



Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority
1989 Wyoming Avenue
Forty Fort, PA 18704

Minutes
February 21, 2023 Reorganization & Regular Session

Call to Order

On February 21, 2023 at 1:00 P.M., the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Board convened their reorganization and regular monthly meetings at the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Administrative Offices, 1989 Wyoming Ave, Forty Fort. It was noted that all meetings are electronically recorded.

Mr. Yannuzzi, Chairman, called to order the February 21, 2023 meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Present

Mr. Dominic Yannuzzi, P.E., Chairman
Mr. William Hardwick
Mr. Jay Delaney
Mr. Gordon Dussinger
Mr. John Maday

Also Present

Christopher Belleman, P.E., Executive Director
Jeffrey Rockman, Esq., LCFPA Solicitor
Amy Grevera, CPA, Grevera and Associates
Laura Holbrook, Mitigation & Outreach Specialist
Deana Prochaska, Administrative Assistant (Recording Secretary) – Via Telephone

Reorganization- Election of Officers

Executive Director Mr. Christopher Belleman was appointed Chairman pro-tem.

Motion By: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Mr. Belleman requested nominations for the position of Board Chairman.

Mr. Hardwick nominated Mr. Yannuzzi. Second by: Mr. Maday.

No other nominations.

Motion was made to close nominations.

Motion by: Mr. Hardwick

Seconded by: Mr. Dussinger

Vote for Chairman was indicated in Roll Call.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Yannuzzi indicated his vote was for Mr. Yannuzzi
Mr. Delaney indicated his vote was for Mr. Yannuzzi
Mr. Hardwick indicated his vote was for Mr. Yannuzzi
Mr. Dussinger indicated his vote was for Mr. Yannuzzi
Mr. Maday indicated his vote was for Mr. Yannuzzi

Mr. Yannuzzi was elected as Chairman by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, MADAY, DELANEY, DUSSINGER.

Mr. Yannuzzi requested nominations for Vice Chairman.

Mr. Maday nominated Mr. Hardwick. Second by: Mr. Yannuzzi.
No other nominations.

Mr. Hardwick was elected as Vice Chairman by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, MADAY, DELANEY, DUSSINGER.

Mr. Yannuzzi requested nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Yannuzzi nominated Mr. Maday. Second by: Mr. Dussinger.
No other nominations.

Mr. Maday was elected as Secretary by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Mr. Yannuzzi requested nominations for Treasurer.

Mr. Hardwick nominated Mr. Dussinger. Second by: Mr. Yannuzzi.
No other nominations.

Mr. Dussinger was elected as Treasurer by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Mr. Yannuzzi requested nominations for Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Mr. Yannuzzi nominated Mr. Delaney. Second By: Mr. Dussinger.
No other nominations.

Mr. Adams was elected as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Public Input

Elizabeth Hartman: The first thing I want to know is, when did we change from the Wyoming Valley Flood Protection Authority to the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority and why?

Mr. Belleman: It's always been called Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority. The formal name of the system we maintain and operate is the Wyoming Valley Flood Risk Management Project.

Ms. Hartman: OK, because I thought that Council in their meeting minutes said they were going to change it to Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority when they were trying to add Duryea into the system. So, I don't know if they were trying to change that name to Wyoming Valley when adding Duryea.

Mr. Yannuzzi: No, the Authority did not add Duryea to the Wyoming Valley system. We are providing assistance to Duryea on their levee through our mitigation program.

Ms. Hartman: Right, so we are going to help Duryea, we are going to get them going and then they will be on their own. Raise their levees, the waters going to come in, right?

Mr. Yannuzzi: We don't do it; they are going to end up doing it themselves through their own mitigation project.

Ms. Hartman: So, what are we doing for the Wyoming Valley? I am two blocks from the river, and my family has been in this part of Pennsylvania since 1736, so I know how often it floods. My concern is like I talked about, dredging the river, and I know why you are concerned with dredging the river, you don't want another mine disaster. But the islands that are in the river, I think with all this covid money we should be getting those trees off of the islands because in our last major flood we missed by an inch and a sneeze. So if we move Duryea in, they are going to come up to par and waters going to come down, we are going to lose our inch and we are going to lose our sneeze and what are we doing to protect our homes because my flood insurance is going to be going up. My concern is how do we get or do we get people out on the river cleaning the islands that are out there, do we take down trees on the island? I understand you don't want to dredge because we don't know how far the coal companies dredged underneath there. But if we're that close to a flood, Wyoming Valley has come so far, I don't want to see us go backwards. I want to see us move forward and with all that money the County has I don't understand why we're not doing something more to protect us from a future flood.

Mr. Yannuzzi: Understood, there was a study done a few years ago when they were studying West Pittston and if you take the islands out mother nature is just going to put them back. The river is like a 'V' and the islands are in the middle of the 'V' at the bottom and the river banks go up like a 'V' so any beneficial effects from dredging would be short-lived.

