



FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 @ 3:00 PM



I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 3:00 PM BY: Vaughn Tantlinger

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL: PAUL ALTIMUS-Yes JAMES BROWN-Yes SOLICITOR-Yes(Jeff Miller)
VAUGHN TANTLINGER-Yes SECRETARY-Yes (Carrie Moore)

CITIZENS-42(Margaret & Curtis King, Don Lichtenfels, Robert Colt, Bertha Martin, Walter Krause, Karen & Don Boring, Kurt Limbach, Craig Krause, Emma Brendlinger, Harry & Mary Hamill, Joe Berginc, George Cramer, John Shearman, Todd Gable, James West, Dean Robinson, Mike Payne, David Fincke, Alex Ashcroft, Shannon Tantlinger, Joe Riddell, Dave West, Arnold Foust, Nathan Foust, John Clark, Amber Rose Clark, Stan Silk, Daryl Silk, Cecelia Sisitki, David & Billie McClellan, Jim Ferri, Robert Loveridge, Donald Robinson, Susan Kim, Sam Andrews, TA Blou, Roger & George Stanislaw, Paula Brown, Doug Nixon)

III. Westmoreland County Conservation District Partnership Agreement

Vaughn turned it over to Jeff Miller to conduct this part of the minutes. Jeff stated keep the voices up so everyone can hear. Rob Cronauer is with Westmoreland County Conservation District (WCCD) and is going to give an overview on the above agreement and then we will take public comment. Rob is the watershed program manager and to his right is Ron Rohall he is the chariman of the board. Rob stated we are here to today because we presented to the township about a month a partnership agreement between WCCD and Fairfield Township. It is basically a written hand shake, it is a short agreement but does say a lot. It says a lot about what WCCD is and wants to do. Its say a lot about with Fairfield Township wants to do. This agreement is basically putting it in writing. He presented a map of all the municipality's that have signed the agreement in Westmoreland County. We do this for water quality and the entire agreement is for water quality. We have been around since 1949 protecting water quality in Westmoreland County. There has been a lot of false information out there and lets get to the facts. There is nothing in this agreement that is new. Everything that is in this agreement is already a law under DEP. WCCD already does this in this county. We have volunteer compliance and enforcement is the last thing we want to do. In the past five years there has only been five enforcements. I have been around 15 years and cannot remember every enforcing on an individual property owner. The five have been against companies. The agreement is stuff that we have already been doing we are just putting in writing for future generations. We try to update the agreement every five years with municipalities. Jeff stated we are going to do public comment now. We are going to go down the row if you want to speak speak keep it short 3-5 minutes should be enough time. No questions. Questions to put to the board after public comment. Bertha Martin- You say are protecting water does the entitle wells or springs? Jeff stated what we are hoping for are comments not questions. Jeffs suggestion is tell the board you want the board to know about the vote. Bill Clark interrupted and stated if she wanted to bring a question it does not have to be during the question period she can state her question and is entitled to do that. Vaughn stated Billy your out of order and it is Berthas time to speak. Bertha stated WCCD stated DEP is in charge of WCCD then why do we need WCCD. DEP is already enforcing the laws. Bertha wanted to know what the township supervisors get out of this? Rob Colt- Four days ago it said eight townships have not joined and two municipalities did it change that fast. Does the computer lie? Review your website and likes a lot of what you are doing and your concerns about the water but there is good and bad about this agreement and the bad out weights the good. Emma Brendlinger - Called Mr.

Phillips from WCCD and was concerned about the funding. Take a look at the fee schedule some of these fees are pretty steep. I worked here for years and we have received a lot of grants from WCCD. They are governed by DEP. We already getting funded from them why do we have to sign an agreement. We already work together with WCCD. Do they protect are wells and streams. I was flooded and called for help no one offered their services. I did not see the breakdown of the money other townships got. Her opinion leave it that way it is why do we have to sign agreement are we doing it because Ligonier Township is doing it. We are not a following township. This is her opinion. Curtis King – I lived in this township and is concerned about the fees the mafia use to do this and I consider you the mafia. I own the ground and have to have WCCD to decide if I can cut the tree down or not it's not going to happen. You people are 200 years too late to save the streams around here unless you are can increase the rain and snowfall and exterminate 75 percent of humans in Westmoreland County is the only way to save the quality. Hendericks, Tubmill, and Loyalhanna are dying because too much water is being used. Margret King- I want my garden it's a large a garden I don't want to pay a fee to have a garden. Ben Foust-Sounds like to me like you are trying to milk us dry we are dying community here, people are not moving here because of stuff like this. You want people to move here you need to lighten up the noose. John Clark – Likes to clarify any mater of order is not considering disruptive outburst. That was in appropriate. Don't do it again. I accept your apology. First of all we are a small community. I appreciate your work protect our streams however I agree with all the comments. I could not find the meeting notes online only to July (the minutes are not put online till they are approved at the next meeting therefore August would be posted online after they are approved at Septembers meeting). WCCD has been doing their job. We prefer volunteer compliance well every legistive body prefers volunteer compliance. Do the right thing help the community. Don't threaten us and don't try to harm us by a hand shake. Dave McClellan – You are not taking my water, your not coming to my house telling me not to plow to feed my kids, you are not telling me what I can do on my property. You guys are not telling me what I cannot and can do take your stuff and go back to the city where you belong. Nate Foust – Noone in here wants to lose their water. I don't think everyone here is informed. Why not send out literature inform the people put it up to vote. Let the people get educated. Everyone here has concerns but I don't have enough information and in the future handle it better. One garden if I put in a garden do I have to pay. Rob stated no one in the county has paid for a garden to his knowledge. Nate said according to this paper you pay a fee for a garden? Rob stated it does not say that. Cecilia Sisitki thanked the people ahead her that made comments. Mike Payne – I am a land owner we bought are property 8 years ago. WCCD did not right the laws we have to abide by these laws. My concerns is the laws are not being complied with this ignoring them does not mean they go away. I support them and try to follow their guidelines. I hope decisions get made that we have clarity on these laws. Working together for this would be helpful. The question is about the costs. Enforcement provisions I hope does not turn into that a neighbor can look at my property and complain and not see the problem with their own property. In general I support what is taking place here. Joe Berginz – We live in a place where there is no one looking over our shoulders. The law states we have to follow the laws about the garden. WCCD might not enforcement it now but what happens in ten years from now are we going to be like Greensburg and Pittsburgh. We want good water but we want left

