



September 18, 2024 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, Dennis Hawley, Michelle Hickman, DeJay Claypoole, and Spurgeon Shilling; Associate Director Jay Hogg and Rocco Ali; ACD District Manager Holly Laird; NRCS District Conservationist Dennis DiOrio; and Andrea Verobish of Congressman Thompson's Office via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT on AGENDA ITEMS: None

MINUTES: Denny Hawley moved with Michelle Hickman seconding the approval of the minutes of the July 24, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Michelle Hickman moved with Denny Hawley seconding the approval of the Treasurer's report as presented, and that the treasurer's report be filed for audit. The motion also included using \$2,394.00 of Environmental Stewardship Funds for pollinator gardens. Motion carried. Holly also informed the Board that our first payment request from the RACP grant has been approved and was deposited.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Armsdale Update** – Holly Laird provided an update to the Board that USDA's current lease extends to 9/30/2028. Holly was directed to consult with solicitor Ty Heller to draft a lease advertisement for the remaining office space. Holly informed the Board of the status of the construction contract with our mechanical contractor stating that there is a discrepancy in the balance reports for one of the HVAC units. Holly is working on obtaining snow plowing quotes for the winter and will keep the Board posted so a decision can be made at a later meeting.
- b. **PMRS Update** – Holly informed the Board that Marsico Financial is preparing amended W-2's and ACD tax returns. Holly will continue to update the Board on this matter.
- c. **DGLVR – QAQC Preliminary Report** – Holly informed the Board that she has received the preliminary report from the SCC and will provide the final copy to the Board upon receipt.
- d. **Awards Banquet, 10/25/2024** – Holly reminded the Board of the Awards Banquet that will be held on 10/25/2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **2025 Draft Budget** – Holly Laird provided the 2025 Draft Budget to the Board. The budget was sent to the budget committee prior to the meeting. Comments should be directed to Holly prior to the next meeting.
- b. **2025 PMRS Minimum Obligation Memo** – Holly Laird presented the Board with the 2025 PMRS MMO.

- c. **Fall Elected Officials Tour, 10/11** – Holly Laird informed the Board that the Fall Elected Officials Tour will be held on 10/11/2024.
- d. **SCC UGWF Reserve Account and Special Projects Allocations** – Holly Laird presented her recommendations for the use of FY 24/25 SCC Funds. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Michelle Hickman to approve Holly's recommendation of creating a Reserve Account with the SCC and allocating \$50,000.00 to that account as well as allocating \$12,000.00 to the Special Projects category. Motion carried.
- e. **Farmland Preservation MOU** – Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Denny Hawley to accept the MOU between ACD and the Armstrong County Farmland Preservation Board for 2025. Motion carried.
- f. **Right to Know Policy Update** – Holly Laird presented an updated Right to Know Policy to the Board. Michelle Hickman moved, seconded by Spurgeon Shilling to approve the updated policy. Motion carried. The updated Right to Know Policy has been posted to the website.
- g. **Ameriflex Cafeteria Plan Resolution Adoption** – Denny Hawley moved, seconded by Spurgeon Shilling to pass the resolution for the pre-tax benefit cafeteria plan through Ameriflex. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holly Laird provided an update regarding the Agricultural Education Center grant application stating that an announcement still has not been made. Holly informed the Board that she has received requests for groups to reserve the conference room. Holly was directed to establish a conference room rent and usage policy to present to the Board at the next meeting. Holly also informed the board that Susannah Harris will be moving on from her role as our DEP Field Representative.

AGENCY REPORTS: Agency/staff activity reports were mailed/emailed to the Board. Dennis DiOrio expanded upon the written report from NRCS. Rocco Ali provided an update regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and its documented presence in Armstrong County and associated restrictions; he also announced Apollo-Spring Church Sportsmen's Club Youth Pheasant Hunt. Andrea Verobish of Congressman Thompson's Office stated that they are still working on the Farm Bill.

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

- Stephen Scholl (Manor Township)
 - o 3.4 acres, interested in tree planting

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

Erosion and Sediment Plans September 2024 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	Approved
6/24/2024	LN-26 Lower Mateer Exposure	Parks	24-ES-09	KR	Approved
7/9/2024	ICCD District Office Building	White TWP (Indiana County)	NOT	KR	Approved
7/25/2024	Ford City Dollar General	Manor	NOT	KR	Denied
7/31/2024	New Armstrong County Maintenance Facility	Manor	Minor Amendment	KR	Approved
8/7/2024	Freeport Water Treatment Plant Expansion (Revisions)	Freeport Borough	24-ES-08, A-1	KR	Approved
8/14/2024	Scott Hooks Waste Site	East Franklin	24-ES-10	KR	Approved
8/20/2024	Scott Crawford Waste Site	West Franklin	24-ES-11	KR	Approved

NM PLAN REVIEWS: The following Nutrient Management Plans were presented to the Board for approval. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by DeJay Claypoole to approve Kodie Rearick's recommendation to approve the NM Plan of Jim & Chelsea Oesterling, a 106 acre beef and swine operation in North Buffalo Township, Armstrong County. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None

NEXT MEETING: The Chairman announced that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 7:00 pm on October 16, 2024 at 124 Armsdale Road, Suite 1 Kittanning, PA 16201.

ADJOURNMENT: Hearing no further business to come before the board, Chairman Andrew Kimmel declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly A. Laird
District Manager
Armstrong Conservation District