

# BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Stoll Natural Resource Center  
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Telephone (570)265-5539 Ext.

January 8, 2024 MEETING

The January 2024, meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District was called to order by Keith Heimbach on January 8, 2024, at 12:30 PM, at the Stoll Natural Resource Center.

District Directors Attending the Meeting were: Keith Heimbach, Nicole Harris, Alvin Herman, Robert Miller, and Anthony Ventello

Others attending the meeting were: Ty Moon – PA Fish & Boat Commission, Jeremy Yohe – PA Fish & Boat Commission, Chad Spencer – NRCS, Cole Sutton – Intern, Cathy Yeakel – District Manager, Kevin Brown – Ag. Team Leader, Joe Quatrini – Tech Team Leader, Lacy Powers - Natural Resource Specialist, Patrick Cullen – District Engineer, Jenny Marino – Accounts Supervisor, Daniel Rhodes – Education Coordinator, Jen Johns – Buffer Specialist and Cheri Holecek – Administrative Assistant.

Via Zoom: Bruce Chase, Rachael Fish – DEP Conservation District Field Rep

Al Herman made a motion to accept the December 4, 2023, minutes as written. Rob Miller seconded the motion; motion was unanimously passed.

## REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS:

PA Fish and Boat Commission – Ty reported that they are recruiting for a new class. The stocking season schedules will be out soon. March 30<sup>th</sup> is mentored youth day. April 6<sup>th</sup> is the statewide opener. There is a new Notice of Stocking Form for any stocking in ponds, lakes, and streams to help stay in front of aquatic invasive species. As a reminder, when applying aquatic herbicides, you do need to get a permit.

Commission Report – Field Representative - a handout of the January 2024 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points was handed out and discussed.

NRCS – Chad Spencer gave an update on programs and open positions. The newly hired technician from Wyoming County will be in the office on occasion while training. Chad also provided information on the change to the High Tunnel program.

Board Appointments – Nicole Harris and Tony Ventello were sworn in as BCCD directors. Daryl Miller was not in attendance and will be sworn in at the February meeting.

Tony Ventello made a motion to nominate Keith Heimbach as Chair. Nicole Harris seconded the motion; motion was unanimously passed.

Tony Ventello made a motion to nominate Daryl Miller as Vice Chair. Keith Heimbach seconded the motion; motion was unanimously passed.

Keith Heimbach made a motion to nominate Alvin Herman as Secretary/Treasurer. Nicole Harris seconded the motion; motion was unanimously passed.

OLD BUSINESS - none  
COMMITTEES

Energy Committee – Report was given that a variance for solar was not going to be attainable at this time. The County is looking to redo their solar ordinance.

## NEW BUSINESS

2024 District Committees – A list of district committees was provided. Any additions please let Cathy know.

Buffer Project Contract with USC – A contract was presented from USC to the District for a Riparian Buffer Project on the Bonnie Mae Property totaling \$7,500. Alvin Herman made a motion to enter into the contract, Nicole Harris seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed.

ACT Agreement – The annual ACT agreement was presented for a total of \$20,000 to help cover Ag Conservation Technician salaries. A motion was made by Alvin Herman to sign the agreement. Nicole Harris seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed.

Remote Deposits and Fraud Protection on Bank Accounts – BCCD received a proposal for fraud protection from First Citizens Community Bank, on our current FCCB Accounts. The Board asked Cathy to get a little more information before they decide what they would like to do moving forward.

Engineering Support from Penn E&R – A contract with Penn E&R for Engineering support for Chapter 105 General Permit application packages was presented. The cost would be \$950 per project. Robert Miller made a motion to enter into a contract with Penn E&R for Engineering Support. Alvin Herman seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

ACAP Update – None

Nutrient Management Plan Approvals – None

D&G Contracts – None

Stream Crossing Projects - A powerpoint presentation showcasing technical team projects completed throughout the year including stream crossing replacement, stream rehabilitation, and dirt, gravel and low volume road projects was given.

Treasurer's Report & Payment of Bills – The Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. Alvin Herman made a motion to accept the Report and Payment of Bills. Tony Ventello seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously passed.

Correspondence – A summary of correspondence received was provided at the meeting.

Other – A potential grant opportunity from the Department of Community and Economic Development is currently open. This grant funds projects for community buildings and facilities that are open to the public. Tony Ventello made a motion to pursue an application for a feasibility study on our building. Nicole Harris seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously passed. Cathy will set up a meeting with the building committee to look into or options.

- It was reported that BCCD and the Bradford County Commissioners were both awarded a Growing Greener grant for stream rehabilitation and stream crossing replacement projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm by Keith Heimbach.

The next meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District will be held on Monday, February 5, 2024, 12:30 PM, at the Stoll Natural Resource Center and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Yeakel

District Manager