



# Pike County Conservation District

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## PIKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES Monday, November 13, 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, Kelly Stagen, Jay Morrow, John Milliken, Ken Coutts

**Associate Directors:** Paul Ranello, Jo Ann Rose

**Staff:** Tara Mlodzienski, Ellen Enslin, Lisa Dolci, Chris Meszler, Emily Mansfield, Ally McGee

**Cooperating Agency Representatives:** Jen Matthews – NRCS, Neil Kokatay – PA Fish and Boat Commission, Ralph Cozzolino – Twin and Walker Creek Watershed Conservancy

**Guests:** Jeffrey DiFrancesco

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS AGENDA ITEMS:** We will not be discussing the Dirt and Gravel Road Project in Shohola Township listed on the Agenda today.

**ACTION ON MINUTES of October 16, 2023:** Ken Coutts made a motion to approve the October 16, 2023, Board Meeting minutes. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Watershed Specialist Grant and CDFAP Program reimbursements are listed in the report, however, we have not yet received the funds. There were a number of fees collected including a large project review fee. The misc. expenses include the Consultant Hours. Report filed, subject to audit.

**CORRESPONDENCE REPORT:** We received a letter from the State Conservation Commission removing Northeast PA Audubon Society from our nominating organization list as of October 2, 2023.

**DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT:** We are working with the Regional Office on the Pine Hill Enforcement matter and await additional guidance. The majority of the trees from the Ten Million Trees program were distributed with a few remaining trees that we will be winterizing and plan to distribute in the Spring. The first Science on Tap program has been scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024, at the Jam Room. Shelby from the Northern Tier Hardwood Association will be talking about Forestry. Ellen Enslin and Rachael Marques completed a grant from PA American Water to create a drinking water brochure and update our web page on Sourcewater Protection. With the remaining funds, we were able to order additional display boards and posters to distribute to the other counties who participated in the grant with us. Rachael Marques has submitted two grant applications to DEP's Environmental Education for Microplastics and Sourcewater Education. Shohola Elementary has decided to submit the DEP EE Grant for a pollinator project on their own. Emily Mansfield, who has been communicating

with them about the grant, has offered her assistance with the grant and any other educational programming they might be interested in. We are working on finalizing the 2024 budget and will be presenting it at the December Board meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2024 Education and Outreach Plan – Emily Mansfield, Communications Coordinator reviewed the distributed Education and Outreach plan for 2024. The Education and Outreach plan highlights a dedicated theme each month as well as details which article, event, and activity will be presented monthly, along with the audience and staff assignments. It was developed with Board and staff input.

**Cooperating Agency and Other Organization Reports:**

PACD – There was a big discussion at the monthly meeting about recruiting Directors to attend the Regional Meetings and State Conferences. All Board Directors and Associate Directors are encouraged to attend; here is a virtual option for the meetings. PACD submitted comments regarding Streambank Fencing, but it is unclear how PACD will vote on the matter at the January meeting.

NRCS – Jennifer Matthews stated that they are working on preparing to rank the applications for their EQIP and AMA Programs for this fiscal year. NRCS is accepting applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program through January 1, 2024. There are funds available for Cover Cropping, with a new application process called Act Now. Please contact Jennifer for more information.

PA Fish and Boat Commission – Neil Kokatay stated that Matthew Deitrich is no longer with the agency and any questions or concerns should be directed to him until further notice.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS:** None

**ADJOURN:** Kelly Stagen made a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors Meeting. Ken Coutts seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 am.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Dolci, Board Secretary