alone. We don't want someone coming in and telling us what to do. I love the work WCCD is doing and a hand shake is good. I personally smell a rat. Harry Hamill- please correct August minutes my last name is spelled Hamill. I want to be left alone if people don't like me there is a road around me. Roger Stanislaw – Once you start into this they change the rules down the road and keep putting more and more on the property owners. When I can plow, where I can plow, where my cows can go. It's the government sticking their noses in where they should not. What is the benefit of this agreement? It is no benefit to the taxpayers. Once you leave the wolf into the barn you cannot get it out. James West – have a little farm up the road if these fees are right I would have to pay \$1600. That's \$1600 out the door and farmers are already going broke. Kurt Limbach- People need more information on this issue. He never heard of a permit for a garden and he has never heard of anyone in Allegheny County needing a permit for a garden. Brad Foust – I like the idea to get more information out and vote on it. I will stand behind whatever the vote decides. We certainly need conservation. You can catch fish in the Conemaugh River now thanks to Conservation. Get the people involved let the people decide we are the ones that live here. Walter Krause – You should give us more time to understand this agreement break it down so we can understand the agreement and not put it in lawyers terms. It needs to be broken down in what it pertains to and what it does not pertain to. I would like to understand it a lot better. Craig Krause – I have my own business. Do a lot of work for a lot of people in this area. I understand I need permits I do get permits. Now do I have to go through the conservation district and pay more money out for additional permits? Couple of years ago I built a garage I was told I need permits and I went and got the permits paid for it. Down the road the neighbor up the road went and put in a road and never paid for a permit. I agree with everyone here and I am lost and need a lot more information. I build a lot of additions, decks, and move a lot of dirt does that mean I need to spend more money on permits? Daryl Silk – I think some of these permits get out of hand. I think the township does a very good job around here. Whenever I have a problem they handle it we don't need anyone else sticking their nose in. If the township has a problem let the people in the township handle it. I have nothing against the conservation district but let the people in the township deal with the problems. Sam Andrews – who runs the plan Conservation District or the township? I had a problem with the conservation in Ligonier Township and they did not help. I was in their office and all I saw was people carrying around coffee cups. Don't be Ligonier Township be Fairfield Township. Brad Foust – Most of us our saying we need more information. Emma Brendlinger – Property owners have their choice to join it's their choice. By signing this agreement everyone has to comply and it should not be up to that. Irv didn't join why didn't he it's his choice. We already get the money. When they did public water survey people were informed. Maybe a little announcement in the newspaper. Maybe put the agenda on the website. John Clark – went online and printed out the fees is this the same fee that implies to us? Dave McClellan – you guys need to stick to the roads you don't need to get in my business. Stick to the roads. Walter Krause – Where do the fees that generate from this go to? Craig Krause – would like to know if the township is going to see any of this money. When we first came in we were told we would get answers and I have not heard one answer to our questions. Moe Loveridge – I have moved a lot of dirt. Are they going to come in when we are doing little projects around our home? Bertha Martin – Where does the permit money go to? Does it go to the Conservation District? Our

