



Pike County Conservation District

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PIKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES Monday, January 22, 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, Commissioner Ron Schmalzle

Associate Directors: Paul Ranello, Jo Ann Rose

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

Cooperating Agency Representatives: Janet Creegan – DEP, Deborah Basalyga – NRCS, Kevin Dowd – Twin and Walker Creek Watershed Conservancy

Guests: None

Directors/Associate Directors Absent: Carole Linkiewicz

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS AGENDA ITEMS: None

Oath of Office District Directors administered by Commissioner Ron Schmalzle: Commissioner Ron Schmalzle administered the oath of office to John Milliken as a District Public Director for a four-year term.

Report of Nominating Committee Chair Kelly Stagen: Kelly Stagen provided the following report of the Nominating Committee:

Election of Officers: Chairman Scott Savini; Vice-Chair Kelly Stagen; Treasurer Jay Morrow; Secretary Lisa Dolci
Ken Coutts made a motion to approve the Slate of Officers for 2024, Mike Spencer seconded. Motion carried.

Open Floor for additional nominations: None

Associate Directors: Carole Linkiewicz, Jo Ann Rose, Paul Ranello. Mike Spencer made a motion to approve the Associate Directors for 2024, Jay Morrow seconded. Motion carried.

2024 Standing Committees and Chairpersons

Executive Committee: Scott Savini, Kelly Stagen, Jay Morrow

Nominating Committee: Kelly Stagen, John Milliken, Jo Ann Rose

Finance/Planning: Scott Savini, Jay Morrow

Operations: Kelly Stagen

2024 Appointees/Representatives

Dirt & Gravel Road Quality Assurance Board: Paul Ranello, District Voting member; Kelly Stagen, Non-voting Member
PA Association of Conservation Districts Executive Council: Kelly Stagen, Voting Member/Designee; Tara Mlodzienski, Alternate
Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District: Rachael Marques, Representative; Commissioner Ron Schmalzle, Alternate
Pike County Agricultural Land Preservation Board Advisor from PCCD: Ellen Enslin, Program Manager, Representative
District Compliance and Enforcement Officer: Tara Mlodzienski, District Manager; Ellen Enslin, Program Manager

Jay Morrow made an omnibus motion to approve the Standing Committee Chairs and Chairpersons and Appointees/Representatives as presented. Ken Coutts seconded. Motion carried.

ACTION ON MINUTES of December 18, 2023: Kelly Stagen made a motion to approve the December 18, 2023 Board Meeting minutes. Jay Morrow seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: We have not received the reimbursement funds for the 3rd Quarter and 4th Quarter Watershed Specialist Grant, however, we have been notified that the 3rd quarter report has just been processed. The additional costs under Supplies and Equipment include the new tables, chairs, and audio-visual equipment for the Education Room, approved by the Executive Committee. Report filed, subject to audit.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: We received a letter from the State Conservation Commission approving John Milliken and Commissioner Ron Schmalzle for another term. A letter from the USDA was received, inviting us to a public meeting on February 8th regarding the Brodhead Tributaries Watershed Plan for Dams PA-463 and PA-464. Emily Mansfield, our Communications Coordinator recently gave a Pollinator Presentation at one of the local schools, and the students made thank you cards to send to her to show their appreciation.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT: The Surface Water Monitoring report for 2023 has been published on our website and is available for public viewing. The December well run was completed with no issues. USGS staff came in December and completed their annual audit of the sampling per our contract. DEP has announced a proposed pilot program for an Expedited NPDES Permit Review Process Program. There is a tentative list of 12 counties to run the program for a minimum of 3 calendar quarters; Pike County was not included on the list. The updated contract for the Chauncey Thomas Road, Low Volume Road project is in the process of being finalized and should be completed by the February Board meeting. The Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership met in December. The PA Environmental Council, who was slated to assume leadership of the partnership this year, have stated their intention to use this partnership to create a regional partnership of Environmental Educators. The partnership decided to have further discussions on what direction the partnership would take. Our first Science on Tap program was held last week, and it had over 40 people in attendance. Emily and Rachael have been working with the Wayne County Community Foundation and the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau to support their efforts to have the Lackawaxen River voted River of the Year for 2024. Emily submitted the Dingman Township Park Pollinator Garden project from 2023 for the Governor's Award. Emily has been working with the Wayne Pike Building Industry Association to plan the Contractor's Workshop that will be held at the Pike County Training Center on March 21st; the snow date will be March 28th. Earlier this month, Emily interviewed Garrett Beers, the Monroe County Fire Forester, and Logan Goddard with DCNR for a new Podcast that will be streaming this month. Emily created a post-program survey for anyone who books a program with us. We received the survey back from a program that was held in December, and the rating was "very satisfied!" The new AV equipment has been received and installed for the Education Room. We are working on completing the 4th quarter reporting and end of year billing and reports.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Transfer of 2023 Net Revenue from Operating Account to Conservation Fund (vote) – Tara Mlodzienski stated that the 2023 Net Revenue is \$58,051: the staff are recommending that \$55,000 net-revenue be transferred to the Conservation Fund. Jay Morrow made a motion to approve the \$55,000 transfer from the Operating Account to the Conservation Fund. Kelly Stagen seconded. Motion carried.

Pike County Conservation District Mascot (vote) – Tara Mlodzienski presented the idea to have a Pike County Conservation District Mascot to help achieve our mission, bring the connection between the District and the public closer, and give us a greater media exposure and brand identity. Our proposed mascot is the Stonefly since they are closely related to our work protecting Pike County’s natural resources through stream sampling and education. In order to engage the public and bring more awareness to PCCD, we would like to announce the mascot image and hold a public poll to choose the name. Kelly Stagen made a motion to approve the proposed mascot. John Milliken seconded. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agency and Other Organization Reports:

PACD – The proposed policy has been voted on and will be discussed at the next Executive Council Meeting this week. There is a lot of legislation that will be discussed more at the next meeting. There may be a future increase in dues or a one-time payment due from districts due to changes in DEP that are affecting PACD.

DEP – The Statement of Financial Interests are due May 1st. Team sheets should be updated by January 31st. The State Secretary is asking for articles to include in their newsletter, so please let Janet know of any events or news so that she can submit an article for us

NRCS – NRCS is currently working on their ranking for the EQIP and AMA Programs applications.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Scott Savini adjourned the regular meeting at 9:30 am into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter; no decisions will be made and the meeting will be reconvened after the discussion.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:51 am.

PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS: None

ADJOURN: Ken Coutts made a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors Meeting. Kelly Stagen seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:51 am.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Dolci, Board Secretary