

Greene County Farmland Preservation
Fort Jackson Building, Mezzanine
19 South Washington Street
Waynesburg, PA 15370
724-852-5278



GREENE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
April 21, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cree at 6:25 p.m. at the Mezzanine Conference Room, 19 South Washington Street, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Those present were William Cree III, Chairman; Dave Shipman, Vice Chairman; Rick Thistlethwaite, Treasurer; Archie Trader, Director; Jim Willis, Director; and Lisa Snider, District Manager, Greene County Conservation District.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

III. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

There were none.

IV. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Lisa noted that Laurel's report was mailed with the meeting notices.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa distributed a revised copy of the Minutes for review and clarified the changes. **After review, a motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the Minutes. Jim Willis seconded. (Motion Passed)**

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a motion by Jim Willis, the Treasurer's Report was approved as read by Treasurer Thistlethwaite. Dave Shipman seconded.

Lisa noted that York Reality was paid \$1,000 (Check #674), making the closing balance \$3,874.25.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Petery Farm Status – Lisa reported that the Petery's had 30 days, with a deadline of April 11th, to respond to the Offer Letter. To date, no word has been received and she asked how the board wanted to proceed. **After discussion, a motion was made by Dave Shipman to send a letter, with Chairman Cree's signature, to the Petery's stating that the offer has been withdrawn since the 30 days have expired. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Lisa also said that since there may be outstanding bills for this Easement, letters need to be sent to Doug Wolfgang, Executive Director of the PA Dept. of Ag., Bureau of Farmland Preservation; the Conservation District; the County Commissioners; Greg Hook, Attorney; Cheryl Cowen, County Solicitor; and Miles Davin, Surveyor .

IX. NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed future easements, the formation of additional Agricultural Security Areas (ASA's), and tax breaks for preserved lands. Lisa distributed a news article regarding the tax breaks in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Mr. Trader said that if the County and Schools Districts agree, this is could be another incentive to enter the program. Lisa will contact the counties that currently offer the tax break to obtain further information.

It was noted that since a farm is not under agreement, approximately \$42,703.00 of 2008 in state funds could be lost. The board felt that a call should be placed to Doug Wolfgang to try to prevent this loss.

Also discussed was the direction of the program and ways to promote it. It was decided that program information could be distributed at the Farm Bureau's Ice Cream Booth at the Greene County Fair, at the Farm Bureau's Fall Meeting, and with an insert in the Farm Bureau Newsletter. Lisa said that she plans a mailing to the townships and she could include this information. The development of a brochure was also discussed.

The status of the Milesky Easement was briefly discussed. Lisa said that the rankings have been completed and a meeting was held with Mr. Milesky to review his application and rankings. She also said that he has three parcels that

he wants to include. The board instructed Lisa to have the Milesky paper work ready for discussion at the May meeting.

The Board also requested that Lisa prepare a draft brochure, as discussed earlier, for the May meeting, or if she does not have time, for the June meeting. Other items that need to be completed include providing an application for Mr. Shipman, determining the status of the Harley Gapen application, and mailing an application to Bill and Lura Cree for a parcel in the Agricultural Security Area (ASA).

X. NEXT MEETING

Since the PA Farmland Preservation Association Spring Conference is scheduled for the same time as the next meeting, May 19th, the meeting was changed and will be held on **May 26th**.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Jim Willis seconded. (Motion Passed).