

Lancaster County Ag Council
Thursday, August 27 , 2020
12:30 PM
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Roll Call: Scott Sheely, George Cook, Mary Henry, Josh Scheinberg, Dale Hershey, Don Hoover, Jayne Sebright, Lisa Riggs, Mark Lowery, Ray D'Agostino, Ron Frederick, George Hurst, Greg Kirkham, Dan Heller, Scott Augsburger, Chris Thompson, Lisa Graybeal

Contractor: Shelly Dehoff

George called meeting to order at 12: 36 PM.

Roll Call by The Secretary: Shelly took roll call via “participants list” on the Zoom software.

Shoutouts: None this month.

Reading and Approval of Minutes The August 27, 2020 meeting minutes were noted. Motion made by Dale Hershey, seconded by Mary Henry to approve the August 27, 2020 minutes. Motion passed.

Review of Monthly Financial Reports: Dale Hershey noted the financial report. There is a net income of \$27,460.55 shown on the Profit/Loss statement through the end of August. It definitely has been an odd year, but we have been pleased with the support. There is \$22,586 in the checkbook. There is also an additional approximately \$13,300 deemed for other use. Motion by George Hurst and seconded by Greg Kirkham to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Priority Business:

- North Museum and the Ag Literacy Program—contracted with North Museum for \$10,000 to create curriculum related to agricultural literacy. North Museum has been collaborative and easy to work with, according to Scott Sheely. The unveiling will be highlighted during Ag Week. Time was spent to put together materials for a multi-media packet. Co-owned by Ag Council and North Museum. Funds come from MidAtlantic Farm Credit (\$5000) and Ann Barshinger (\$5000) grants. The content for this curriculum has come primarily from the Ag Council, so we are comfortable with the messaging. Discussion followed about an annual review of the content to be sure it is current, accurate and relevant.
 - Motion made by Don Hoover, seconded by Lisa Graybeal to approve contract with 2 revisions as discussed and noted, and to pay the contracted amount, \$10,000. Motion passed.
- Potential Board member, Kevin Stoltzfus, is very interested in being added to the Council Board. His approval would complete the 11 farmer members on the Board, currently.
 - Motion made by Lisa Graybeal, seconded by Dan Heller to add Kevin Stoltzfus to the Ag Council roster. Motion passed.
- Ag Week schedule emails and social media notifications are being distributed. **We could use Ag Council involvement/attendance at events** (North Museum; Farmer lunch; Cherry Crest social event; ag careers evening zoom; lessons learned from COVID farmer and industry stories; virtual Denim & Pearls; Extension programs on food supply chain; legislative mtg) **and with publicity (email lists, social media, websites)**. A condensed “one pager” will be finalized asap, and will be distributed soon.
 - Regarding the Friday morning legislative event during Ag Week, “The Fertilizer Act” as it’s casually known is an item the legislators want to talk about. And the lack of local meat processors will be another topic.
- Ag Council fundraising 2021—kicking it off during Ag Week. Sponsorship levels paperwork and cover letter were distributed for input last month—are there any additional comments or input? Mary Henry

will promote it during Tuesday event at Cherry Crest during Ag Week. How would our past supporters like to receive this paperwork? Email is fine. There was a suggestion to provide an additional page that has a selection opportunity that can be returned. Also, be prepared to be able to invoice the companies after they respond.

- Lessons learned aspect for Recovery Lancaster (draft report). George shared this on the screen, to start the discussion. Besides the ones already listed, what are other lessons learned we want to be sure are included?
 - Farmers need to consider alternate marketing plans before there is a need for them
 - The need for having contacts with the food banks and other ways to utilize extra food products is critical (this may be what “filling in the gaps” already on the list was referencing)
 - How incredibly vulnerable the food supply chain is
 - Designate or define who are considered essential food workers earlier in the process, so large processing plants don’t shut down
 - When government says things will shut down within 24 hours, that’s just not enough time for processors to adapt (need more realistic time lines)
 - None of environmental regulations/timeframes for implementation of BMPs were relaxed (the costs for installation can be stressful even in good economic times, but COVID affected income for many, so the non-flexible time frames impacted people)
 - Essential workers—plan to provide PPE much sooner
 - Design of processing plants; people standing shoulder to shoulder, isn’t best design for health concerns
 - Meat processors are currently 6-8 months out, to schedule local beef for butchering
 - Better understanding/education for legislators of the role that guest workers fill in for ALL aspects of ag production
 - All areas of ag were not affected equally
 - Charitable food network has been and will continue to be incredibly necessary
- It is the time of year for nominations for Conservation District director/associate director positions, so please let Chris Thompson know if you have any ideas
- The next request for Commissioner funding will be presented soon; it has been very appreciated in the past
- The Extraordinary Give is coming up in November; we must have an audited financial statement to participate, but don’t have one yet. Should we pursue it? Quote for reviewed (not a full audit) financials will be \$2500. What is the anticipated income from the Extra Give? Input was given that the cost is probably worth it, due to anticipated donations, plus it is a good avenue for expanded awareness/publicity about the Ag Council to different public groups and individuals. *Motion by Lisa Graybeal to proceed with signing up for the Extra Give and having a financial review done by an independent firm. Seconded by Dale Hershey. Motion passed.*

Report of the Executive Director:

- Topics discussed under “Priority business”

Reports of Committees:

- Education/PR— no official report but Lisa G expressed willingness to help with Ag Week and Extra Give publicity as needed; Scott S indicated he could use help with an evaluation for Ag Week participants so he will talk to Lisa after this meeting
- Economic Development— no report today
- Legislative/ Environmental—
 1. Legislation proposed this week for a new ag assistance program
- Ag Week— report earlier

Reminders/For the good of the order:

- None today

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 PM.

NEXT MEETING is Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 12:30 PM. Executive Committee will discuss when to resume in person meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Dehoff
Lancaster County Conservation District