

SUSQUEHANNA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
89 Industrial Dr., Montrose, PA 18801
Monthly Board Meeting
DATE: February 16, 2023
START TIME: 9:00 A.M.

Attendance-

Directors- Doug Wood, Lillian Theophanis, Bill Bayne, Betsy Arnold, Bill Shay,
Robert Fearnley, Curt Hepler and Ed Price

Agency- Cait Skibiel - DEP, Ty Moon - PA Fish & Boat Commission

Staff- Jennifer Ramey and Adrian Gregory

- Call to Order- Doug at 9:00
- Pledge to the Flag
- Comments from the Public- none
- Agency Reports
 - NRCS- Written report
 - DEP- Cait Skibiel written & oral
 - DCNR- Written report
 - Fish & Boat Commission- Ty Moon & oral report
 - Ice season in county is coming to an end
 - Life jackets are required in the county until April 30th. Since that law has been in place, fatalities have decreased
 - Stocking schedule is on the website
 - Mentor Youth Day is March 25th
 - Cadets are half way through the academy. There are 12 openings in the county and 16 cadets taking the program.
 - There is a push for registering your non-motored vessel instead of boat launch permits.

Action Items

- Action on previous meeting minutes- Robert made a motion to accept the January minutes as written. Betsy seconded. Motion approved.
- Treasurer's Report- Robert made a motion to accept and file the treasurer's report for audit. Curt Seconded. Motion approved.
- Review and approval of monthly expenses- Robert made a motion to accept the monthly expenses. Bill Shay seconded. Motion approved.
- Astra Insurance renewal for 2023 - Ed made a motion to renew Astra Insurance. Bill seconded. Motion approved.
- Camera Quotes- Bill Shay made a motion to except Vectors quote and hire to install cameras. Curt seconded. Motion approved.
- ACAP Checking account- Robert made a motion to open an ACAP checking account. Bill Shay seconded. Motion approved.

- Ag Preservation- Curt made a motion to move forward with the process to preserve the application from the DePue farm. Bill Bayne seconded. Motion Approved.
- Training Request- Betsy made a motion to send Don & Aaron to Verbal Judo in Bethlehem. Bill Shay seconded. Motion approved.

Entered into Executive Session at 9:45 to discuss personnel.

Entered back into regular session at 10:04.

- Personnel Committee Recommendations – Motion was made by Curt to increase Don Hibbard’s salary to coincide with his job duties as Program Coordinator as discussed during his 2022 employee evaluation. Seconded by Ed. Motion approved.
- Personnel Committee Recommendation - Summer Intern: Motion was made by Curt to increase the current stipend from \$1500 to \$3500 based on intern analysis study of other conservation districts. Stipend based on \$13/hr., 10 weeks, 24 hrs/week with a mileage allotment of \$380. \$3500 to be paid in equal payments bi-weekly in the sum of \$700. Seconded by Doug. Motion approved.

Informational items

- Watershed Specialist, Nate Harpster- Update on water quality testing
 - Water quality testing is going to be used for an educational tool
 - Funding is needed for pathogen testing
 - Ph meter, Flow meter & temp loggers will be used in testing, the district already owns all of these.
 - Testing will be a baseline for studies in chosen watershed
- Friends of Salt Springs- Joint events with SCCD reviewed
- Commissioner Director Report
 - Betsy will not seek re-election as County Commissioner
 - April 10, 2023 Farm & Home Day at Elk Lake School
 - April 15th Dr. Daniel Cameron is coming to Blue Ridge School at 11:00
 - Tick Task Force has scheduled to be at some events this years, Salt Springs on August 12th and the Harford Fair, to name a few. They are also looking for volunteers.
 - Commissioner Judy Hershel, Commissioner Betsy Arnold, the sheriff attended a public service announcement on WBRE on the subject of Fentanyl
 - Judy & Betsy are going to be interviewed on Penn Live discussing Fentanyl.
 - A vote will take place next week in reference to the county separating from the Endless Mountain Visitors Bureau or continue a partnership
 - Interviews for the 4H educator has been conducted. A second position has been created and will be paid for by the County.
 - Voting season is here- as of now those running are:

- 3 commissioners
 - 3 Auditors
 - 2 register/recorder are running for office
- Nominating Organization Report
 - Farm Bureau- Bill Bayne & Bill Shay
 - February 28th meeting with Penn DOT in Gibson
 - 2nd Thursday of every month is Farm Bureau's meeting at Bridgewater Church at 6:30.
 - Meet the Legislators at 9:00 at Farm & Home Day
 - April 29th will be a meet the candidate's brunch at the Montrose Bible Conference @ 10:00am
 - Forest Landowners- Bill Bayne
 - February 19th meeting had a great turn out
 - March 25th is a wood's walk at Sheldon's place on Chestnut Tree's
 - New President is Joyce Stone
 - Game Commission- Ed Price
 - Pine Martin reintroduction
 - Possum carcasses are being collected for research
 - Research is being conducted for rodenticides in otters & Bobcats
 - Officers are being promoted to Sargent, 3 officer vacancies
 - Tappers Association
 - Fir sale brought in \$10,000, fir prices are still low
 - 4th Thursday of every month is their meeting at 7:00 P.M.
 - September 23, 2023 is the Annual Family Day
- District Manager Updates
 - Received our executed CAP agreement for the next round of implementation funding
 - Staff is working with Salt Springs State Park to set up some educational events in May & July
 - ACAP is still moving forward
 - Seedling Sale has been advertised
 - The D&G Program has picked up and townships are requesting advances to start projects
 - DM and staff have been busy updating the website
 - Annual Report is in progress and hopefully will be finished next week
 - Alot of activity is happening on Facebook
- Correspondences- Reviewed
- Staff Reports- Reviewed
- Comments from Public- None
- Adjourn- Robert made a motion to adjourn at 10:47. Doug seconded. Motion approved.

