

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Commissioner R. Michael Keith called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room.

ROLL CALL

Chairman R. Michael Keith, present
Commissioner Robin A. Gorman, present
Commissioner Sherene Hess, present

Also, in attendance were Solicitor Matthew T. Budash and Chief Clerk Robin Maryai.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Keith led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVE MINUTES...JANUARY 26, 2022

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of January 26, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Riley made public comment regarding COVID and vaccinations of the younger population. Carolyn Princess thanked the board for the Black History Month. Ms. Princess also made public comment regarding diversity and employment in the education system for people of color.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no Executive Sessions.

COVID UPDATE

Thomas Stutzman, EMA, reported that for the week ending February 7, 2022 there was a 20.74% Covid positive rate of those being tested which is a drop from the previous 7 day period. Covid positive tests from that period dropped to 422. Covid testing has dropped 18.86%. 1872 test were administered. Hospital admissions has reduced by 60.87%. ICU admissions increased by 1.19%. There has been 6 covid related deaths. Mr. Stutzman also reported that Indiana County had 212 seasonal flu cases documented.

RESOLUTION...AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF FUNDS FROM THE SITE-SPECIFIC POST CLOSURE TRUST

Evergreen Conservancy has partnered with Indiana County Emergency Management to implement and maintain a cellular telemetry water monitoring system in Indiana County for the last nine years. These systems monitor water quality 24/7 at five sites in Indiana which are prone to traffic accidents. With this system, alerts can be set to warn of any accidents that could impact water quality. The units are placed in Blacklick Creek, Yellow Creek, Little Yellow Creek, Two Lick Creek, and Laurel Run.

The units are comprised of a cellular reporting device, a solar panel that provides power to the unit's batteries, and a Manta multiprobe with underwater cable that measures 5 different in-stream parameters. The cellular system that the current units utilize is a 3G network provided by T-Mobile, AT&T, and Twilio. In 2022, all of the cellular providers have indicated that they will

discontinue their 3G networks, thus making the units that are currently being used obsolete. At the present time, only have 2 systems still receive cellular service.

Through grants provided by the Foundation for Pa Watersheds and the Colcom Foundation, Evergreen Conservancy was able to purchase a new unit that will use satellite, rather than cellular transmissions to provide 24/7 in-stream water quality data. Four (4) other complete satellite transmitting systems will need to be purchased to complete the project, along with new Manta Multiprobes and underwater cables.

During the 2022 budget meetings, there was discussion on how to fund this project. On November 23, 1988 pursuant to then enacted policy guidelines as issued by the Department of Environmental Resources, the county entered into a Site Specific Post-Closure Trust Agreement. Then on November 6, 2002 there was an amendment to the Site Specific Pos-Closure Trust Agreement which authorizes the county to request moneys from the Trust to fund County conservation districts, protect farmland or accomplish any other purpose authorized under the statute. This project is a water-based conservation effort and is qualified under the Act.

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a resolution that will release \$40,838.00 from the Site Specific Post Closure Trust to fund this project.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS...LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

At the request of Tom Stutzman, EMA, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the following appointments to the Local Emergency Planning Committee:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
R. Michael Keith	Local Government Position	February, 2024
Samantha Medvitz	Industry	February, 2024
Ronald Moreau	Fire Service	February, 2024
James Dickson	HAZMAT Team	February, 2024
Thomas Ozog	Industry	February, 2023
Michael Baker	Municipal Government	February, 2024
Chris Anderson	Local EMC	February, 2024

BOARD APPOINTMENT...TRI-COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

A motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to appoint Bridgette Matson to the Tri County Workforce Investment Board; term expires September 30, 2023.

BOARD APPOINTMENT...SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to appoint Nichole Sipos to the Indiana County Solid Waste Authority; term expires January, 2026.

GRANT APPLICATION...DIVERSIONARY GRANT FOR VETERANS TREATMENT COURT / PROBATION

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the submission of a grant application to the Administrative Office of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for the purpose of improving Veterans Treatment Court in the amount of \$10,000.00.

GRANT APPLICATION...DIVERSIONARY GRANT FOR DRUG TREATMENT COURT / PROBATION

A motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the submission of a grant application to the Administrative Office of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for the purpose of improving Drug Treatment Court in the amount of \$10,000.00.

GRANT APPLICATION...BYRNE (JAG) GRANT / PROBATION

Jams Decker, Probation Office, requested to withdraw his request to apply to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for the Byrne (JAG) Grant for the purpose of upgrading technology in the Probation Office. This grant is only for new police departments; therefore, the request to submit the grant application was withdrawn.

\$50,000 CARES ACT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (CARES ACT RLF) LOAN TO MYTRYSAK FAMILY TREE FARM, LLC / PLANNING

At the request of Angela Campisano, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a \$50,000 term loan from the Indiana County CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to Mytrysak Family Tree Farm, LLC. They are primarily a nursery and tree production business. During the Christmas season, the farm is open for selling a large selection of fresh, pre-cut trees and cut your own. They also offer hayrides, a kid's corner, Christmas shop, and the Trees for Troops event whereby customers can purchase a Christmas Tree for a current soldier throughout the world. In the spring, they open their greenhouse selling vegetable plants, flowers, and hanging baskets. All of the proceeds of this loan will solely be used as working capital to pay for critical operating expenses such as payroll, utilities, and inventory to alleviate economic injury caused by the COVID-19 pandemic disaster. The interest rate is 0.0% fixed for the term of the loan. There is no payment for the first twelve months; then 60 months of principal. The Borrower will retain 1 full-time equivalent employee as a result of these funds. The application was reviewed and approved by the Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee.

\$50,000 CARES ACT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (CARES ACT RLF) LOAN TO LAMANTIA PRODUCE, LLC / PLANNING

At the request of Angela Campisano, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a \$50,000 term loan from the Indiana County CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to LaMantia Produce, LLC. LaMantia Produce was founded in 1882 and is the oldest produce company in Pennsylvania. Four generations later, the business is currently operated by Michael LaMantia. They offer wholesale fresh produce and specialty products to local restaurants, schools, hospitals, and country clubs. All of the proceeds of this loan will solely be used as working capital to pay for critical operating expenses such as payroll, utilities, and inventory to alleviate economic injury caused by the COVID-19 pandemic disaster. The interest rate is 0.0% fixed for the term of the loan. There is no payment for the first twelve months; then 60 months of principal. The Borrower will create 3 full-time equivalent employees as a result of these funds. The application was reviewed and approved by the Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee.

BIDS...BUTTERMILK FALLS PHASE 2 PROJECT (020922) / PARKS

At the request of Ed Patterson, Parks & Trails, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to accept the alternate low bid of \$131,000.00 from Vince Building Company for the construction of the Buttermilk Falls Phase 2 project. This project involves the construction of steps, handrails, and platforms to improve the connection from the falls observation deck area to the bridge over Hires Run. Funding for this project is provided from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund and the Indiana County Parks & Trails Legacy Fund.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...FEBRUARY 23, 2022 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board at this time, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

R. Michael Keith, Chairman