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

Greene County Farmland Preservation Minutes

February 17, 2016

2nd Floor Conference Room
County Office Building
Waynesburg, PA

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Bill Cree at 1:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the County Office Building, Waynesburg, PA.

Greene County Farmland Preservation Board (GCFLP) Members

Members Present--Bill Cree, III, Chairman; Dave Shipman, Vice Chairman; Rick Thistlethwaite, Treasurer; Charles Day, Secretary; Jim Willis, Director; Corbly Orndorff, Director; Chris Eisiminger, Director; and Archie Trader, County Commissioner.

Staff

Lisa Snider, District Manager, Greene County Conservation District (GCCD); and Karlie Wright, Agricultural Technician, GCCD.

New Directors Chris Eisiminger and Archie Trader were welcomed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Archie Trader to retain the 2015 slate of officers as follows:

Vice Chairman – Dave Shipman
Treasurer – Rick Thistlethwaite
Secretary – Charles Day

Jim Willis seconded. (Motion Passed)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Rick Thistlethwaite to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2015 meeting. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed, Corbly Orndorff abstained)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1. FLP Board Fundraising Account - $8,073.91
2. Easement Funds – $106,524.00
    a. Dept. of Agriculture – $85,286.00
    b. County of Greene – 21,338.00
3. Funds requiring year end requirement by 12/31/16 - $85,286.00

Ms. Snider added that the certification of funds from the County of Greene for the 2016 program year was approved at the January 21, 2016 Greene County Commissioners Public Meeting. The County Certified $13,466.00 to the state of which $5,000.00 was a donation to the 2016 program year from the County of Greene and $8,466.00 which is the 2015 total interest collected from Clean and Green for a total of $13,466.00. Ms. Wright stated that those monies brought the County of Greene easement fund total to $34,804.00. Mr. Cree stated that it would be a good idea to send the County Commissioners a thank you letter for their continued support of the program.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wright stated that the GCFLP Board received a $1,000.00 donation from EQT Corporation. Ms. Wright prepared a thank you letter for the Board to review to be sent.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaw Committee

Ms. Wright stated that the bylaw changes were approved at the December 10, 2015 State Bureau of Farmland Preservation Board meeting.

Also, Ms. Wright stated that Mr. Bill Cree, III was nominated as the GCFLP chairman at the January 7, 2016 County Commissioners Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2015 GCFLP Agricultural Easements

Mr. Tom Willis called the office on January 20, 2016 and officially withdrew his application from the program at this time. Mr. Willis indicated that it is too expensive to continue with a quick claim deed.

2015 Inspections

Mr. Bill Cree, Mr. Rick Thistlethwaite, Mr. Jim Willis, and Ms. Wright visited the preserved Harry farm on February 5, 2016 for their bi-annual inspection. Mr. Cree stated that the farm was neat and clean as the Board had seen in the past. There has been a gas collection system put in below the road and Mr. Cree stated that the company did a nice job and preserved a lot of the trees put in through CREP. Ms. Wright stated that letters needed to be sent to Mr. Doug Wolfgang and to the landowner.

> ***A motion was made by Corbly Orndorff to send the inspection report letter to Doug Wolfgang and Charles Harry, the landowner. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)***

2016 Meeting Dates

Ms. Wright stated that April, July, and December meeting dates were moved from the 3rd Wednesday to 2nd Wednesday. The moves for April and July were due to scheduling conflicts and the December meeting was moved so that the meeting was not the week of Christmas.

> ***A motion was made by Dave Shipman for accept and advertise the meeting dates as listed on the hand out. Charlie Day seconded. (Motion Passed)***

2016 GCFLP Application Period – Public Notices

Ms. Wright stated that she sent a letter to Doug Wolfgang as requested by the Board to shorten the application period to March 31st, 2016 with a 60 day extension if the Board finds it necessary. This should be voted on at the February 18, 2016 State Bureau of Farmland Preservation Board meeting.

The Board members discussed when they would like to do LESA scoring for this application period. The Board decided that it would be best to have the April meeting visiting the applicant's farms starting at 10:00AM, followed by meeting at the Hartley Inn at 1:00PM to discuss the scoring. This location and time change is to be included in the advertised meeting dates as previously approved. The logistics of this meeting will be further discussed at the March meeting.

Agricultural Security Areas

Ms. Wright stated that we have talked to both Perry and Whiteley Townships about beginning an ASA in their townships. At this point the Board needs to outreach to landowners and get applications started in those townships.

Also, Ms. Wright has talked with Wayne Township. They received an application for an ASA and are not sure how to proceed. Mr. Orndorff stated that he would have Franklin Township's secretary call Wayne Township and Whiteley Township and try and answer questions they have and assist as they can. It was also noted that GCCD staff are available to help with the process of starting the new ASA's.

OUTREACH
None

STAFF REPORTS
Karlie Wright discussed her staff report that was sent to the board members. Lisa Snider also discussed her staff report and added that the District has advertised for a new E&S/Ag position; this new hire will assist with agriculture programs as well as inspection of construction sites. Ms. Snider also let the board know that at the Conservation District Board meeting on Tuesday, February 16th, $3,000.00 was approved and budgeted through the Act 13 funds to assist with administrative costs and assist with payment of the solicitor.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 1:00 PM – 2nd Floor Conference Room, County Office Building

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting. Jim Willis seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,

Karlie M Wright

Karlie Wright
Agricultural Technician

MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Farmland Preservation on March 17, 2016.
William A Cree III
Chairman, Greene County Farmland Preservation
David C. Shipman
Executive Member, Greene County Farmland Preservation

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