

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2026, A.C.C.D. BOARD MEETING

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The monthly meeting of the Adams County Conservation District (District) Board of Directors (Board or BOD) was held on February 26, 2026, at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325 with a call-in option. Chair, Carl Keller, Jr. called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM. A quorum was met. The following were present in person or by phone (* if present via phone):

Carl Keller Jr., Chair/Farm Director	Ed Wilkinson, Vice-chair/Farm Director
Adam McClain, District Manager	Dave Benner, Farm Director
Commissioner Jim Martin, Commissioner Director	Christopher Santore, DEP
Lindsay Bream, NRCS	Rick Crouse, Public Director
Susan Landauer, Admin Spec/Board Secretary	Anastasia Miller, Chesapeake Bay Tech
Brian Sneeringer, Ag Cons. Supervisor	Christina Anders, Resource Cons. Tech
Deb Musselman, Resource Cons. Supervisor	Mary Smith, Staff Accountant
Ricky Whitmore, CAP Coordinator	Ben Smith, Ag Cons. Tech
Vy Trinh, Water Specialist	Maya Callenbach, Resource Cons. Tech
Brock Clouser, Ag Cons. Tech	

Adam McClain went over the additional measures the District is taking to maintain transparency: advertised in the Gettysburg Times that Board meetings may be held as virtual meetings, Board meeting agenda was posted in the District Office and on the County website, Board meeting call-in information was posted on the County website and the Ag Center entrance. To join this meeting by phone or for other means to provide public comment, the request must have been received by noon today. Request to join by phone: Charlie Bennett.

Welcome and Roll Call: Chair, Carl Keller, Jr. welcomed all and a roll call was done by Adam McClain.

Public Comments: There were no comments from the public.

Additional Agenda Items and Flexibility of the Agenda Order: *Ed Wilkinson moved to approve having flexibility of the agenda order. Dave Benner seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Swearing in of Directors: *Commissioner Jim Martin swore in Rick Crouse.*

Approval of Minutes: *Dave Benner moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2026, BOD meeting. Commissioner Jim Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Treasurer's Report: *Ed Wilkinson reviewed the Treasurer's report for January 2026, found everything to be in order, and recommended that it be filed for audit.*

Cooperating Agency Reports:

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) – Christopher Santore, Conservation District Field Representative, highlighted the February 2026 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Lindsey Bream, District Conservationist, highlighted the NRCS monthly report.

Committee Reports:

Ag Center – Ed Wilkinson shared that Johnson Controls was in to perform the yearly backflow inspection, Hull's Electric replaced some emergency lights and repaired a receptacle, and McClure was in to do some HVAC repairs.

Ag Committee – Brock Clouser explained three Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) policy changes recommended by the Ag Committee. *Ed Wilkinson moved to approve the Ag Committee's recommended ACAP policy changes. Dave Benner seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Safety Committee – Adam McClain shared that the Committee recommended minor language changes to the Emergency Action Plan (EAP), provided an update on the PCoRP grant work – filling swale and emergency light replacements, and relayed that he will send quarterly emails to staff highlighting sections of the EAP. He also shared the Committee will be working on a space heater policy and will be adding the locations of fire extinguishers to the EAP maps. *Commissioner Jim Martin moved to approve the Safety Committee’s recommended changes to the Emergency Action Plan. Ed Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP):

Nathan Herr amendment – *Ed Wilkinson moved to approve an increase of \$3,152 to Nathan Herr’s ACAP contract. Commissioner Jim Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Western PA Conservancy: *Dave Benner moved to approve the \$1,000 Western PA Conservancy contract for Chapter 105 permit assistance. Commissioner Jim Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Envirothon: Vy Trinh reviewed the 2026 Envirothon donations and recommended approval. *Ed Wilkinson moved to approve the 2026 Envirothon donations in the amount of \$2,550 and any future donations that may be received before the event is held. Commissioner Jim Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Earth Day: *Ed Wilkinson moved to approve \$175 for a musician to perform at the 2026 Earth Day Extravaganza. Dave Benner seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Awards: *Commissioner Jim Martin moved to approve Matt Kern as a recipient of the 2026 Conservation Stewardship Award with a plaque to be presented at the Envirothon and to approve the Watershed Alliance of Adams County as a recipient of the 2026 Conservation Stewardship Award with a plaque to be presented at the fall tree distribution event. Ed Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

