

Chairperson Commissioner Sherene Hess called the meeting of the Indiana County Conservation District to order on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 9:30 am at 435 Hamill Road in Indiana. Other Directors present were Craig Andrie, Janis Long, Barbara Peace, Aaron Simpson and Gregg VanHorn. Directors absent: Cindy Rogers

Also present: Douglas Beri Jr. – Executive Director, Tammie Robinson – Office Administrator, Tom Beresnyak, Hunter Overdorff, Alysha Trexler, and John Somonick-Associate Directors, Stephen Campbell – Penn State Extension, Ariel Coleman – USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Toby McIlwayne - District solicitor participating remotely.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

Peace moved to approve consent agenda items including accepting minutes of the previous meeting as presented, treasurer's report to be filed subject to audit, correspondence, DEP delegated programs reports and staff reports, second by Simpson, motion carried.

VanHorn moved to pay the bills as presented, second by Andrie, motion carried with Simpson abstaining.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DELEGATED PROGRAMS REPORT

Eight erosion and sediment control plans were reviewed, and four Chapter 102 site inspections were conducted.

#### ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR REPORTS

Overdorff reported local policy will be developed for the Indiana County Farm Bureau at their annual meeting/picnic being held at the Brush Valley Park on July 19.

Trexler reported Western PA Conservancy is working with the PA Game Commission to replace bridges in state game lands on Ferriers Run that will greatly enhance aquatic organism passage. Trexler commended District staff on their Growing Greener grant work and applications being developed.

Beresnyak reported on webinars being offered by Penn State Extension.

Campbell reported equipment demonstrations will be held at Rock Springs on July 8. The Indiana County Manure Management workshop will be held at the Dustin Heeter farm in Clarksburg on September 5. Research projects are being conducted, and Extension is seeking volunteers to allow western bean cutworm traps to be placed on their farm. Peace volunteered to participate. A no-till alliance meeting/field day is planned for July 22 in Butler. Ag. Progress Days is set for August 12-14. A Farming for Success workshop is planned in Landisville in August. Campbell is developing a drone cover cropping workshop to be held this fall in Butler.

Somonick reported that the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development is working on a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) for solar installations. If the state of Pennsylvania develops a solar SALDO, it will likely supersede any locally developed SALDO.

#### FIELD REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Taylor Null has resigned from the position which is now vacant.

### COOPERATING AGENCY REPORTS

Coleman reported NRCS has completed a heavy use area application, and they received one additional forestry application. The Conservation Reserve Program application period is still open until July 31.

Beri reported that the Friends of Indiana County Conservation District's small agriculture grant application period is open until the end of June. Two \$1500 grants are planned to be awarded.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS - none

### OLD BUSINESS – none

### NEW BUSINESS

No nutrient management plans are currently under review. No plans were presented for approval.

No donations were received.

Simpson moved to approve a DGLVR program Low Volume Road FY24 contract for Pine Township's Stiles Station Road in the amount of \$38,696.00, second by Peace, motion carried.

Andrie moved to support Beri voting yes at the upcoming PA Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) annual conference for a three-year PACD dues increase for each county conservation district in the amount of \$300 the first year, and \$200 for each of the following two years, second by VanHorn, motion carried.

VanHorn moved to approve the personnel committee recommendation for employee annual raises as presented, effective for the pay date of July 4, 2025, second by Simpson, motion carried.

Peace moved to approve contracting Rural Support Partners for strategic planning and stakeholder engagement services not to exceed \$13,000, pending signing a contract for the PA Department of Agriculture Ag Innovation grant, second by Simpson, motion carried.

### DISCUSSION

Peace reminded everyone that the joint annual conference will be held July 15-17 and ICCD is receiving recognition for being the outstanding Board of Directors in Pennsylvania.

Andrie moved to enter executive session at 10:00 am to discuss a legal issue and personnel matters, second by Simpson, motion carried. Simpson moved to resume the regular meeting at 10:34 am, second by VanHorn, motion carried.

The next Conservation District Board of Directors meeting will be held Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 9:30 am at 435 Hamill Road, Indiana, PA 15701. Andrie moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammie L. Robinson  
Administrative Assistant