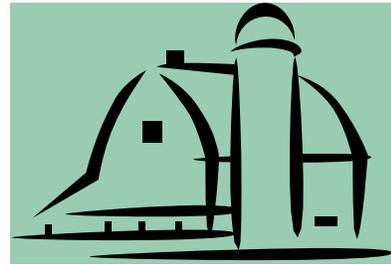


Greene County Farmland Preservation
19 South Washington Street, Suite 150
Waynesburg, PA 15370
724-852-5278



GREENE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION
MINUTES
December 17, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Dave Shipman at 12:35 p.m. at Thistlethwaite Vineyards, Jefferson, Pennsylvania.

Board Members present were Bill Cree, III, Chairman; Dave Shipman, Vice Chairman; Rick Thistlethwaite, Treasurer; Charles Day, Secretary; Richard Belding, Director; Jim Willis, Director; and Archie Trader, Greene County Commissioner.

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

Chairman Bill Cree arrived at 12:37 p.m. and presided over the meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jim Willis to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2014 meeting. Dick Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Thistlethwaite read the Treasurer's Report as follows:

GCFLP Board Fundraising Account - \$4,523.54
Easement Funds – Dept. of Agriculture & County of Greene – \$34,314.56

Ms. Rush noted that the following disbursements were made from the GCFLP Board Fundraising Account.

Ck #158 – County of Greene – \$31.25 - Greene County Solicitor, Cheryl Cowen's work on the Phillips Easement.

Ck #159 – Observer Reporter - \$75.34 – Public Meeting Notice

A motion was made by Dick Belding to accept the treasurer's report as read. Jim Willis seconded. (Motion Passed)

V. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association (PFPA) 2014/15 Policy positions

At the Greene County Farmland Preservation (GCFLP) meeting held on October 15th, 2014, Ms. Rush gave a summary of her attendance of the PFPA Fall Conference, noting that the main topic of discussion was the policy position of the PFPA for 2014-2015.

Since that time, PFPA drafted the policy and provided a written copy to all counties. As a reference, this information was included in the meeting packets.

2. 2015 County Allocation of Funds Due by Jan 31, 2015

Annually, the PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation (PA FLP) contacts each County Commissioners Office to determine the amount of funding they will provide the FLP program for the upcoming year. Counties fund the program utilizing Rollbacks from the Clean and Green Program.

Jeff Marshall, Greene County Chief Clerk, confirmed receipt of this notification and informed Ms. Rush, that if the Rollbacks are determined, this matter will presented to the Greene County Commissioners at January meeting.

Commissioner Trader noted that exclusions of properties from the Clean and Green Program (well pad sites, etc.) has increased the workload of the Greene County Assessment Office and could delay a determination of the Rollbacks.

GCFLP should be notified of state's allocation by March, 2015.

Ms. Rush noted that the GCFLP did not accept applications in 2014, and utilized the rankings from 2013. She suggested that the Board consider accepting applications in 2015.

3. Laurel Rush, Ag Technician- Resignation

Laurel Rush, Greene County Conservation District's Agricultural Technician and administrator of Greene County's FLP, has tendered her resignation to accept a position with the State Conservation Commission, effective January 9th, 2015.

Ms. Rush noted that she will be the state's liaison for the Nutrient Management Program in the southwest region which includes Greene County.

Chairman Cree thanked Ms. Rush for her assistance with the GCFLP Program.

4. EQT Program Donation - \$1000

EQT again donated \$1,000 to the GCFLP to assist with the administration costs of the program. EQT representatives will present a check to the GCFLP Board at the Greene County Commissioners meeting on December 18th, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. GCFLP Board Chairman, Bill Cree, III and GCFLP Director, Corbly Orndorff, plan to attend this meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Agricultural Security Area (ASA) - Franklin Township

Franklin Township – Ms. Rush met with Corbly Orndorff, Franklin Township Supervisor and Carol Kraft, Franklin Township Secretary, to review the ASA timeline. The Township has begun the initial process; the advertisement of the ASA in the newspaper.

Since the public notice appeared in the newspaper, 3 additional applications for the Franklin Township ASA have been received; bringing the total number of applications to 6.

2. GCCD Board Nominations

The Greene County Commissioners, at their meeting on November 13, 2014, appointed Jim Cowell to serve an additional 4 year term on the GCCD Board. His term will expire on December 31, 2018.

At the GCCD meeting held on December 16th, 2014, several names were discussed to be invited to become GCCD Associate Directors. One of which was GCFLP Director, Jim Willis.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2013 GCFLP Agricultural Easements *listed in ranking order*

- a. Jim Willis (53 ac) Cumberland Township. – On hold
Surface coal issue, Clear title being pursued.
- b. Jim Willis (30 ac) Cumberland Township - On hold.
Surface coal issue, clear title being pursued.

Ms. Rush suggested that Mr. Willis provide a letter, from his Attorney that includes the status of these two properties to the GCFLP Board.

- c. Richard Phillips (108.8 ac) Cumberland Township
 - 1) High rank & appraisal release letter (Completed)
 - 2) Title Search - (Completed)
 - 3) Appraisal Report – Completed
 - 4) Survey plot (Completed)
 - 5) Offer letter – (Completed)
 - 6) Agreement of Sale- (Completed)

It was hoped that this Easement would be considered at the December, 2014 PA FLP Board meeting, but it was not. PA FLP staff indicated that the Easement is on the encumbering list.

2. 2015 GCFLP Meeting Dates

Ms. Rush presented the proposed 2015 meeting dates for review and approval. The meetings will be held the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the meeting dates as the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)

These dates will be included as a public meeting notice in the Observer Reporter.

3. GCFLP Chairman Appointment Letter

The appointment of the Chairman is required each year.

A motion was made by Dick Belding to recommend the reappoint of William Cree, III as the Chairman of the GCFLP Board to the Greene County Commissioners. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)

VIII. OUTREACH

Greene County Conservation District's 2015 calendars were distributed to all GCFLP Board Members.

IX. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Prior to Ms. Rush's departure, as discussed earlier in the meeting under Correspondence, she will be working with Ms. Snider, GCCD District Manager, to ensure that the Phillips Easement progresses through the encumbering process.

If the PA FLP acts on the Easement at their February 2015 meeting, the Closing could be held in May or June of 2015.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21st, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Mezzanine Conference room.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Rick Thistlethwaite to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer
Greene County Conservation District