



# *Armstrong Conservation District*

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## **FEBRUARY 2016 MINUTES**

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The Armstrong Conservation District Board of Directors held their monthly meeting at the Armsdale Administration Building, 124 Armsdale Road, Suite 103, Kittanning, PA 16201 on Wednesday, February 17, 20156

Chairman Spurgeon Shilling called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Directors present: Michelle Hickman, DeJay Claypoole, Dennis Hawley and Jerry Longwell; District Manager, Dave Rupert, ACT/NM Specialist Jessica Schaub, NRCS Management Assistant Sharon Cockroft, AmeriCorps members Katelyn Good and Larissa Rice.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Jerry Longwell moved, seconded by Dennis Hawley to approve the minutes of January 20, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$34,847.16. Dennis Hawley moved, seconded by DeJay Claypoole to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Motion carried.

Needed Supplies / Outstanding Bills - None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**2016 Tree Sale Update** – Jessica Schaub reported on the current status of the 2016 tree sale.

**2016 Soil Stewardship Update** – Dave provided an update on the recent changes to the 2016 Soil Stewardship materials as developed by NACD. The Board directed the staff to try and purchase some materials from NACD and to offer the website to those who may wish to print materials on their own.

**2016 Legislative Breakfast Update** – The breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Belmont Complex. Deadline to RSVP is Friday, March 4, 2016.

**2016 Annual Combined Banquet Update** – The event is scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2016 6 pm at Lenape Tech, Ford City. Volunteers are needed to present awards. Michelle Hickman volunteered to present the Industrialist award while Jerry Longwell volunteered to present the Youth award. Pam Meade is to present the Watershed Individual award. Jessica is to find presenters for the Grassland and Cooperator awards.

**PACD Winter Meeting Update** – Dave Rupert provided the Board with an update on the PACD winter meeting and informed the Board that he has been appointed to a statewide SCC advisory committee.

**State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests** – As per State Conservation Commission and State Ethics Commission guidance, Statement of Financial Interests (SEC-1) Forms were distributed. Forms are due by May 1 of each year a person holds a public position as well as the year following termination of service. Forms for calendar year 2014 are due to be filed by May 1, 2015. This item will remain as an agenda item until May 1, 2015.

**PENNVEST Grant Update** – Dave Rupert provided the Board a progress report of the PENNVEST grant. The project is out for bid at the present time. The site showing is scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup> and bid openings are scheduled for 9 AM on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The closing is tentatively scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**PACD SW Regional Meeting** – This meeting is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Beaver County Conservation District. Any interested director or associate director is invited to attend.

**PENNVEST Borrowing Resolution** – The Resolution, developed by Chase McClister, was presented to the Board. Jerry Longwell moved, seconded by Dennis Hawley to approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried.

**COLCOM Foundation Grant Application** – Dave Rupert reported on the Colcom Foundation grant application that was developed by Gregg Smith. Gregg is working on preparing the final grant application and intends to submit it before the end of February. Dennis Hawley moved, Jerry Longwell seconded the submission of the grant application. Motion carried

**ACD NRCS SCC Annual MOU** – NRCS Management Assistant Sharon Cockroft presented the ACD / NRCS MOU for any suggested changes or updates. The Board did not have any changes to the MOU. Jerry Longwell moved, and DeJay Claypoole seconded keeping the MOU in its current form. Motion carried. Sharon Cockroft then addressed NRCS's Civil Rights compliance review and informed the Board that one or more Board members may be interviewed to determine the local office's compliance with Civil Rights. Sharon also informed the Board that Dave Steele is acting SDC for the Kittanning field office for 30 days until a success is selected for the position.

**OTHER BUSINESS** - None

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Penns Corner RC&D asking for dues in the amount of \$500. Denny Hawley moved, seconded by Jerry Longwell to pay dues for 2016 to Penns Corner. Motion carried.

**AGENCY REPORTS** – The following agencies / staff provided agency reports: G Smith D&G, J Schaub ACT/NM Tech, AmeriCorps Members Larissa Rice and Katie Good, NRCS Management Assistant Sharon Cockroft. NRCS reported that any cooperators selected for the air quality provisions of EQIP are now on hold until further notice.

**Cooperator Agreement** – Claypoole Farms, a 406 acre crop farm in West Franklin Township was presented to the Board. This agreement replaces the one currently in effect for Dwight Claypoole. Jerry Longwell moved to accept the agreement and DeJay Claypoole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The following **Erosion and Sediment Control Plans** were submitted to the District Board for approval / disapproval:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Twp.</u>	<u>Rev. By</u>	<u>Status</u>
1/20/2016	Big Pine Compressor Station	Gilpin	CC	A
	ESG000515001(1) - Minor Modification			
2/2/2016	Sunnyside Bridge #2 - Fill Area #1	Valley / Rural Valley Boro	DRR	A
2/2/2016	Sunnyside Bridge #2 - Fill Area #2	Valley / Rural Valley Boro	DRR	A
2/5/2016	Parks Township Municipal Authority	Parks	DRR	A

The E&S plans were presented for review and approval by the Board. Jerry Longwell moved and DeJay Claypoole seconded the approval of the E&S plans as their status indicates. Motion carried.

**Nutrient Management Plans** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** - none

At 9:30 am the Board recessed into Executive Session for personnel matters. At 9:45 am the Board returned from the Executive Session. At that time, Michelle Hickman moved, Dennis Hawley seconded offering the Resource Conservationist position to Julie Zeyzus at a salary to be determined by the Manager in keeping with the professional development guidelines of the District. Should Ms Zeyzus decline the offer, the Board directed the Manager to offer the position to Mr. Timothy Hummel in keeping with the same guidelines. The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the matter. Those voting yes to hire Ms Zeyzus were Michelle Hickman, Dennis Hawley and DeJay Claypoole. Those voting not to hire her were Jerry Longwell and Sprugeon Shilling.

At 9:50 am the Chairman, hearing no objection, declared the meeting adjourned.

The next scheduled Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 9:00 am at the Armsdale Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,

David R Rupert  
*District Manager*