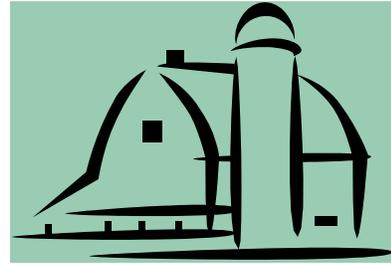


Greene County Farmland Preservation
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GREENE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION
MINUTES
February 20, 2013

I. **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman William Cree at 1:10 p.m. in the Mezzanine Conference Room, 19 South Washington Street, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania.

Board members present were William Cree III, Chairman; Dave Shipman, Vice Chairman; Rick Thistlethwaite, Treasurer; Jim Willis, Director; Charles Day, Secretary; Corbly Orndorff, Director; Richard Belding, Director.

Guests: None

Staff: Lisa Snider, District Manager, Greene County Conservation District, Laurel Rush, Ag Technician, Greene County Conservation District; Rebecca Salosky, Fiscal Officer, Greene County Conservation District.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Cree welcomed Mr. Belding to his first GCFLP meeting.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the Minutes of the January 16, 2012 meeting. Charlie Day seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Thistlethwaite read the Treasurer's Report as follows:

FLP Board Fundraising Account - \$7,364.55

Easement Funds – Dept. of Agriculture & County of Greene – \$132,935.49

Invoice – Hook and Hook- Willis Closing \$95.00

A motion was made by Corbly Orndorff to accept the treasurer's report as presented including the payment to Hook and Hook. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

V. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. PFPA Spring Conference, April 4, 2013, State College, PA.

The board will decide at the March meeting who will attend this one day meeting.

2. PFPA –support letter for HB 84

The PFPA emailed to all county boards a copy of the letter they sent to Senator Elder Vogel urging him to support HB 84 that would amend Act 43 to remove the certified mail requirements and reduce required site visits to every other year. Both of these changes would have significant impacts on a county programs yearly budget.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to send a support letter for HB 84 to Senator Solobay, using the PFPA letter as a template. Jim Willis seconded. (Motion Passed)

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. ASA, Franklin and Jefferson Townships

Franklin Township – ASA law (Act 43) requires a minimum of 250 acres to create an ASA. Currently the formation of the new ASA is on hold due to the fact that 2 interested landowners have submitted only 216 acres for inclusion.

Mr. Orndorff indicated that the required acreage would be acquired soon.

Jefferson Township – They now have the required 250 + acres to create an ASA. Currently applications totaling 423 acres for the formation of the ASA have been received from interested landowners. The township has submitted a letter to the Greene County Planning Commission notifying them of their intent to create the ASA and all the responses were favorable. The township anticipates completing their ASA at the March meeting.

Cumberland Township- Ms. Rush said that Robb Bartholomew had submitted an ASA application which she completed the soils inventory and returned to him. There has been no indication from the township if this application has been submitted for acceptance.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2012 FLP Agricultural Easement

a. James Willis (53 acres) Cumberland Twp – No change was reported from the October 24, 2012 GCFLP meeting. A clear title cannot be provided yet. Mr. Willis is continuing to pursue these issues. This easement application is pending.

b. Charles Harry, Morgan Twp

1. High Rank & Appraisal Release Letter – Completed.
2. Title Search – Greg Hook is currently working on the title search. No update was available in advance of today's meeting.

3. Appraisal Report – No action can be taken until title search is cleared.
4. Survey Plot – No Action
5. Offer Letter – No Action
6. Agreement of Sale – No action

Harley & Janet Gapen, Greene Twp

1. High Rank and Appraisal Release Letter – Completed.
2. Title Search - Completed.
3. Appraisal Report – Completed
4. Survey Plot –The farm was encumbered with an acreage discrepancy. If the Gapen's would like to be included on the April 18th PA FLP Board meeting agenda, the issue will need to be resolved and the correction submitted to the GCFLP Board prior to March 15, 2013.
Mr. Gapen had indicated, via phone, that the corrective deed has been prepared by his attorney. To finalize this issue it needs the landowner's signature and recorded by the Recorder of Deeds.
5. Offer Letter – Completed
6. Agreement of Sale – Completed.

2. 2013 GCFLP easement funding

The GCFLP program has received \$7,019.00 from the County of Greene which is derived from an allocation of the County Commissioners of \$5,000.00 from the General Fund and \$2,019.00 of Clean and Green roll-back taxes for 2013 GCFLP easement purchases. PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation allocated \$68,321.00 for easement purchases for the 2013 calendar year. GCFLP easement funds total for 2013 is for \$75,340.00. It is predicted that the \$108,000.00 of funding that the GCFLP Board has available will be used to encumber the Harry Farm. The regular application schedule will be followed as outlined in the GCFLP by laws. (April 15 –June 15, 2013)

3. 2012 Inspection report

Ms. Rush completed the yearly farm visits on February 15, 2013. She encouraged board members to accompany her on future visits. An inspection report was completed for each agricultural easement with a copy provided to each landowner and a summary of the site visits were sent to the State to fulfill GCFLP program reporting requirements.

- a. **Jim Willis** – This is the first site visit for this 100.762 ac. farm. The conservation plan was updated in 2012. One additional agricultural structure has been built (hay storage). A nutrient management plan status review was completed in conjunction with this visit.

A motion was made by David Shipman to accept the 2012 Jim Willis farm site inspection report without violation as presented. Charles Day Seconded. (Motion Passed)

- b. **William A. Cree Jr.** – This 108 ac farm was preserved in 2009. The conservation plan was updated in the same year. No additional structures have been added to this easement. The one concern is the best management practice (BMP) implementation schedule was to be completed by 2012. Their conservation plan needs updated to reflect the actual time frame in which the BMP's listed in the conservation plan will be installed. During Ms. Rush's visit a revised timeline was discussed and the Cree's do intend to complete the practices. The cover letter that accompanies the inspection report will be signed by Vice Chairman Shipman.
A motion was made by Jim Willis to accept the William A. Cree Jr. 2012 inspection report without violation as presented. Charlie Day Seconded. (Motion Passed)

Dave Shipman volunteered to go with Ms. Rush to the next site inspection at the Cree farm.

4. State Conservation Commission ACT 13 funding decision

Ms. Snider noted at the January 16th GCFLP meeting that she was working with the Greene County Conservation District (GCCD) Board to identify uses of funds they received from the which was derived Natural Gas Impact Fee from the Act 13 Unconventional Gas Well Fund passed last year by Governor Corbett. The funds that GCCD will be receiving for the 2011-2012 FY are for administrative expenses only. GCCD supplied the State Conservation Commission (SCC) with a proposed budget that includes GCFLP administrative funds to promote the program and a portion of the \$5,000.00 loan to the GCFLP from GCCD in 2011. The SCC has approved the proposed expenditures. The GCCD will provide a letter to the GCFLP board to document their loan forgiveness.

IX. OUTREACH

Ms. Rush noted that there was a very thorough article regarding ASA's in the last PSAT's magazine.

The upcoming GCFLP application period will be included in the next GCCD newsletter.

Ms. Snider added that the GCCD is planning a service fair to coincide with National Soil and Water Stewardship Week as promoted by the National Association of Conservation Districts. This is held the last week of April through the first week of May. GCFLP programs will be represented. This in the early planning stages and the board will be given updates as the planning progresses.

X. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Rush noted that the Appalachian Grazing Conference has extended the early registration fee to March 1, 2013.

XI. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Will be on March 20, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the Mezzanine Conference Room.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)