



124 Armsdale Road, Suite 1
Kittanning, PA 16201

TEL 724-548-3425
EMAIL conservation@co.armstrong.pa.us
WEB www.armstrongcd.org

February 18, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: An executive session for personnel matters was held from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm. The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrew Kimmel at 6:13 pm.

PRESENT: Those present were: Directors Andrew Kimmel, Michelle Hickman, Denny Hawley, Jay Hogg, Mike Daquilante (executive session only via phone) and Spurgeon Shilling. Associate Director Rocco Ali; NRCS District Conservationist Denny DiOrio, DEP Field Rep Kaine Diehl; 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 January 21, 2026 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Spurgeon Shilling moved with Jay Hogg 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. Holly provided an update on the current interest rate with PA Invest.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Armsdale Update** – Holly updated the Board on efforts to secure the USDA lease for tenants when available. Holly also informed the Board that our final Penn Vest inspection was completed.
- b. **PMRS Update** – Holly provided an update to the board regarding the PMRS issue and the progress made by McCall, Scanlon, and Tice to date.
- c. **Agricultural Education Center Update** – Holly informed the Board that the AEC project is currently out for bid, a mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on March 4th and the bid opening will be held on March 17th, Holly invited the Board to attend both of these events.
- d. **2026 Tree Sale Update – 4/11** – Holly informed the Board of the status of the 202 tree sale and invited the Board to attend for tree sale pick-up day.
- e. **State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests – Due 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 2025 are due to be filed by May 1, 2026. This item will remain as an agenda item until May 1, 2026.

- f. **Envirothon – 4/22** – Holly informed the Board that Envirothon will be held on April 22nd and invited the Board to attend. Holly also asked the Board to let her know if they would like an Envirothon t-shirt.
- g. **Legislative Breakfast 3/13** – Holly updated the Board about the Legislative Breakfast to be held on 3/13 at the office.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Accept Growing Greener Grants** – Spurgeon Shilling moved, seconded by Denny Hawley to accept two Growing Greener Grants: Buffalo Creek Scenic Drive Streambank Stabilization and Fish Habitat in the amount of \$171,670.00 and Kiski and Cowanshannock Stormwater BMP Demonstration and Implementation Project in the amount of \$34,518.00 and to enter into necessary agreements and complete the grant's scope of work. Motion carried.
- b. **Agricultural Ag Banquet** – The Board discussed the annual Agricultural Banquet and directed Holly to work with our partners to have the banquet the same for 2026.
- c. **ACAP - Jason Barnett Amendment Approval** – Michelle Hickman moved, seconded by Jay Hogg to approve a 20% amendment to Jason Barnett's ACAP contract increasing the total contract from \$19,230.54 to \$23,076.64. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Armstrong Conservation District received a resignation letter from Maria Sorce effective February 13th, 2026. Holly provided the Board a copy of the 2026 Committee appointments. Holly informed the Board of Director Workshops coming up.

AGENCY REPORTS: Agency/staff activity reports were mailed/emailed to the Board. Kaine Diehl provided updates from DEP including plans to hire a new CDFR. Denny DiOrio provided an update stating that they received their manual for new programs and will be working on EQIP rankings.

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

- Bryce Gromley (Wayne Township)
 - o 25 acres, beef and poultry operation, interested in erosion and sedimentation control, stormwater management, and a grazing plan

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

Erosion and Sediment Plans February 2026 Meeting					
<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Twp.</u>	<u>Comments:</u>	<u>Rev. By</u>	<u>Status</u>
8/1/2025	Piney-Seward and Erie South-Piney 115kV Transmission Line Project	Redbank	PAD830002	KR	In Progress
11/5/2025	LN-19 Replacment Project	Kiskiminetas & Burrell	ESG83002500-00	KR	In Progress
11/17/2025	RIDC - Armstrong Soil Borrow/Waste Site	South Buffalo	PAC030064	KR	In Progress
12/5/2025	CM 30299 HP-101 & HP-200	Sugarcreek	PAD030009	KR	In Progress
12/29/2025	Smith Basketball	Plumcreek	25-ES-05	KR	Approved
1/5/2026	Bergad Specialty Foams and Composites (Major Amendment)	Rayburn	PAC030014, A-1	KR	Issued
1/22/2026	Anderson Creek Road	Valley	ESG000326001-00	KR	In Progress
2/3/2026	Rempleton Dollar General	Valley	26-ES-01	KR	In Progress

NM PLAN REVIEWS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: A discussion was held about the upcoming advertisement for a DGLVR technician as Gregg Smith is planning to retire at the end of 2026. Holly will work on a job description and advertisement for an upcoming meeting. ACD having future interns was also discussed.

NEXT MEETING: The Chairman announced that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 6:00 pm on March 18, 2026 at 124 Armsdale Road, Kittanning, PA 16201.

ADJOURNMENT: Hearing no further business to come before the board, Andrew Kimmel declared the meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Holly A. Laird
District Manager
Armstrong Conservation District*