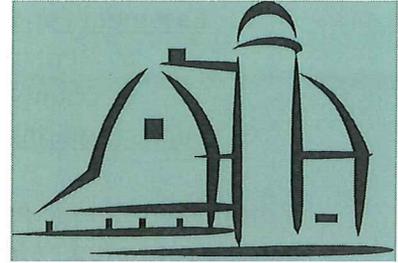


Greene County Farmland Preservation  
22 West High Street, Suite 204  
Waynesburg, PA 15370  
724-852-5278



## Greene County Farmland Preservation Minutes

**December 17, 2015**

Thistlethwaite Vineyard  
Jefferson, PA

### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Dave Shipman at 11:30 a.m. at Thistlethwaite's Vineyard, Jefferson, PA.

### **Greene County Farmland Preservation Board (GCFLP) Members**

Members Present--Bill Cree, III, Chairman; Dave Shipman, Vice Chairman; Rick Thistlethwaite, Treasurer; Jim Willis, Director; Richard Belding, Director; and Archie Trader, County Commissioner.

### **Staff**

Lisa Snider, District Manager, Greene County Conservation District (GCCD); Lindsay Kozlowski, Environmental Program Specialist, GCCD; and Karlie Wright, Agricultural Technician, GCCD.

### **Guests**

Amy Cree, Marilyn Shipman, Annette Thistlethwaite, Doug Willis, Jeanette Trader, William and Lura Ann Cree, Alex Harry, Harley and Janet Gapen, Bradley and Shirley Eisiminger, and Nate Regotti.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Richard Belding to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting. Jim Willis seconded. (Motion Passed)*

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

1. FLP Board Fundraising Account - \$9,135.28

2. Easement Funds – \$121,903.54
  - a. Dept. of Agriculture – \$100,665.54
  - b. County of Greene – 21,338.00
3. Funds requiring year end requirement by 12/31/15 - \$15,379.54

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The letter requesting funds from the county for Farmland Preservation was sent from the State to both us and the County Commissioners.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Chairman Bill Cree, III, presided over the meeting from this point forward.**

### **Bylaw Committee**

Ms. Wright stated that the bylaw changes were hopefully approved at the December 10, 2015 State Bureau of Farmland Preservation Board meeting. We are still awaiting a response.

Also, Ms. Wright stated that new board members, Chris Eisiminger and County Commissioner, Archie Trader, were approved at the November 19, 2015 County Commissioners Meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Richard Phillips' Incidental Costs**

Ms. Wright stated that the total incidental costs for Mr. Phillips' easement came to \$7,144.68. The incidental check received for the easement was \$9,209.25. Therefore, the Board needs to reimburse the Commonwealth of PA \$2,064.57.

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to reimburse the Commonwealth of PA for \$2,064.57 for the leftover incidental costs. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **2015 GCFLP Agricultural Easements**

Tom Willis (169ac), Cumberland Township – LESA Score: 31.45 –Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

Ms. Wright stated that Mr. Tom Willis' attorney, Kirk King, called and does not believe that it will be easy to obtain a clear title. The Board has not yet received any official notification from Mr. Tom Willis' as to what he is planning to do at this time.

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to send Mr. Tom Willis a letter asking for clarification of his intentions for move forward or to withdrawal. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Celesta Hegedis (99.43ac), Cumberland Township – LESA Score: 28.11 –Ranked 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

There was a brief discussion the Hegedis property. The Board requested verification from Ms. Hegedis concerning her surface coal rights ownership. At the last meeting, it was noted that the Board's attorney, Greg Hook, took a brief look at her deed and saw multiple reservations on surface coal.

***A motion was made by Richard Belding to send Ms. Hegedis a letter requesting surface coal rights ownership before she can move forward with the program. Jim Willis seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **2016 GCFLP Application Period – Public Notices**

Ms. Wright stated that the application period for the 2016 year will be opening January 1 and closing December 31, 2016. It was suggested that the application period be shortened due to needed to encumber funds from 2015 by December 31, 2016. There was a brief discussion as to what date to shorten the period to.

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to send a letter to the State Bureau of Farmland Preservation requesting to temporarily shorten Greene County Farmland Preservation's application period from January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016 to January 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016 with the stipulation that if necessary, the Board may add a 60 day extension. Jim Willis seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **Change to 2016 Easement Application**

The Easement application need to be changed based on the updated bylaws. This change was to add that "names or names of the owners of the surface mineral right" to the items that needed to be submitted with the application package.

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to make and accept these changes to the application. Richard Belding accepted. (Motion Passed)***

#### **2016 GCFLP Chairman Nomination – Letter to County Commissioners**

The Board members discussed and then nominated Bill Cree, III, the current chairman to be the chairman for the 2016 year.

#### **OUTREACH**

Ms. Wright stated that met with Perry Township Meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to discuss Agricultural Security Areas. The Perry Township supervisors seemed very interested in the program and hope that people from the township apply. Also, the application period notice will be published in the Conservation District Newsletter.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

Karlie Wright discussed her staff report that was sent to the board members.

#### **Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 1:00 PM – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, County Office Building**

Board of Directors: William Cree III, Chairman; David Shipman, Vice-Chairman; Richard Thistlethwaite, Treasurer; Charles Day, Secretary; Richard Belding; James Willis; Corbly Orndorff; Commissioner Archie Trader

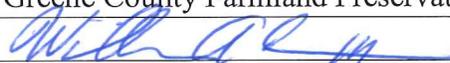
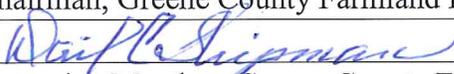
**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Richard Belding to adjourn the meeting. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)*

Respectfully submitted,



Karlie Wright  
*Agricultural Technician*

<u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u>
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Farmland Preservation on <u>February 17</u> , 2016.

Chairman, Greene County Farmland Preservation

Executive Member, Greene County Farmland Preservation