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## March 15, 2023 Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER:** The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrew Kimmel at 7:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Those present were: Directors Andrew Kimmel, Michelle Hickman, DeJay Claypoole, Dennis Hawley, Mike Daquilante and Spurgeon Shilling; Associate Directors Rocco Ali, Ben Kimmel, and Jay Hogg; Holly Laird, District Manager; 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 February 15, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dennis Hawley moved with Mike Daquilante seconding the approval of the Treasurer's report as presented and that the treasurer's report be filed for audit. There were no outstanding bills. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **2023 Tree Sale Update** – Holly Laird gave an update on the 2023 Tree Sale and stated which species we had sold out of. The Armstrong County Master Gardeners and ABCI Beekeepers will 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 provided a written Armsdale update and Holly Laird provided additional details at the meeting. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on-site on April 3, 2023 at 10:00 am. Holly was directed to order light refreshments for after the ceremony. Holly informed the Board that she is applying for additional grant funding for an education and training facility to be co-located with the Armsdale Center for Agriculture and Conservation.
- d. **ACAP Update**- Holly Laird provided an update to the Board about ACAP. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Michelle Hickman to appoint the following individuals to the ACAP advisory committee: Dennis DiOrio (NRCS), Lori Cogley (FSA), Jay Hogg (Associate Director), John Bennett (Associate Director), Jessica Schaub, and Holly Laird. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **2023 County Envirothon** – Holly Laird provided an update on the 2023 Envirothon to be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

- b. **Crops Day Update** – Holly Laird gave an update on the Crops Day Event held at the Worthington Firehall on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Overall, the event went very well and ACD plans to hold a similar event annually.
- c. **ACD Website Update** – Holly Laird informed the Board that the County IT Department brought it to her attention that the ACD website is not ADA compliant. Mike Daquilante moved, seconded by Michelle Hickman to make the website ADA compliant. Motion carried.
- d. **Staff Cell Phone Requests** – Maria Sorce submitted a cell phone request form for a District cell phone. Brooke Emmonds submitted a cell phone stipend request form. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Dennis Hawley to approve both requests. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Holly Laird made the following announcements: the Legislative Breakfast held on March 10<sup>th</sup> went well; AmeriCorps Member Rachell Rottman accepted a full-time position and will be leaving ACD on March 24<sup>th</sup>; an ACD clothing order will be placed soon; PACD extends their thanks regarding ACD's contribution to the salary survey study; Engineer RFP interviews will be conducted on March 21<sup>st</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>; and that Brooke Emmonds is working with Cheyenne Filous from Experience Armstrong on a new social media initiative called "Farmer Focus" to draw attention to local farms that have goods available to the public for purchase.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**AGENCY REPORTS:** Agency/staff activity reports were mailed/emailed to the Board. DEP Field Rep. Susannah Harris provided an update from DEP during the meeting including ACAP updates, Board meeting attendance updates, and Envirothon. Andrea Verobish from Congressman Thompson's office provided an update during the meeting regarding her Kittanning office hours.

**COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS** – The cooperator agreements were presented to the Board. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Michelle Hickman to approve the agreements. Motion carried.

- Sara Copeland (Burrell Township)
  - o 166 acres, crops/pasture/woodland acreage, beef operation, interested in E&S Control, SW Management, streambank stabilization, barnyard manure runoff control, conservation plan, EQIP, grazing plan, ACAP funding
- Robert Wilds (Parks Township)
  - o 120 acres, crops/pasture/woodland acreage, beef and equine operation, interested in NM, barnyard manure runoff control, EQIP, and ACAP Funding
- Nicholas Difilippo (South Bend Township)
  - o 98 acres, crops/pasture/woodland acreage, dairy and equine operation, interested in NM, EQIP, grazing plan, ACAP Funding
- Zeke Summerhill (Parks Township)
  - o Interested in grassed waterway and ACAP Funding
- Oesterling Family Farm (North Buffalo Township)
  - o 29 acres (owned), pasture acreage, beef and swine operation, interested in NM, barnyard manure runoff control, EQIP, grazing plan, ACAP Funding
- Clayholm Farms, LLC (West Franklin Township)
  - o Cash grain and dairy operation, interested in ACAP Funding

**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 March 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
10/7/2022	Reesedale Road Gasline Replacement	East Franklin	PAC030048	KR	Approved
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	Approved
1/26/2023	McKean Street Housing	Kittanning Borough	NOT	KR	Approved
1/30/2023	Poverty Hill Road Waste Site	Boggs	23-ES-02	KR	Approved
2/2/2023	Freeport Area Waterline Replacement	Freeport Borough	23-ES-03	KR	Approved
2/12/2023	Moyer's Diesel Waste Site	Plumcreek	23-ES-04	KR	Approved
2/14/2023	Fox Hollow Sanitary Sewer Line Extension	East Franklin	PA030001C	KR	In Progress
2/23/2022	Family Dollar - NuMine	Cowanshannock	PAC030049	KR	In Progress
2/27/2023	Lafferty Rd Gasline Extension	West Franklin	23-ES-05	KR	In Progress

**NM PLAN REVIEWS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Michelle Hickman brought an AMD concern to Holly's attention to ask Maria Sorce to investigate.

**NEXT MEETING:** The Chairman announced that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 7:00 pm on April 19, 2023 in the Conference Room of 120 South Grant Avenue, Kittanning, PA 16201.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Hearing no further business to come before the board, Andrew Kimmel declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Holly A. Laird  
District Manager  
Armstrong Conservation District*