taxes go up every year and own our property. George Stanislaw – Every year things change. Permit after permit is needed. There are no dairy farms left in the township and have to be careful of what we let in the township. Curt King– We need more information but I look at this as we own the land we pay the taxes but they are going to control what we do. The mafia use to go around for protection yeah they did a great job. The conservation does a great job but I don't want someone to tell me a need a permit for a permit for this. My wife was talking about a garden and I am not paying a fee of \$350 for a garden. Joe Berginz – An example as the conservation district says it is not going to charge you for a garden and when we ask them they say we don't charge a fee for anyone having a garden but the question is will you charge us for a garden down the road? Every answer from you we want to hear will you or can you. We want to know what is in the future. James West - not being able to put it on the ballot should have brought up at the beginning of the meeting. Ron Rohall– Fees that are charged 100% of those fees go to the conservations district. If we don't get the fees DEP would get the fees. Jeff Miller – township does not get any fees. The fees are used to pay the staff. Ron Rohall – Gardens fall under Agriculture and therefore are not under this agreement. There is a difference between Agriculture and other disturbances. All the regulations stay the same unless you sign the agreement or not. Jeff Miller – on occasion receives grant money for some roads. All municipalities in the county can submit an application. The application has a point system to see who is going to be awarded the grants. One of the criteria for points is as if we have a signed agreement with WCCD. If we don't sign that criteria will be weighted lower. John Clark – if we vote no is there anything prohibiting us from getting more grant money. Ron Rohall – if you don't sign the agreement you lose 5 points. There is no negative points. Vaughn Tantlinger – last year we applied for two grants and did not receive those grants if we had this agreement signed we would have ranked higher. Since we have been doing this we look at roads that are next to high quality streams and we try to go the roads that are in the worst shape and have high run off. We have been working with WCCD a long time. Ben Foust – if you vote today can you come back in a month sign the agreement. Ron Rohall – we are open any time. Emma Brendlinger – You are talking about the point system what is the other criteria? You get a lot of money from gas wells. Rob Cronauer – the scoring is on our website and there is ten questions. 1-How close is the road from a stream 2-How much is the road impacting the stream 3-classficiation of the stream 4-Does the township have an agreement with us 5-Does the township maintain past projects that we did. 6-What is the project correction of water quality 7-Does the immediate downstream water have a viable fishery. 8-How much is the in-kind contribution 9-Has the municipality done a project with us before 10-Will they project reduce storm water runoff volume and velocity into the stream Craig Krause – 62 people here why was not the whole township aware of this meeting. I don't think this should come to a vote tonight. Jeff Miller – meeting time is set at the beginning of the year. The meeting time was not changed. Residents are informed by advertisement, word of mouth. The meeting time was in the paper and on the website. Doug Nixon – we need more clear information. Is the fees for little projects or major projects? Rob Cronauer – it goes on square footage of the project. Joe Berginz- give an example of when we need a permit. Rob Cronauer – Gardens, Tillage, and Food plots we are not collecting a fee for that we will come out and help

you. Do XYZ and sometimes XYZ is nothing. We help you with the state law plan. John Clark – you would help us wither we have the agreement or not. Rob Cronauer – You are correct.

Vaughn asked for a motion on the agreement. Motion failed to move on.

IV. PREVIOUS MONTHS MEETING 8/8/2019: APPR BY Jim 2ND BY Vaughn

APPR BY Paul 2ND Vaughn UN-Yes (3YES/0NO (v. TANTLINGER -Yes/P. ALTIMUS-Yes/J. BROWN-Yes)

V. TRUE BILLS PAID AND TO BE PAID ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT DATED AUGUST 2019

APPR BY Paul 2ND Vaughn UN-Yes (3YES/0NO (v. TANTLINGER -Yes/P. ALTIMUS-Yes/J. BROWN-Yes)

VI. CORRESPONDENCE: None

VII. PERSONS PLACED ON AGENDA: 1.) Walter Krause – Voiced his opinion above (II.)

2.) Craig Krause – Voiced his opinion above (II.)

3.) Sue Krause - No Show

4.) Emma Brendlinger - Minutes Agenda and Financial Statements should be put on the website. There should be a newsletter on the website.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

IX. NEW BUSINESS: 1. MMO FOR PENSION PLAN PREPARED AND PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BY SECRETARY; MOTION BY Paul 2ND Vaughn; TO Approve the 2020

MMO. UN-Yes (3YES/0NO) (v. TANTLINGER -Yes/ P. ALTIMUS-Yes/ J. BROWN-Yes)

X. PUBLIC COMMENT Bertha Martin – Happy how the minute went. I want you to straighten up for me is the ½ mile road that you allowed the logging company destroy. Rob Colt – was reading the minutes and it says Rob said I don't remember saying some of these things. Carrie Moore-said that Fuzzy and Rob went back and forth and had trouble telling their voices apart on the tape. Joe Berginz – Can you comment on why you voted the way you did. Paul & Vaughn-lack of public interest. Emma Brendlinger – what is the amount of the MMO? Carrie Moore - \$21,259. Don Howard – Need to shovel out the ditches. John Clark – When do you prepare the grants? Paul – September 1 due by Halloween. Vaughn – we do talk about them throughout the year.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION BY Vaughn 2ND BY Jim TIME (4:50 PM)

UN-Yes (3YES/0NO) (v. TANTLINGER -Yes/ P. ALTIMUS-Yes/ J. BROWN-Yes)

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Carrie G. Moore, Secretary