

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



GREENE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION
MINUTES
February 18, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Bill Cree, III at 1:05 p.m. in the Mezzanine Conference Room, Fort Jackson Building, Waynesburg, PA.

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

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

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Jim Willis to leave the officers as they currently are for 2015. Dick Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

The 2015 Officers remain the following:

Chairman:	William Cree, III
Vice Chairman:	David Shipman
Secretary:	Charles Day
Treasurer:	Richard Thistlethwaite

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by David Shipman to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2014 meeting. Richard Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)

V. 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

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

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Certification of County Funds for the 2015 Program Year - \$6,372.00

Lisa Snider commented that \$5,000 of this money was a donation and \$1,372 was from the rollback taxes.

2. PA Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Farmland Preservation 2015 Allocation of Funds - \$85,286.00

The combination of the county and state funds makes our total for the 2015 year \$91,658. The total funds that are left is \$125,972.56. This is on the financial report, but we are not sure if the \$513.25 is still available or not because according to the Farmland Preservation handbook, it says you have to have the funds encumbered in two years. Therefore, according to this, if we received the funds in the beginning of 2013, they need to be encumbered by the end of 2014.

3. PFFA Spring Conference in Gettysburg, May 6-7, 2015.

RSVPs need to be made by May 1st if someone from the board would like to go.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Agricultural Security Area (ASA) - Franklin Township

Franklin Township is right now under their last 45 day comment period which began 12/22/2014. Once this time period is up and all comments are received, the township can then accept the ASA. Then the ASA can then be recorded.

2. GCFLP Chairman Appointment Letter

Chairman, William Cree, III was appointed by the Greene County Commissioners on January 8, 2015.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2015 Meeting Dates

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

Ms. Snider brought up the Farmland Preservation's bylaws. In the bylaws (page 27), the following statement is made:

"Monthly Board meetings, which are open to the public, are held the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. December through April and will be held at 6:30 P.M. May through November in the Fort Jackson building, Mezzanine Conference room, S. Washington Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370."

There is a more vague statement in Article XIII (page 42) as follows:

"Regular meeting shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month at a time and location designated by the Chairperson of the Board, and subject to change. Special meeting shall be held at the call of the Chairperson, or at the request of 3 member of the Board, and shall require written notice of at least 10 days."

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to change the bylaws so that they have a more vague statement about when the meetings are held. Richard Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)

2. Annual Inspections Report

A new inspection letter has been generated to reflect the 2014 inspections conducted based on the new legislation passed last year. The new letter format consists of a list of the farms' addresses that were inspected, the year, and the original owner. This is so they can keep track of the farms inspected based on the new 2 year rotation. The inspection reports do not need to be submitted to the state unless there is a violation.

A motion was made by Richard Thistlethwaite to accept the new inspection letter format. James Willis seconded. (Motion Passed)

3. 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.

Attorneys working on the title and we should hopefully receive a letter soon.

c. Richard Phillips (108.8 ac) Cumberland Township – Items
are uploaded into the PA FARMLAND system.

- 1) High rank & appraisal release letter (Completed)
- 2) Title Search - (Completed)
- 3) Appraisal Report – (Completed) – PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation has spoken with Scott York concerning the small parcel comparable. All items have been cleared up.
- 4) Survey plot (Completed)
- 5) Offer letter – (Completed)
- 6) Agreement of Sale- (Completed)

4. Public Notice/Application Period

- a) April 15th – June 15th, 2015

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to start the process for the application period – press release, sending letters and other necessary actions. Dick Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

5. Bankson Engineers, Inc. for Phase 2-B Sanitary Sewer Extension and Ferncliff road pump station.

We wrote a letter to confirm for Bankson Engineers, that they would not be intruding on any ASAs or preserved farm when they add a sewer line in the Jefferson/Mather area.

6. Celesta Hegedis – ASA application and easement potential.

This a 102 acre farm located in Cumberland Township on Route 21. She is applying to be an Agricultural Security Area and would also like an application for Farmland Preservation.

7. Greene County Conservation District 2014 UGWF/CDFAP - \$258.38

The GCCD reimbursed the FLP Board for any reimbursable costs, such as, Observer-Reporter Ads and trips that Ms. Rush had taken.

IX. OUTREACH

Ms. Snider asked the board members if they all get the GCCD newsletters. They all do receive the newsletter, but not everyone had yet received theirs.

X. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Wright just started as Agricultural Technician on February 9th, 2015 is going to be in a fair amount of training throughout March and April.

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18th, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Mezzanine Conference room.

Ms. Wright will not be at this meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Karlie Wright
Agricultural Technician
Greene County Conservation District