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## OCTOBER 2019 MINUTES

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The Armstrong Conservation District Board of Directors held their monthly meeting at 120 S Grant Ave, Ste 5, Kittanning, PA 16201-1450 on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

An Executive Session was conducted from 6 to 7pm to discuss personnel matters.

Chairman Andrew Kimmel called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Directors, Dennis Hawley, Michelle Hickman, Jerry Longwell, DeJay Claypoole, and Spurgeon Shilling; Associate Director, Scott Baker; Dave Rupert, District Manager; Cindy Vranka, Office Manager; Dennis DiOrio, NRCS; John Greene, DEP.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Dennis Hawley moved, seconded by Jerry Longwell to approve the minutes of September 18, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$120,088.72. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Michelle Hickman to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented subject to audit and to pay Outstanding Bills. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Ag Service Center Building Update** – District Manager Dave Rupert reported that no progress has been made on the Ag Service Center. Army Reserve Center has had no response to the District's interest in the property. The County of Armstrong will be posting the Armsdale Administration Building for public bid by the end of year. Building committee members Jerry Longwell and Andrew Kimmel stated for the Manager to continue to move forward regarding the Ag Service Center at the preferred locations.
- **2019 Fall Tour** – 27 have signed up for the tour. Departure time is 9:30 am from 120 S Grant Ave. Featured project sites will be visited in Armstrong County.
- **NM Evaluation** - On October 3, 2019, the Program was evaluated by Laurel Rush Regional NM Coordinator from the State Conservation Commission. Jessica Schaub NM ACT Tech and District Manager Dave Rupert participated in the evaluation. A written report is expected within 30 – 60 days.
- **2020 County Allocation Request / 2020 Budget Presentation** – Jerry Longwell moved, seconded by Spurgeon Shilling to approve and submit the tentative proposed 2020 Armstrong Conservation District Budget request to the Armstrong County Commissioners for consideration. Motion carried. The County made a slight preliminary increase to the District and Farmland Preservation 2020 budget.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Personnel Committee Report** – Jerry Longwell moved, seconded by Spurgeon Shilling to accept the recommendations of the Personnel committee as presented. Motion carried.
- **Rain Barrel Workshop** – The workshop is scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2019 at 120 S Grant Ave from 6 – 8 pm. Food and a take home rain barrel / stand will be provided. The workshop is sold out with 30 participants attending. A waiting list has been started for future workshops.
- **DEP NWRO Visit** – The NWRO Waterways and Wetlands staff will visit the District on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 am for an office visit, concerns, and possible field visits. The NWRO consists of 14 conservations districts. Board members, associate directors, and staff are invited to attend. Lori Boughton Environmental Program Manager, Karl Gross PE Permitting and Technical Services Chief and Ron Lybrook Assessment and Planning Section Chief will be in attendance.
- **2020 Draft Annual Action Plan** – The 2020 Draft Action Plan was distributed for review, comments and consideration for the November District board meeting. Something new incorporated into the draft 2020 Action Plan, creating a Junior Envirothon for middle school aged students.

## **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Ag Preservation sign up is November 12<sup>th</sup> to December 20<sup>th</sup>. County of Armstrong allocation (\$13,000) towards easement purchases for 2020. Gerald Kimmel landowner mine reclamation inspection is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 10 am. This project is the largest mine reclamation project in the last 20 years in the state.

**AGENCY REPORTS** – The following agencies / staff provided agency reports: John Greene DEP Field Rep, G Smith DGLVR, H Laird E&S, M Sorce Watershed, J Schaub NM ACT, Kodie Rearick AmeriCorps Member. In addition to his written report, NW DEP Rep John M Green reported that Small Business Advantage grant program provides 50% matching grants, up to a maximum of \$7,000 to enable PA small businesses to purchase energy efficient or pollution prevention equipment, or adopt waste reduction processes. This grant period is still open until June 30, 2020.

## **COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS** – None

The following **EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLANS** were presented to the District Board for approval / disapproval.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Twp.</u></b>	<b><u>Comments:</u></b>	<b><u>Rev. By</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
9/16/2019	Craigsville Waterline Ext	W Franklin	19-ES-21	HL	Pending
10/7/2019	Good Tire - New Building	Rayburn	PAC030022	HL	Pending

The above E&S plans were presented for review and approved by the Board. Spurgeon Shilling moved and Denny Hawley seconded the approval of the E&S plans as its status indicates. Motion carried.

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – The Indiana CD is currently experiencing an unexpected loss of office staff resulting in neighboring Districts providing E & S technical assistance. Former Indiana CD E&S tech, Joe Yackuboskey has returned on a part-time basis to assist Indiana. Suggestions for the Christmas dinner meeting (Craft House, Latin American Club, the Meredith, etc. Wednesday December 18, 2019.

With no other business to come before the Board, Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Dennis Hawley to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Motion carried.

The next scheduled monthly board meeting of the Armstrong Conservation District is Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7 pm at 120 S Grant Ave, Ste 5, Kittanning.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy L Vranka*

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*Office Manager for the  
Armstrong Conservation District*