



Pike County Conservation District

556 Route 402, Hawley, PA 18428

Phone (570) 226-8220 e-mail: pikecd@pikepa.org www.pikeconservation.org

PIKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES Monday, February 26, 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

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

Cooperating Agency Representatives: Janet Creegan – DEP

Guests: Jeffrey DiFrancesco

Directors/Associate Directors Absent: Carole Linkiewicz, Jo Ann Rose, Commissioner Ron Schmalzle

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS AGENDA ITEMS: None

ACTION ON MINUTES of January 22, 2024: Ken Coutts made a motion to approve the January 22, 2024, Board Meeting minutes. Mike Spencer seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: We purchased two new Surface computers that were budgeted for this year. We are waiting for the 4th Quarter Watershed and CDFAP reimbursements. There were several dues and subscriptions that were renewed in the beginning of the year. Report filed, subject to audit.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: A letter from PA Fish and Boat Commission designating WCO, Kurt Tereschack as the official representative for the local QAB. A letter from the State Conservation Commission with official approval for Lacawac Sanctuary to become a Nominating Organization for the District. A letter from PA Envirothon asking for volunteers in May to help with the event.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT: Rachael has been working with David Hooker at Monroe County Conservation to coordinate an audit with DEP for the Surface Water Quality Monitoring. In February they will be reviewing the criteria, and in March DEP will audit both Districts' methods and determine if the data is of the quality required to be used by the state in the future. Supplies and fishing licenses have been purchased in preparation for the Spring Macro season. Rachael has updated the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) binder and removed any chemicals from the locked chemical cabinet, which are no longer in use. The new SDS binder will be hung on the wall near the chemical closet for easy access. Rachael was interviewed by Blue Ridge Cable, Channel 13 about our Surface Water Report. Rachael is a part of the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District, and at the annual reorganization meeting she was named Chair of the Watershed Management Plan Committee. In regard to the delegated programs, we have been working on inspections and complaints, due to the snow there has not been a lot of activity. The DGLVR project for Chauncy Thomas has been completed and final payment has been made. In the beginning of

February, Ellen and Tara completed training for the new GIS System for ACAP reporting. Ellen is now working on six quarters of ACAP reporting that needs to be submitted. The February Science on Tap program had a great turnout with over 40 participants in attendance. For the 2024 Wetland Program, we have developed an informational brochure that will be given out during programs and to anyone looking for more information on wetlands. We have a large “What’s in a Wetland” display poster for a quick overview and 2 smaller posters that show different examples of soil grading found in a wetland. To pair with this program, we have chosen to purchase sustainably made compressed sponges with our logo. Emily has completed our second podcast episode with Jess Yoder at the Planning Office. They discussed the basics of geocaching and how to get started searching in our area. Marianna worked with Emily to set up a Plant & Insect identification program on our website. Anyone can go to our homepage and submit a photo for identification. The 2023 Annual report has been completed and submitted to DEP and SCC and is available on our website for viewing. The report includes a one sheet graphic summary page for our Surface Water Monitoring report and one for our technical programs. Our 2024 Environmental Education Grant is now open, and we have already received one application.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PCCD Mascot Update – We have hired graphic designer/illustrator, Brian Dumm, to develop our PCCD Mascot. Brian has submitted the first, rough sketch of the mascot for us to review. We are in the process of developing the final look. We should be able to have the final design completed by mid to late March. Once the final design has been approved, we plan to debut the mascot with a poll for the public to choose its name. The three names the public will vote on are: Stoni, Sandy, and Sally.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposal for Award Nominating Committee for Conservation Achievement Awards (vote) – Tara Mlodzienski. While starting the process of planning our Annual Dinner and looking at what other districts do, a lot of them give out Conservation Awards. Tara would like to propose we introduce 3 awards for our district that we can give out at the Annual Dinner. The 3 categories would include: a Conservation Achievement Award for any group, individual or organization; an Educator Conservation Achievement Award for an Educator in Pike County; and a Youth Conservation Achievement Award for any student in Pike County, grades K-12 to be nominated. The goal is to help build and strengthen our relationship with the community and to help inspire them in conservation efforts and to recognize the work they have been putting in. We are proposing to have a Conservation Award Committee comprised of the PCCD Associate Directors. Emily will gather all of the nominations that are submitted through the website and bring them to the committee to review and bring the top nominations to the Board of Directors for a final vote. The estimated costs will include: \$300 for (3) eco-friendly and sustainable made awards, and (6) complimentary tickets to attend our Annual Dinner for the Award Presentation. For the inaugural year, we will advertise the award to the community through social media posts, press release, monthly newsletter, and emails to the Pike & Wayne Conservation Partnership members. Mike Spencer made a motion to approve the Conservation Award Committee and Conservation Achievement Awards. Ken Coutts seconded. Motion carried.

Proposal for Inclusion Committee (vote) – Tara Mlodzienski is recommending that we establish an Inclusion Committee to help broaden our efforts within the community and identify specific needs in Pike County. This will also help us, as an organization, to create a more inclusive space for our staff and the general public and build positive brand perception and recognition. The committee would assist with new inclusion requirements for upcoming grant opportunities, environmental justice in our area, training for staff through Kulture City for helping individuals with special needs, ADA compliance, Board diversity, community connections, and more. The committee will be comprised of PCCD staff and Board members; the proposed board members are Mike Spencer and Kelly Stagen, from the staff, Lisa Dolci and two other staff members to be announced. Ken Coutts made a motion to approve the Inclusion Committee. Mike Spencer seconded. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agency and Other Organization Reports:

PACD – In April, Kelly and Tara will be attending the Regional meeting in person. In March, Kelly, Tara, and Lisa will be attending a workshop on Strategic Board Development & Director Nominations with a focus on inclusion and equality. With the changes that are affecting PACD’s budget, there may be a future increase in dues or a request for a donation from the Districts. PACD, DEP, and SCC have an upcoming meeting to discuss the Primer when writing grants. There will be more information given at the April Regional meeting that will need to be voted on at our next Board meeting.

DEP – The next Growing Greener Grant will open in the Spring; the exact date is to be determined. The grant process will be discussed at the next Roundtable Meeting. The Statement of Financial Interest are due May 1. Regional Director Workshop: Strategic Board Development for the Northeast region will be held on March 19.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS: None

ADJOURN: Ken Coutts made a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors Meeting. Mike Spencer seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 am.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Dolci, Board Secretary

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