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May 21, 2025 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrew Kimmel at 7:01 pm.

PRESENT: Those present were: Directors Andrew Kimmel, DeJay Claypoole, Denny Hawley, Michelle Hickman (via zoom) Spurgeon Shilling, Commissioner John Strate and Mike Daquilante; Associate Director Jay Hogg; PFBC WCO Kyle Wirick; NRCS DC Denny DiOrio; Rich Tice and Jaysa Stitt of McCall, Scanlon and Tice; and ACD District Manager Holly Laird and Resource Conservationist Jennifer Jack.

PUBLIC COMMENT on AGENDA ITEMS: Chairman Andrew Kimmel informed the Board that the 2024 Preliminary Audit Presentation agenda item will be moved ahead in the agenda after the minutes.

MINUTES: Denny Hawley moved, with Spurgeon Shilling seconding the approval of the minutes of the April 16, 2025 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

2024 PRELIMINARY AUDIT PRESENTATION: Rich Tice and Jaysa Stitt of McCall, Scanlon, and Tice presented the 2024 Preliminary Audit Presentation to the Board for review. The Board will direct any questions regarding the audit directly to Jaysa Stitt and will plan to accept the audit at the June 18, 2025 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Spurgeon Shilling moved with Denny Hawley 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** – Jennifer Jack gave an update to the Board about the 2025 tree sale and Arbor Day event.
- b. **Armsdale Update** – Holly provided an update to the board about the Armsdale building including an update on the HVAC system and informing the Board that ABCI has agreed to rent storage space from ACD as was approved at the March 19, 2025 meeting.
- c. **PMRS Update** – Holly provided an update to the board regarding PMRS. No action was taken on this item.
- d. **Envirothon Update** – Jennifer Jack provided an update to the Board about the 2025 Envirothon.
- e. **Orphans of the Storm Utility Easements** – The Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter is in need of a utility easement for a West Penn Power electric line to their new shelter location. Commissioner John Strate moved, seconded by Mike Daquilante to grant the proposed easement which is attached to the minutes. The Board directed Holly Laird to execute the easement on behalf of ACD. Motion carried.

- f. **Agricultural Education Center Update** – Holly provided an update to the Board stating that the USDA grant is currently in the 30 day review period for Native American Tribe response. An updated artist rendering was also provided to the Board. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **2024 Preliminary Audit Presentation** – This item was addressed above.
- b. **Cowanshannock Creek Streambank Stabilization Project** – Denny Hawley moved, seconded by Michelle Hickman to hire J.C. Puryear Trucking to complete a streambank stabilization project along Cowanshannock Creek for a total project cost not to exceed \$36,500.00. The Board directed Holly Laird to execute the contract on behalf of ACD Motion carried.
- c. **AmeriCorps Member Status** – Board members were invited to attend an informational meeting on May 7, 2025 to provide an update on the status of the AmeriCorps Program and to discuss if the Board would be interested in retaining ACD's current AmeriCorps members if the program ended. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Mike Daquilante to retain ACD's current AmeriCorps members as part-time employees of ACD through the end of their AmeriCorps term which is August 2, 2025 at a rate of \$13.00/hour. If the AmeriCorps program continues, the members will remain AmeriCorps members. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holly provided a preliminary quote for GMC vehicles from Walker GMC. Holly also informed the Board about the Armsdale building being used as a CSA pick-up location from Pond Hill Farm. Holly also provided flyers of upcoming events to the Board.

AGENCY REPORTS: Agency/staff activity reports were mailed/emailed to the Board. Denny DiOrio expanded upon the NRCS written report stating that EQIP accepts applications year round. WCO Kyle Wirick informed the Board that a new WCO will be starting in Armstrong County.

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

- Brent Olean, Seminolean Farms (Mahoning Township)
 - o 70 acres, beef, poultry, crops, pasture, and woodland, interested in the ACAP program.
- Brian Weiland (South Buffalo Township)
 - o 65 acres, interested in streambank stabilization

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

Erosion and Sediment Plans May 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	Approved
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
1/2/2025	Hoeter Solar	Cowanshannock	PAC030058	KR	In Progress
1/7/2025	Line P-18 Replacement Project	East Brady	PAD030007	KR	In Progress
3/17/2025	PPG SWDA/SWDA Annes Remediation	North Buffalo	25-ES-01 (Amendment)	KR	Approved
4/9/2025	South Bend Access Rod Project	South Bend	PAC030059	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 June 18, 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 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Holly A. Laird
District Manager
Armstrong Conservation District*