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February 19, 2025 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrew Kimmel at 6:59 pm.

PRESENT: Those present were: Directors Andrew Kimmel, DeJay Claypoole, Michelle Hickman, Mike Daquilante and Spurgeon Shilling; Associate Directors Jay Hogg, John Bennett, and Rocco Ali; PAFBC WCO Kyle Wirick; NRCS DC Dennis DiOrio, DEP Field Representative Taylor Null, Andrea Verobish of Congressman GT Thompson's office (via zoom), and ACD District Manager Holly Laird.

PUBLIC COMMENT on AGENDA ITEMS: None

MINUTES: Michelle Hickman moved, with DeJay Claypoole seconding the approval of the minutes of the January 15, 2025 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **2025 Tree Sale Update – 4/12** – Holly provided an update to the Board about this year's tree sale stating that apple and cherry trees were quickly selling out and that pick up day is 4/12 if the Board would like to stop by.
- 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 the calendar year 2024 are due to be filed by May 1, 2025. This item will remain as an agenda item until May 1, 2025.
- c. **Armsdale Update** – Holly Laird provided an update to the Board about the HVAC system and asked the Board about pursuing quotes for an ongoing HVAC maintenance agreement for the Armsdale Center. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Michelle Hickman to pursue quotes and present them at the next meeting. Motion carried.
- d. **Legislative Breakfast, March 7** – Holly reminded the Board that the Legislative Breakfast will be held at the Armsdale Center on March 7th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Annual Awards Banquet, 10/24** – Holly informed the Board that the Annual Awards Banquet will be held at the Worthington Firehall on October 24th.

- b. **Accept Darmac 14 Treatment System OM&R SMCRA Grant – \$159,575.00** – Michelle Hickman moved, seconded by Spurgeon Shilling to accept the SMCRA grant for the Darmac 14 Treatment System in the amount of \$159,575.00 and to enter into necessary agreements and complete the grant's scope of work. Motion carried.
- c. **ACAP Update** - An ACAP Advisory Board meeting was held on January 14, 2025. Holly Laird presented the recommendations of the ACAP Advisory Board to the District Board. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Mike Daquilante to accept the recommendations of the ACAP Advisory Board which included an update to the ACAP Local Policy and associated forms as presented and incorporate any necessary comments the SCC deems appropriate. The ACAP Advisory Board recommendation is attached to the minutes. Motion carried.
 - i. **Le'Ara Farms Application** – The ACAP Advisory Board has recommended funding the ACAP application of Le'Ara Farms to the District Board. Spurgeon Shilling moved to accept this recommendation, Mike Daquilante seconded. The ACAP Advisory Board recommendation is attached to the minutes. Motion carried.
- d. **Vehicle Maintenance – Yukon** – Holly informed the Board that the vinyl wrap on the GMC Yukon is deteriorating and sought the Board's permission to remove the wrap. The Board gave Holly permission to remove the wrap and provided suggestions about the removal.
- e. **Agricultural Education Center Update** – Holly provided an update to the Board about the AEC. The AEC Building Committee met on 2/17 to review the draft floor plan and site plan with the engineer. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Michelle Hickman to move forward with the proposed building floor plan and site plan. Holly will proceed to get the current plans approved through both funding agencies. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holly informed the Board of two farm visits that Armstrong County Farm Bureau is organizing. Holly provided an invitation to the Board to attend an invasive weed workshop at the Armsdale Center on 3/10 and a rain barrel workshop on 3/26. Holly also shared a letter template provided by WPCAMR to send to legislators to inform them of our need for continued AMD funding.

AGENCY REPORTS: Agency/staff activity reports were mailed/emailed to the Board. CD Field Rep Taylor Null gave updates on grants, DEP Secretary updates, and staff meetings/trainings. Dennis DiOrion expanded upon his written report and gave workload updates. WCO Kyle Wirick spoke about a stream grant in Indiana County and trout stockings. Andrea Verobish provided an update stating that the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Bill has gotten out of committee and that the Farm Bill is still under way.

COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS – None

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

Erosion and Sediment Plans February 2025 Meeting

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Twp.</u>	<u>Comments:</u>	<u>Rev. By</u>	<u>Status</u>
12/9/2024	Good Solar	Wayne	PAC030057	KR	In Progress
12/9/2024	Armstrong JS/HS Athletic Facilities	Manor	PAG02000312005R NOT	KR	In Progress
12/9/2024	West Shamokin High School Field Renovations	Cowanshannock	PAC030010 NOT	KR	In Progress
12/9/2024	Lucerne 3A/Waterworks Passive Treatment System	White Twp (Indiana Co.)	PA320006C NOT	KR	Approved
12/9/2024	157 Ford City Road	South Buffalo	PAC030042 NOT	KR	In Progress
12/19/2024	Former Ford City Facility Slurry Lagoon 2024 Site Improvements	Cadogen & North Buffalo	24-ES-13	KR	Approved
1/2/2025	Hoeter Solar	Cowanshannock	PAC030058	KR	In Progress
1/7/2025	Line P-18 Replacement Project	East Brady	PAD030007	KR	In Progress
1/23/2025	Shelocta 230kV Ring Bus & OPGW Project	Plumcreek	PAC320036 NOT	KR	Approved
1/28/2025	Harvest Community Church	East Franklin	PAC030032 NOT	KR	In Progress
2/6/2025	Big Pine Compressor Station Solar	Gilpin	PAC030054, A-1 Major Amendment	KR	In Progress

NM PLAN REVIEWS: None

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 March 19, 2025 at 124 Armsdale Road, Kittanning, PA 16201.

ADJOURNMENT: Hearing no further business to come before the board, Andrew Kimmel declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Holly A. Laird
District Manager
Armstrong Conservation District*