

**SUSQUEHANNA CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**89 Industrial Dr., Montrose, PA 18801**  
**Monthly Board Meeting**  
**DATE: January 18, 2024**  
**START TIME: 9:00 A.M.**

**Attendance**

**Directors-** Bill Bayne, Doug Wood, Jim Kessler, Lillian Theophanis, Curt Hepler, Bill Shay, Robert Fearnley, Jack McKee, Brian Severcool, Ed Price, & Michael Oakley.

**Staff-** Don Hibbard, Peter Maxey, Jennifer Ramey & Adrian Gregory

**Agency-** Cait Skibieli- DEP, Ain Welmon- NRCS, Ty Moon- PFBC, Mike Antonishak- DCNR

- Call to Order- Doug 9:00
- Pledge to the Flag

**Comments from the public-** Chairman, Doug Wood wished everyone a Happy New Year. Associate Director, Lillian Theophanis commented how great it was to have so many individuals in attendance.

- Swearing in of New Directors: Cait Skibieli from DEP conducted the swearing in of new officers Jim Kessler & Robert Fearnley. Both Farmer Directors

**Agency Reports**

NRCS- Ain Welmon - written and oral report

DEP- Cait Skibieli - written and oral report

PFBC- Ty Moon - oral report

DCNR- Mike Antonishak - oral report

**Action Items**

- Nominating Committee Recommendations:
  - Election of Officers – Chairman, Vice Chairman, & Treasurer
  - The nominating committee recommends Doug Wood for Chairman, Curt Hepler for Vice Chairman, & Jack McKee for Treasurer. Jim made a motion to accept the recommendations for officers. Ed seconded. Motion approved.
- Action on previous meeting minutes- Robert made a motion to accept the December 2023 minutes as written. Bill Shay seconded. Motion approved.
- Treasurer's Report- Curt made a motion to accept and file for audit. Bill B. seconded. Motion approved.
- Review and approval of monthly expenses- Bill S. made a motion to accept the monthly expenses. Bill Bayne seconded. Motion approved.
- Communications Coordinator Position- Brian motions to accept Jen's recommendation and hire Elysia Axworthy for 20 hours a week at a rate of \$24.04 an hour, with a cap at \$25,000 per year. Jim seconded. Motion approved.
- Summer Intern Position- Bill Bayne made a motion to advertise for a summer intern at an hourly rate of \$13 for 10 weeks, 24 hours a week and a mileage allotment of \$380. Curt seconded. Motion approved.

- Ag Committee Recommendations- Jim made a motion to have No-Till Specialist, Peter Maxey, fix the JD 1750 No-till Corn Planter and then advertise for sale. Bill Shay seconded. Motion approved.

Informational items

- Commissioner Director Report- Commissioner Director not present
- Nominating Organization Report
  - Bill Bayne for Forest Land Owners
    - Meeting for Directors, a few events discussed but no decisions were made due to the low attendance because of the farm show.
  - Pa. Federation of Sportsmen and Conservationists (PFSC), Ed Price
    - Trapping season is mostly over, just Beavers remain
    - Controversy whether to reintroduce the Pine Marten or not
    - Opposing views on whether or not to have the opening day of rifle hunting season go back to Monday
  - Farm Bureau- Bill Shay
    - Met with Johnathan Fritz
    - Environmental tour in March or April
    - Ag Day legislative meeting at 8:00 a.m.
  - Chestnut Foundation-Jim
    - Independent research shows that all pollen and trees that were used for the Darling 58 research were actually from another prototype so the research is considered inconclusive.
- District Manager Update - oral & written
- Correspondences- Reviewed
- Staff Reports- Reviewed
- Comments from Public- None
- Adjourn-Bill Shay made a motion to adjourn at 9:59. Ed seconded. Motion approved.