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July 23, 2025 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, DeJay Claypoole, Denny Hawley, Michelle Hickman, Mike Daquilante and Spurgeon Shilling; Associate Director Jay Hogg; NRCS DC Denny DiOrio; Andrea Verobish of Congressman GT Thompson's office; and ACD District Manager Holly Laird.

PUBLIC COMMENT on AGENDA ITEMS: None

MINUTES: Denny Hawley moved, with Michelle Hickman seconding the approval of the minutes of the June 18, 2025 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

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. **Armsdale Update** – Holly provided an update to the board about the Armsdale building including an update regarding the HVAC system; a service call from TradeMark HVAC determined that the condensers on two units were affected by a power outage. Holly also informed the board that the second reimbursement request from the RACP grant was received for \$97,705.00. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Mike Daquilante for Holly to submit an insurance claim for the cost to replace the damaged condensers and to deposit the RACP reimbursement into the Capital Reserve account at Elderton State Bank. Motion carried.
- b. **PMRS Update** – Holly provided an update to the board regarding PMRS. No action was taken on this item.
- c. **Agricultural Education Center Update** – Holly provided a written update to the Board as well as new artist renderings. Denny Hawley moved with Spurgeon Shilling seconding a motion to permit the Agricultural Education Center Building Committee to put the project out for bid if needed prior to the September 17th board meeting. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **ACAP Update** – The ACAP local advisory board met on June 23rd and is recommending changes to the ACAP local policy. Those updates were provided to the Board. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by DeJay Claypoole to accept the recommendations of the ACAP LAB. Motion carried. The updated policy is attached to the minutes. The ACAP LAB also recommended funding an application for Jason Barnett in the amount of \$19,230.54. Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded

by Michelle Hickman to approve the LAB's recommendation. Motion carried. Holly Laird announced at the meeting that Wick City Concrete, LLC (jointly owned by Holly and her husband) had been asked to provide a quote on an ACAP project. Holly has a determination from the state ethics commission regarding this and has consulted with the Armstrong Conservation District solicitor to assure transparency and that there is no conflict of interest.

- b. **August Meeting?** – Spurgeon Shilling moved with Denny Hawley seconding to cancel the August 20th meeting unless there is a pressing matter to discuss. Motion carried.
- c. **OOTS Gas Line Easement** – The Orphans of the Storm engineer provided a proposed gas line easement through ACD property to service the new Orphans of the Storm animal shelter. This drawing was provided to the ACD Board. Holly was directed to contact Ty Heller about the easement and to have him review the easement, deeds, and to answer questions raised by the ACD Board. The ACD Board intends to take action on this item at a subsequent meeting.
- d. **AmeriCorps Discussion** – Holly provided an update to the board about the status of the AmeriCorps program. The Board decided not to pursue an AmeriCorps program for the upcoming term.

DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Holly provided announcements to the Board including: an update regarding the PACD budget and ACD's use and benefit of PACD; the County Emergency Management Department worked with her and Jen to develop an evacuation plan of the Armsdale building which has been provided to PSE and posted in appropriate places throughout the building; Director nominations will be coming up and that the terms for Mike Daquilante, DeJay Claypoole, and Commissioner John Strate will be up 12/31/25; the Growing Greener Grant for Todd Culp will be closed out soon; the application period for REAP opened on August 1, and updated the Board about staffing plans for the MED at the Dayton Fair.

AGENCY REPORTS: Agency/staff activity reports were mailed/emailed to the Board. WCO Kyle Wirick announced a litter clean up at Keystone Lake on 10/19/25 and a flyer was provided; Denny DiOrio expanded on the NRCS report; Andrea Verobish provided an update on Congressman GT Thompson's Ag Summit, the Give Milk Act, and a brief update on the Farm Bill; Rocco Ali provided a flyer for the Apollo Spring Church Sportsmen's Club youth pheasant hunt on October 11; and an invitation was provided to the Board for a Legislative Tour on August 5.

COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS – The cooperator agreements were presented to the Board. Denny Hawley moved, seconded by Mike Daquilante to approve the agreement. Motion carried.

- Brian Smith (Richard Smith – Owner) (West Franklin Township)
 - o 6.5 acres, interested in streambank stabilization along Buffalo Creek.

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

Erosion and Sediment Plans July 2025 Meeting

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Twp.</u>	<u>Comments:</u>	<u>Rev. By</u>	<u>Status</u>
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
1/7/2025	Line P-18 Replacement Project	East Brady	PAD030007	KR	Approved
4/9/2025	South Bend Access Road Project	South Bend	PAC030059	KR	Approved
6/17/2025	PPG SWDA/SWDA Annex Remediation	North Buffalo	25-ES-01, A-1	KR	Approved
6/19/2025	Demolition of Sugarcreek Elementary School	Sugarcreek	PAD030008	KR	In Progress
6/20/2025	Stronghold Roofing Headquarters	Parks	PAC030060	KR	In Progress
6/24/2025	TL-378 Recoat	Plumcreek	25-ES-02	KR	Approved
7/8/2025	Copeland Solar	Burrell	PAC030061	KR	In Progress

NM PLAN REVIEWS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Spurgeon Shilling requested that Board Meeting times be added to the agenda for the November 19 meeting.

NEXT MEETING: The Chairman announced that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 7:00 pm on August 20, 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 7:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Holly A. Laird
District Manager
Armstrong Conservation District*