



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

Minutes
April 18, 2023 Regular Session

Call to Order

On April 18, 2023 at 1:02 P.M., the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Board convened their regular monthly meeting 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 April 18, 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
Christopher Slusser, Esq., LCFPA Solicitor
Amy Grevera, CPA, Grevera and Associates
Laura Holbrook, Mitigation & Outreach Specialist
Deana Prochaska, Administrative Assistant (Recording Secretary)
Anthony Baldo, Agent, Hinerfeld Commercial Real Estate
Dr. Gere Reisinger, Public
Atty. Joe Castellino, Public
Jen Andes, Reporter, Times Leader

Public Input

Dr. Reisinger: Number of issues, I work with the *Hodinohsonih* (Seneca Nation of Indians) on different sacred site projects in Pennsylvania. I am the Pennsylvania adviser to the *Hodinohsonih* nation, on preserving sacred sites. I have worked on nine sites in the state so far and all have been successful. Our latest one was the Lackawanna Heritage Trail project that won a state award. I am working on a project now in Tunkhannock, near the old roadside rest along Route 309. We are very concerned about a site in Kingston, which I believe is located on Authority-owned land. It is probably one of our most sacred sites.

It is our village site where we united and conducted council meetings for hundreds of years to form the first matriarch of democracy. Wyoming Valley was like 'Camp David' for all the nations. So probably the most desecrated site in all of Pennsylvania is the Kingston Borough site because of the release of flood waters through there and raw sewage, eroding the archeological site that was known when the levee was being upgraded that no equipment was allowed to go through there and it was known as the Bridge site. My friend John Orlin did a lot of research there. We are just really tired of seeing it in that condition. I live in Kingston and every day I pull garbage out of Kirby Park and in the Kingston natural area.

There are many homeless that have been living in the riparian forest, including drug dealers. Last year there were 4 guys in the Kingston area with guns that were evicted from their apartment in S. Wilkes Barre, and there were guns in the River Commons the other day. There were guns down in the Kingston natural area, and when I was cleaning out one of the bunkers, as it was called by the character living there, that he would shoot me if I touched anything else. That's the situation of the natural area. It is overgrown and needs to be cleaned up and just like Solomon's Creek, all the insurance rates went down, people now are safer than they were before. Same thing with this area, it needs to be cleaned out. The risk rises report which I have here verifies the USACE report that says exactly what I'm saying because of overgrowth and sediment, the levee cannot prevent another flood. It is critical that we clean it up just like Solomon's Creek. I know we have funding coming into the levee right now. We can help clean up this area and start putting a little better respect into these territories along the river.

Mr. Yannuzzi: OK, can you leave us some information on this area?

Dr. Reisinger: I would like to leave information, but I would also like to have a tour, because there are some dangerous sink holes that are developing near the Black Diamond Bridge. There are a large amount of trees on the beach of Kirby Park, once they break loose from the high water they are going to jam against the railroad bridge, they are huge. We need a safety check and a walking tour. I'll leave you some information, historical information, native information but as a Kingston resident, I feel my safety is jeopardized all the time, every day and if we have the money to clean this up we should. It is amazing you can't find this report on the website, its been deleted completely. This is very important information that the public is denied seeing. I mentioned it at many meetings, council meetings, County Council and also Wilkes Barre. I think its important critical information that we need to find out who put this report together and take a walking tour with them so we could see how much sediment, tons and tons of sediment before the Black Diamond Bridge, because there is no culvert through there which allow the water to flow through there. The railroad is creating a damming effect across the whole flood way. So I'd like to set up a tour. My attorney here who has worked with the river watch for 30 years will be corresponding because I really think its important we take a walking tour, especially with the people who put this report together.

Mr. Yannuzzi: OK, if you could send us that information. Thank you.

Mr. Hardwick: Since you referenced him, could you tell us who your attorney is?

Atty Joe Castellino: Attorney Joe Castellino. 21 South Main Street, Pittston.

Mr. Hardwick: Thank you sir.

Mr. Yannuzzi: OK thank you, appreciate that information.

Regular Meeting

Motion was made to ratify the minutes of the Authority meeting held on March 21, 2023.

Motion by: Mr. Delaney

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. Yannuzzi

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 (FINAL).

Motion was made to approve a listing contract with Hinerfeld Commercial Real Estate, 769 Keystone Industrial Park Road, Throop, PA to market vacant space at the Command Center and help secure a long-term tenant acceptable to the LCFPA. An RFP for real estate broker services was publicly advertised and Hinerfeld was the sole respondent.

Motion by: Mr. Hardwick

Second by: Mr. Dussinger

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

Motion was made to approve a "*Stormwater Management Easement Agreement*" with the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA), 1000 Wilkes-Barre Street, Hanover Township, PA 18706. The perpetual easement will allow WVSA to access, install, construct, and maintain the "*Abrahams Creek Stream Restoration Project*" along the LCFPA's Diverted Abrahams Creek, Wyoming. This work was identified in the "*WVSA Regional Stormwater Program Partnership Agreement with the LCFPA*" that was approved on March 17 and October 20, 2020.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a Roll Call Vote of 5-0 "YES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, DUSSINGER, MADAY.

Motion was made to approve the season’s herbicide order from Arborchem Products, 941 Nixon Drive, Mechanicsburg PA in the amount \$18,558.45. Three (3) other vendors offered “no bid” on our quote request.

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 award of the annual “*Levee Landscape Maintenance*” contract to Green Valley Landscaping Inc., 52 Rese Street, Plains PA in the amount \$18,072.00. The work was publicly advertised, and Green Valley was the lowest responsible bidder out of 3 received.

On the question:

Mr. Hardwick: I have to wonder if Atlas Landscape was looking at the same project, 150 grand over the next bidder. Were they rare plants? I’m just curious.

Mr. Belleman: Green Valley has had this contract for a number of years so they are familiar with the requested work and locations.

Mr. Hardwick: I am trying to remember their pricing last year. Was it very close?

Mr. Belleman: Yes, and I think part of the reason their pricing is so reasonable is they consider us as fill-in work between some of their larger clients. It appears that Atlas was possibly thinking this was going to be their main contract for the year.

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 an agreement with Borton Lawson, 613 Baltimore Drive, Wilkes-Barre PA to provide professional design services on the LCFPAs “*Pump Stations Electronic Control System Upgrade*” in the amount \$126,000.00.

Motion by: Mr. Maday

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

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

Motion was made to approve the “*Amendment to Agreement for the Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation of the Wyoming Valley Levee System*” with Luzerne County government. This proposed amendment is to an existing agreement between the LCFPA and Luzerne County that was signed on June 22, 2011.

Motion by: Mr. Dussinger

Second by: Mr. Yannuzzi

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

Next Regular Meeting

May 16, 2023 at 1:00p.m.

1989 Wyoming Ave

Forty Fort, PA 18704

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the April 18, 2023 meeting of the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Board.

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 an executive session following the April 18, 2023 regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Deana Prochaska
Recording Secretary