



Armstrong Conservation District

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NOVEMBER 2016 MINUTES

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, November 16, 2016.

Chairman Spurgeon Shilling called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Directors present: Andrew Kimmel, Jerry Longwell, Michelle Hickman, Dennis Hawley, and Commissioner Jason Renshaw; Associate Director Ben Kimmel and District Manager, Dave Rupert, Office Manager Cindy Vranka and SDC NRCS Dennis Diorio.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Jerry Longwell moved, seconded by Dennis Hawley to approve the minutes of October 19, 2016 as presented with one correction: that the next Armstrong Conservation District Board meeting will be Wednesday, November 16th instead of December 21st. Motion carried.

The **Treasurer** reported a balance of \$286,282.67. Andrew Kimmel moved, seconded by Dennis Hawley to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented subject to audit. Motion carried.

Needed Supplies / Outstanding Bills – Andrew Kimmel moved, seconded by Jerry Longwell to pay the Outstanding Bills and to investigate the Needed Supplies regarding the mobile hot spot for laptops. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **PENNVEST Project Update / Status** – District Manager Dave Rupert reported on the status of the PENNVEST projects and discussed possible future PENNVEST Projects for the next 4 years.
- **2016 Fall Conservation Tour** – District Manager Dave Rupert reported that 24 people attended the fall tour on October 21, 2016.
- **PACD SW Regional Directors Meeting** – District Manager Dave Rupert attended the Thursday, November 3 PACD meeting at the Westmoreland Conservation District. PACD is encouraging at least one Director from each District to attend the scheduled meetings. PACD has contracted with a legal firm from York to provide legal consultations on an hourly rate of \$125 per hour to District that may need professional services. In Armstrong, Chase McClister (fees have been

paid by Pennvest) and Scott Andreassi have provided this service in the past free of charge to the Armstrong Conservation District.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Policy / Discussion on Funeral Memorials** – Establishing an endowment fund and funeral memorials were discussed in honor for those who have passed. Jerry Longwell is recommending doing research on what other organizations do for funeral memorials. This item will be more fully discussed at the January meeting. Michelle Hickman moved, seconded by Dennis Hawley to send a \$500 contribution to the Ford City Library in Christine Cramer's memory. Motion carried.
- **Growing Greener** – PA DEP is now accepting applications for projects under the GG Plus Program. This program covers grants eligible under four separate grant programs: Growing Greener, 319 Nonpoint Source (NPS), Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) Bond Forfeiture, and Abandoned Mine Drainage Set-Aside grants. Applications will be accepted through Friday, January 13, 2017. This District is submitting three (3) potential projects for this round: a) Paul Stubrick Farm Ag BMP's Project to improve the water quality in Cowanshannock Creek Watershed. (\$87,720.00). b) Biblical Life Institute property streambank stabilization project, Buffalo Creek Watershed. c) Using EEM fluorescence analysis to determine contaminants in aquatic systems. Jerry Longwell moved, seconded by Dennis Hawley to approve staff time to complete application and to submit GG applications for consideration. Motion carried.
- **Strategic Plan Grant Acceptance** – The State Leadership Development Committee has approved the Armstrong Conservation District's request for funding assistance (\$1,000) in developing a Strategic Plan. The last Plan was developed in 2005. The proposed budget was outlined. Jerry Longwell moved, seconded by Andrew Kimmel to move forward and conduct this planning session. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Mobile Environmental Display** – The EQT Foundation has made an offer of \$67,000.00 to the Armstrong Conservancy to purchase a natural gas powered vehicle that would be used to haul the Mobile Environmental Display from place to place. Dave Rupert informed the Board that before the Conservancy could transfer the funds to the District for the vehicle purchase, he would have to seek the concurrence of the SCC for the District to accept those funds for that purpose. Dave would also contact the County to inquire if they would place this vehicle on their insurance policy like the other District vehicles. The vehicle would be purchased through the Co-Stars program from Walker Motor Co. in Kittanning.

Dennis Hawley moved, seconded by Michelle Hickman to accept the above mentioned funding offer contingent upon concurrence from the SCC and with the County insuring the vehicle as stated above. Motion carried. Jerry Longwell, in his capacity as both a Board member of the Conservancy and the District Board did not participate in the discussion and abstained from the vote.

- **Employment Application** – The Armstrong Conservation District has revised its employment application for the Board to review and approve. This application will be reviewed and discussed at the next monthly Board meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

AGENCY REPORTS – The following agencies / staff provided activity reports, H2O Julie Zeyzus, G Smith D&G, J Schaub ACT/NM Tech, and NRCS SDC Dennis DiOrio

COOPERATOR AGREEMENT – None

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

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Twp.</u>	<u>Rev. By</u>	<u>Status</u>
10/26/2016	ASM Filter Pond Replacement	Plumcreek	DRR	A
10/20/2016	Ward Timber Harvest	South Buffalo	DRR	A

The E & S plans were presented for review and approval by the Board. Andrew Kimmel made a motion to approve the above plans and their review status as presented, seconded by Dennis Hawley. Motion carried.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN – None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - None

Being there no further business to come before the Board, At 7:46pm, **Andrew Kimmel moved, seconded by Jerry Longwell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.**

The next scheduled meeting of the Armstrong Conservation District is Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 5:30 at the Latin American Club, Ford City.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy L Vranka
*Office Manager for the
Armstrong Conservation District*