Ms. Hartman: What about the garbage that's trapped on the islands? Can't we remove the garbage that's trapped?

Mr. Belleman: The Authority has no jurisdiction on those islands, we don't own them. Many of these islands are privately owned.

Mr. Yannuzzi: Those are great questions. However, again a study was done several years ago on the islands.

Ms. Hartman: Several years ago?

Mr. Yannuzzi: Correct, yes, maybe 3 years ago.

Ms. Hartman: So before Duryea was added into the mix?

Mr. Yannuzzi: Yes, but Duryea's effect is on the Lackawanna River.

Mr. Hardwick: I don't want to be argumentative at all. But I think we have to be careful to assume that because this Authority provides assistance to Duryea Borough to improve their flood efforts, that automatically the river is going to rise further downstream especially when the Lackawanna is a tributary to the Susquehanna River. It very well may affect it, or it might not. I think that's to be determined, but I think it's important not to have that as a take-away; that if we help Duryea its going to negatively impact other areas when we just don't know that will be the case.

Ms. Hartman: Right but if you look back to when the levee system was built, Shickshinny and other areas never flooded because we took all the water. So, we did our levees and now Shickshinny and West Nanticoke and all of them take our water. We held it up, they flooded out. So if we're an inch and a sneeze from going over, that's not a lot to play around with and we're talking about a lot of citizens who pay a lot of tax money in our county that this board is responsible for to make sure that we do not have another disaster. That's what you were created for, that's what this authority is for. So, I'm looking for solutions from you guys on how the community can help or what we can do or where we can go to get help so that we can try to eliminate another 50-, 80- or 100-year flood. That's what I'm looking for from you guys. We need to do something to protect the valley.

Mr. Yannuzzi: We can look into that and have Mr. Belleman get in touch with you.

Regular Meeting

Motion was made to ratify the minutes of the Authority meeting held on January 17, 2023.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

LCFPA Activities/Projects

A. Staff Activities/Project

B. Board Activities/Project

Bills and Communications

Motion was made to approve the payment of the bills as presented.

Motion by: Mr. Hardwick

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Report of the Treasurer

Motion was made to submit the report of the Treasurer into the record as stated.

Motion by: Mr. Maday

Second by: Mr. Dussinger

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

New Business

2022 Levee Fee Collections Update.

Plymouth and Wilkes-Barre to Hanover Levee Systems Semi-Quantitative Risk Assessment (SQRA) Final Reports.

Motion was made to approve a lease agreement with Slusser Law Firm, 1620 N. Church Road, Suite 1, Hazleton, PA to rent approximately 166 square feet of commercial office space located at the LCFPA's administrative offices, 1989 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, PA for a term of one (1) year at a cost of \$15.00/SF (\$2,490 annually; \$207.50 monthly).

Motion by: Mr. Hardwick

Second by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Request motion to approve a listing contract with Hinerfeld Commercial Real Estate, 769 Keystone Industrial Park Road, Throop, PA to market the vacant space at the LCFPA's administrative offices and help secure a long-term tenant acceptable to the Authority. Motion was made to table this item until the March BOD meeting. The Board directed the Executive Director to publicly advertise for these real estate broker services.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Motion was made to approve Change Order #9 in the amount \$41,812.76 to the agreement with Fabcor Inc., 1205 Mid Valley Drive, Jessup, PA on the "Closure Structure Modifications Project".

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Motion was made to award the contract for the low slope re-roofing and masonry/EPDM roof repairs project to D & M Construction Unlimited, in the amount \$223,700,00. The low-slope re-roofing work will occur at two (2) storage buildings (Market Street, Route 11). The masonry/EPDM roof repairs will occur at seven (7) pump stations (Solomon, Brown, Delaney, Horton, D&H, Old River Road, Church). This project was publicly advertised on the PennBid electronic procurement site and the award recommendation is the lowest responsible bid out of 3 submitted.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Motion was made to approve the levee maintenance technicians Raymond Howell, Elio DeNardi, and Rayleen Evans to attend the PA DEP Flood Protection Workshop, April 25-26, 2023, State College PA. The costs for the training, meals and rooms are paid by DEP.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Motion was made to approve the hiring of Kayla Roselle, Dupont PA as a part-time, temporary intern at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. Ms. Roselle is a Mechanical Engineering student at Wilkes University and is currently in her junior year with an expected graduation in May 2024.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Motion was made to approve the LCFPAs membership in the “Interlocal Contract For Cooperative Purchasing” with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC), 3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Houston, TX 77027.

Motion by: Mr. Hardwick

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. “AYES” – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Board met for executive session following the February 21, 2023 regular meeting.

Next Regular Meeting

March 21, 2023 at 1:00p.m.

1989 Wyoming Ave

Forty Fort, PA 18704

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the February 21, 2023 meeting of the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Board.


Motion by: Mr. Maday

Second by: Mr. Dussinger

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. “AYES” – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Meeting adjourned at 1:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Deana Prochaska
Recording Secretary