



Pike County Conservation District

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PIKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES Monday, October 16, 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, Commissioner Ron Schmalzle

Associate Directors: Paul Ranello, Jo Ann Rose

Staff: Michele Long, Tara Mlodzienski, Ellen Enslin, Lisa Dolci, Rachael Marques, Chris Meszler, Emily Mansfield, Ally McGee

Cooperating Agency Representatives: Deborah Basalyga – NRCS

Guests: Jeffrey DiFrancesco

Directors/Associate Directors Absent: Mike Spencer, Carole Linkiewicz

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

Scott introduced the new District Manager, Tara Mlodzienski, and Resource Conservationist, Ally McGee, to the Board of Directors and welcomed them to the team.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS AGENDA ITEMS: None

ACTION ON MINUTES of September 18, 2023: Ken Coutts made a motion to approve the September 18, 2023, Board Meeting minutes. Kelly Stagen seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Quarterly reporting for the 3rd quarter is not reflected in the current Profit and Loss report. In next month's financial report, you will see the additional salary and benefits information regarding reimbursement amounts from the Watershed Specialist Grant, CDFAP, and DGLVR Programs, as well as the Salary and Benefits to the County. Report filed, subject to audit.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: There is a letter of correspondence we provided to Milford Township on a request we received to review their Wellhead/Watershed Protection Ordinance. We received a letter from Milford Township regarding the Spongy Moth Spraying program and there is an email correspondence response from Michele. We provided a letter to Dingman Township with guidance on contacting the DEP Northeast regional office for assistance on the development of nutrient management plans.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT: Tara and Michele will be meeting with the County and Insurance Company later today to discuss additional questions that came up regarding responsibilities. We are waiting for guidance from the Regional Office Attorney in regard to the Pine Hill Enforcement matter. The trees were delivered from the Ten Million Trees program. Unfortunately, there were many people who did not come to pick up their orders, date to distribute the remaining trees. The Annual DGLVR Training Program was held in Scranton this year and highlighted Pike County projects – Bartleson Road in Palmyra Township and Mountain View, German Valley, and Sawmill Roads in Greene Township. Ellen and Allison attended the training. We sent a press release to announce we have reached \$2 Million Dollars spent in Pike County for the Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Road Projects since the program began. Through the funds we receive, we are able to provide Educational Grants to the Municipalities to attend these training courses. The Quality Assurance Board will be meeting on Friday, Ellen is preparing the final numbers to go over what will be available for the new applications. There will be a work session held today to discuss the 2024 Education and Outreach Plan. We will be hosting a Fall Foliage Hike next Saturday at Cornelia and Florence Bridge

Preserve. The Sourcewater Collaborative had a meeting last week. The Nominating process is ongoing; the Nominating Organizations should be submitting their nominations to the County Commissioners Chief Clerk office. We will be working on the 2024 Budget and will have a draft available at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

DEP Environmental Education Grant: Microplastics, Rachael Marques – Last year we participated in a Microplastics study with Penn Environment. Rachael was able to research how to replicate the study and the costs involved in order to submit a grant request to study Microplastics in Pike County. We will be working with Lacawac Sanctuary to use their lab resources and we hope to get the public involved in the study and provide additional education on alternatives to single use plastics. The grant request is for \$2,000. Kelly Stagen made a motion to approve the submission of a Microplastics Grant. Ken Coutts seconded. Motion carried.

DEP Environmental Education Grant: Sourcewater Education, Rachael Marques – We would like to partner with the Pocono Sourcewater Collaborative for Wayne, Pike, and Monroe Counties for a Groundwater Education Event that would be carried out throughout the three counties. The money from the grant would cover water testing for residents as an incentive to attend the educational event. The amount of the grant is \$3,000. Kelly Stagen made a motion to approve the submission of a Sourcewater Education Grant. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried.

DEP Environmental Education Grant: Shohola Elementary Pollinator Project, Emily Mansfield – Shohola Elementary has a center courtyard that they would like to turn into a pollinator garden. Over the last several years it has become overgrown and in need of repair. The school staff have agreed to use their time as a match to the contribution as well as maintaining the new garden. The grant request will be between \$1,000 to \$1,500 depending on the final submission from the school. We are waiting to hear back from the school as to whether they will be submitting the grant in partner with the District or submitting the grant on their own. Kelly Stagen made a motion to approve the submission of the Shohola Elementary Pollinator Project Grant. Ken Coutts seconded. Motion carried.

Chauncy Thomas Road LVR contract extension and additional funds, Ellen Enslin – We have a contract for a Low Volume Road project for Chauncy Thomas Road in Shohola. We received a letter from Shohola Township with a request for an amendment to the contract. This amendment will extend their current contract from November 30, 2023, to May 15, 2024, and increase their funding an additional \$6,400 to bring the total to \$37,000. They had a lot of trouble obtaining bids for the project and ending up using a contractor whose amount was much higher, and they have not been able to lay down pavement due to scheduling issues. This matter was discussed with the Quality Assurance Board, and they agree to make the changes requested. Ken Coutts made a motion to approve the contract extension and additional funds. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried.

Add Tara Mlodzienski to bank and credit card accounts, removal of Michele Long – Jay Morrow made a motion to approve adding Tara Mlodzienski and removing Michele Long to the following accounts: Operating Account, Clean Water Fund, PA Invest, and the Bank of America credit card account. Kelly Stagen seconded. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agency and Other Organization Reports:

PACD – There was a regional meeting held to discuss the upcoming Winter and Summer meetings. During the Summer Meeting there will be a vote for a policy regarding Streambank Fencing. There was discussion about the Winter meeting being virtual or in-person.

NRCS – Deborah Basalyga stated that they are in the process of wrapping up their fiscal year 2023 and entering new applications for funding assistance in the upcoming year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS: None

ADJOURN: Jay Morrow made a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors Meeting. Kelly Stagen seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Dolci, Board Secretary