing Greener Grant Application for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. With a small, suggested change to the letter regarding the District’s involvement with CREP funding, we will be able to provide a letter of support. Ken Coutts made a motion to approve the letter of support. Jay Morrow seconded. Motion carried.

Watershed Specialist Mini Grant (vote) – Emily Mansfield, Communications Coordinator. DEP is offering a new educational mini grant for up to \$5,000 that can be submitted with the Watershed Specialist grant renewal. The grant title Rachael will be submitting is “Groundwater Education Series in Pike County.” There will be three educational sessions held throughout the county, open to the public in collaboration with the Pocono Sourcewater Protection Collaborative, Penn State Extension, and PA Rural Water. The purpose of these sessions is to educate the public about their source water, conservation practices, wells, septic systems, testing their drinking water, and to provide water testing kits. Jay Morrow made a motion to approve the grant application. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agency and Other Organization Reports:

PACD – The Spring meeting summary included the discussion of the voluntary donations from Districts and a request to recommend an increase to the Growing Greener Plus Grants Program Administrative Expense Limitations to a minimum of 10% from the current 5%. It is recommended by staff to support the increase. Mike Spencer made a motion to approve the increase to 10%. Ken Coutts seconded. Motion carried. There is a proposed policy change to HB 1275, that would prohibit land development in riparian buffer areas within 100+ feet of certain waterways in order to mitigate flooding issue and water pollution. The proposed legislation includes an exemption for agriculture. It is the recommendation to oppose the policy or abstain due to PACD already having language to support the use of buffers. Jay Morrow made a motion to oppose the policy. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried.

DEP – The deadline for the Growing Green Grant submissions is June 21. The online budget spreadsheet round two training will begin soon. There will be upcoming director training sessions towards the end of the year and into the new year; emails with more information will be sent out soon.

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. The meeting adjourned at 9:36 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Dolci, Board Secretary