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February 15, 2023 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The public meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Michelle Hickman at 7:05 pm.

PRESENT: Those present were: Directors Michelle Hickman, DeJay Claypoole, Dennis Hawley, Mike Daquilante and Spurgeon Shilling; Associate Directors Rocco Ali, John Linkes, and Jay Hogg; Holly Laird, District Manager; Dave Rupert, Armsdale Building Coordinator; Dennis DiOrio, NRCS; Lori Cogley, FSA; and Susannah Harris, DEP.

PUBLIC COMMENT on AGENDA ITEMS: None

MINUTES: Spurgeon Shilling moved with Dennis Hawley seconding the approval of the minutes of the January 18, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Spurgeon Shilling moved with Dennis Hawley seconding the approval of the Treasurer's report and outstanding bills as presented and that the treasurer's report be filed for audit. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **2023 Tree Sale Update** – Holly Laird gave an update on the 2023 Tree Sale stating that we had not sold out of any species yet and that Armstrong County Master Gardeners and ABCI Beekeepers would have educational tables/materials at the tree sale pickup on 4/15.
- b. **State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests – Due by May 1** - 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 for persons that hold a public position as well as the year following termination of service. Forms for calendar year 2022 are due to be filed by May 1, 2023. This item will remain as an agenda item until May 1, 2023.
- c. **Armsdale Update** – Dave Rupert, Armsdale Building Coordinator provided an update on the Armsdale Project.
 - Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Mike Daquilante to issue a Notice of Intent to Award the four contracts for the Armsdale Center (General – CNC Construction; Electric - Mashan, Inc.; Plumbing – Woodside; Mechanical – Hranec). Motion carried.
 - Dennis Hawley moved, seconded by Mike Daquilante to enter into a cooperation agreement with Armstrong County to have the County act as a financial pass through for the RACP Grant. Motion carried.
 - Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Dennis Hawley to name the new Armsdale Building after former Director Jerry Longwell. Motion carried.
 - Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Mike Daquilante to have Dave Rupert apply for additional Armsdale Building Funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission Power Program. Motion carried.

- Dave Rupert announced that a ground breaking ceremony will take place for the Armsdale Building on 3/31 @ 10:00 am. **Please note that this was a tentative date/time.**
- d. **Cell Phone Policies** – Holly Laird presented a District Cell Phone Policy and a District Cell Phone Stipend Policy to the Board of Directors for their review. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Dennis Hawley to approve the new policies. Motion carried. Holly Laird will have interested staff members review the policies and fill out the accompanying request forms to be brought before the Board for review and approval.
- e. **Growing Greener Update** – Holly Laird provided an update to the Board on all open Growing Greener Grants. The update is attached to the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Discussion regarding the Armstrong Trail DCNR Grant - Commissioner Request** – Holly Laird informed the Board of a request made by the County Commissioners for ACD to act as a financial pass through for a DCNR Grant awarded to Armstrong Trails. The ACD Board discussed this request. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Mike Daquilante to table the request at this time. Holly is to keep the Board informed if further action is requested by the County commissioners regarding this matter. Motion carried.
- b. **Penn's Corner RC&D – proposed membership withdrawal** – Holly Laird informed the Board that annual dues for Penn's Corner RC&D are expected to increase significantly over the next few years and that discussions have been held to potentially dissolve the organization. Denny Hawley moved, seconded by Spurgeon Shilling to withdraw ACD's membership from the organization. Motion carried.
- c. **Elected Official's Breakfast – Belmont Complex – March 10th, 2023 8:30 am**– Holly Laird informed the Board that ACD's legislative breakfast will be held at the Belmont Complex on March 10th at 8:30 am.
- d. **Zoom Meeting Option** – The Board discussed the Zoom meeting option for monthly Board meetings and elected to keep this option.

DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

AGENCY REPORTS: Agency/staff activity reports were mailed/emailed to the Board. John Linkes provided an update on the Roaring Run Watershed Association stating that Senate Engineering has been hired to assist with trail resurfacing and stated that the Leechburg Kayak launch will begin construction in March. Lori Cogley provided an update from FSA; she stated they have a new program technician and are processing payments for crop losses related to Covid. Denny DiOrio of NRCS provided a written report to the Board and added that NRCS is still trying to fill an open technician position. Susannah Harris provided a written report to the Board and added that Rich Negrin is the new DEP Secretary and that a new DEP Growing Greener Grant Round will open this Spring.

COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS - None

E&S CONTROL PLAN REVIEWS: The E&S control plans were presented to the Board. Spurgeon Shilling moved with Denny Hawley seconding the approval of the plans as their status indicates. Motion carried.

Erosion and Sediment Plans February 2023 Meeting

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Twp.</u>	<u>Comments:</u>	<u>Rev. By</u>	<u>Status</u>
8/12/2022	Kiskiminetas Township Firehall	Kiskiminetas	NOT	KR	In Progress
9/8/2022	Morgan Road Gas Line Replacement	Sugarcreek	ESG000322001-00	KR	Approved
9/12/2022	Yatesboro Water Treatment Plant Sewer Line Connection	Cowanshannock	PAC030047	KR	Approved
10/7/2022	Reesedale Road Gasline Replacement	East Franklin	PAC030048	KR	In Progress
12/5/2022	RIDC Armstrong Innovation Park Lots 23-25	South Buffalo	PA030001D	KR	In Progress
12/15/2022	SR-1035 Gasline Replacement	Cowanshannock	ESG000322002-00	KR	In Progress
1/19/2023	Bergad Specialty Foams and Composites	Rayburn	PAC00314	KR	In Progress
1/25/2023	Brick Church Bridge	Plumcreek	23-ES-01	KR	In Progress
1/26/2023	McKean Street Housing	Kittanning Borough	NOT	KR	In Progress
1/30/2023	Poverty Hill Road Waste Site	Boggs	23-ES-02	KR	In Progress
2/2/2023	Freeport Area Waterline Replacement	Freeport Borough	23-ES-03	KR	In Progress

NM PLAN REVIEWS: The following Nutrient Management Plans were presented to the Board for approval. Denny Hawley moved, seconded by Mike Daquilante to approve Kodie Rearick's recommendation to approve the NM Plan of Todd Culp – 285 acre beef and hay farm in Kittanning Township Armstrong County; and the NM Plan of Justin Yeany – 962 acre beef and grain farm in Redbank Township Armstrong County (also in Clarion and Jefferson Counties). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None

NEXT MEETING: The Vice-Chair announced that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 7:00 pm on March 15, 2023 in the Conference Room of 120 South Grant Avenue, Kittanning, PA 16201.

ADJOURNMENT: Hearing no further business to come before the board, Michelle Hickman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Holly A. Laird
District Manager
Armstrong Conservation District*