4H Event: Adam McClain shared Adams County 4H’s building use request. *Ed Wilkinson moved to approve 4H’s request to use the Ag Center for their sandwich fundraiser event on June 20, 2026. Dave Benner seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

E&S Fee Schedule: *Ed Wilkinson moved to approve changes to the E&S fee schedule as recommended by E&S staff. Dave Benner seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Tenant Related Organizations: *Rick Crouse moved to approve amending the general liability coverage required of tenant related organizations to \$1M/\$2M and to remove Adams County Farmers Market from the 2026 tenant related organizations list. Ed Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

2025 State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interest Form: Adam McClain discussed the annual form and the need for it to be completed by District staff and Board members.

Program/Staff Reports:

Brian Sneeringer shared that 31 farmers attended the Soil Quality meeting yesterday and noted the decline in attendance, sent emails to attendees asking for feedback, and that the recent snows have slowed them down and they will be rushing to catch up as the weather improves.

Brock Clouser shared that existing ACAP projects are proceeding, he is reviewing bids for 2 projects, and that unspent ACAP funds can now be rolled over at the end of the year into the new delegation agreement.

Deb Musselman shared that the Dirt & Gravel program received 1 application from Mount Joy Township, and there is a QAB meeting on March 12. Two projects have already been approved but start dates have not been scheduled yet. Chapter 102 staff are busy with new applications, and they will be catching up on inspections as the weather improves.

Mary Smith shared that she is busy working on requests from SEK regarding the upcoming audit. There was a minor issue with 1099's not being received in a timely manner this year, so they were reissued by SEK.

Ricky Whitmore shared that 2 of his 4 permits have been sent to PA Fish & Boat Commission, he held a pre-bid meeting with 4 contractors for the 4 stream restoration projects with bids due 3/12.

Susan Landauer shared that she is still missing 8 Annual Reports that were due 12/7. She will be sending final notices next week and then referring those not in compliance to DEP where a fine can be assessed. She continues to process new permit applications as they are received.

Vy Trinh shared that an information session will be held March 4 for potential backyard growers to help replace the previous seedling distribution and to be used for riparian forest buffer plantings, interactive signs are being developed for the self-guided best management practice (BMP) tour at the Ag Center, the Annual Report was completed yesterday, and she has several planting projects planned for the Spring.

Ben Smith shared that he is hoping to get BMPs laid out as the weather allows, and he is working on conservation plans and his Level 3 planning certification.

Maya Callenbach shared that she is busy reviewing Chapter 102 projects and has reached out to other Conservation Districts to learn how they handle electronic submissions.

Christina Anders shared that she is busy with lots of Chapter 102 projects, inspections are ramping up with the melting of snow, and she will be attending an engineering technical training with the DEP regional office in March.

Anastasia Miller shared an update on the Chesapeake Bay Ag inspection program with many farmers ready for inspection now that their plans are done and reported that she recently attended the 4H Ag Career Event and the AgCom Grower's meeting.

District Manager – Adam McClain shared that PACD is updating their directors list, he will be attending the Bay in the Balance meeting next week, the Ag Center tenant agencies are holding an info sharing meeting in March, and he reminded everyone that the March Board meeting will be at 7pm.

Director Comments: Commissioner Jim Martin shared that the Courts recently determined that the US Postal Service is not liable for mishandling mail, 100% of County real estate taxes have been paid, and he will soon be planting hybrid American Chestnut seeds. Ed Wilkinson shared that he enjoyed the Soil Quality Meeting speakers, liked the half day format, and thinks it should continue annually even though attendance has been declining. Carl Keller, Jr thanked everyone for coming, enjoyed the Soil Quality Meeting speakers, and thought it would be helpful to have discussions following the meeting about what went well and suggested areas of improvement.

Adjournment: Carl Keller, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 3:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Landauer, Administrative Specialist/Board Secretary
Adams County Conservation District