

**SUSQUEHANNA CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**89 Industrial Dr., Montrose, PA 18801**  
**Monthly Board Meeting**  
**DATE: October 19, 2023**  
**START TIME: 9:00 A.M.**

**Attendance**

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

**Staff-** Cheyenne Jenner, Jason Branning, Jennifer Ramey & Adrian Gregory

**Agency-** Cait Skibieli, Max Little, & Ain Welmon

**Public-** Michael Oakley

- Call to Order- Doug 9:00
- Pledge to the Flag
- Comments from the Public
  - Thank you letter received from Harford Agricultural Society for participation in the fair
  - Thank you letter received from Gavin Bewley for the scholarship
  - Thank you letter received from Alex Empet for the scholarship
- Introduction of new SCCD staff Cheyenne Jenner & Jason Branning

**Agency Reports**

NRCS- Ain Welmon written and oral report

FSA- Max Little oral report

DEP- Cait Skibieli written and oral report

**Action Items**

- Action on previous meeting minutes- Robert made a motion to accept the September minutes as written. Curt seconded. Motion approved.
- Treasurer's Report- Curt made a motion to accept and file for audit. Ed seconded. Motion approved.
- Review and approval of monthly expenses- Robert made a motion to accept the monthly expenses. Bill S seconded. Motion approved.
- Health Insurance Renewal- Bill B made a motion to approve the health insurance renewal with Geisinger GFA. Jim seconded. Motion approved.
- PACD Voting Delegate – Ed motioned to remove Commissioner Betsy Arnold as voting delegate due to her term as commissioner ending and replace with Director Bill Shay. Robert seconded. Motion passed.
- Training request
  - Jim made a motion to approve all of the trainings needed for Cheyenne's Act 38 certification. Bill seconded. Motion approved
  - Bill S made a motion to approve all trainings as presented. Brian seconded. Motion approved.
- ACAP Advisory Committee – Robert made the motion to form the ACAP Advisory Committee. Bill Shay and Jim Kessler to serve on this committee to

assist with ACAP project rankings along with Ain Welmon. Bill Bayne seconded. Motion Approved.

- Committee recommendations-
- Vehicle Committee- Brian recommends the purchase of four Falcon AT Trail tires for all season from Millers Auto Body @ a cost of \$240/tire. Curt made a motion to accept Brian recommendation. Jim seconded. Motion approved.
- Agricultural Committee -Ed made a motion to accept all of the Ag Committee's recommendations as follows. Seconded by Jim. Motion approved:
  - Increase pricing on our No-till Equipment rental to \$25 an acre for the seeder and \$30 an acre for the corn planter
  - Increase the amount of out of county delivery fee to \$10 a towing mile from the county line and back
  - Allow No-till Technician Peter Maxey to fix equipment throughout the winter if the fairgrounds will allow access to the equipment throughout the winter.

**Entered into Executive Session to discuss personal at 9:46.**

**Exited Executive Session and entered back into regular board meeting at 10:13**

- Robert made a motion to accept all the Personal Committees recommendations as follows: 2024 Salary Increases, Don & Jen to attend the NACD meeting on February 9-15, 2024, Don & Jen to carry over any remaining time not able to be used in 2023, Forming a new PT position of Resource Planner/Communication Specialist for 2024, Allow staff to have a holiday dinner meeting and the purchase of candy for all employees and directors. Bill B. seconded. Motion approved.

### **Informational items**

- Commissioner Director Report-None
- Nominating Organization Report
  - Forest Landowners, Jim Kessler- Walk in Penn's woods took place. Everyone had a good time and learned something. 4H provided lunch and welcomed donations.
    - The bus trip to Stickley Furniture Museum with a historian was fun and educational as was the Chestnut demonstration.
  - Pa. Federation of Sportsmen and Conservationists (PFSC), Ed Price- House bill 1300 reports that there are 28,000 miles of impacted streams and wants the Fish & Boat and the Game Commission to assist in paying for the clean-up.
    - Game Commission has approved the reintroduction of the Pine Marten.
    - There's still a debate on whether firearms deer season should start on the Saturday or Monday after Thanksgiving

- Federal Government is cutting funding for public schools that teach hunter education and give firearms training.
  - Farm Bureau, Bill Shay & Bill Bayne- Annual meeting went well. They will be traveling to Hershey next to make recommendations to legislators to increase the prevailing wage limit from 25K to 125K
- District Manager Update
  - 2023/2024 CDFAP allocation have been submitted into Greenport
  - PUC Block Grant reports from fiscal year 22/23 have been submitted into Greenport
  - Administrative Assistant Financial Report has been submitted into Greenport
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter quarterly reports that are available for reporting have been completed
  - Draft budget has been drafted for Budget Committee meeting
  - Envirothon practice was conducted on 10/10/23
  - Personnel Committee and Ag Committee met on 10/11/2023
  - Agricultural Farmland Preservation met on 10/11/2023
  - Cheyenne Jenner, Chesapeake Bay Technician, started employment on 9/11/2023
  - Jason Branning, Conservation Specialist, started employment on 9/25/2023
  - ACAP NE region meeting to be held on 11/30/2023 at SCCD basement conference room
- Correspondences- reviewed
- Staff Reports- reviewed
- Comments from Public- Lillian is excited to see the building of the pavilion taking place.
- Adjourn- a motion was made by Bill S at 10:35 to adjourn. Bill B seconded. Motion approved.