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

Greene County Farmland Preservation Minutes

June 15, 2016

2nd Floor Conference Room
County Office Building
Waynesburg, PA 15370

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Dave Shipman at 2:00 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; Jim Willis, Director; Richard Belding; and Archie Trader, County Commissioner.

Staff

Karlie Wright, Agricultural Technician, GCCD; April Brummage, Resource Specialist, GCCD.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2016 meeting minutes. Richard Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1. FLP Board Fundraising Account - $12,155.94
2. Easement Funds – $242,702.00
    a. Dept. of Agriculture – $207,998.00
    b. County of Greene – $34,704.00
3. Funds requiring year end encumberment by 12/31/16 - $85,286.00

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

Ms. Wright mentioned that the FLP Board Fundraising account has increased due to the $2,000.00 "Good Faith" payments made by both the Cree #2 and Bell #1 Farm applicants for a total of $4,000.00.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- CREP Workshop – Saturday, June 25, 2016, Greene County Fairgrounds
- Grazing Field Day – Friday, July 8, 2016, Mayport, PA
- Adaptive Grazing/Soil Health Field Day – Saturday, July 30, 2016, Beaver County
- In depth exploration of strategies to build perennial agroecosystems through cover crops, forages, and crop diversity – Thursday, July 28 – Friday, July 29, 2016, Centre Hall, PA at Grange Fairgrounds
- Adaptive Cover Crops Field Day – Friday, August 12, 2016, Beaver County, PA

Ms. Wright stated that the CREP workshop hosted by GCCD might be cancelled if registration is low. She also reminded the Board that if they were interested in going to any of these events to let her know.

OLD BUSINESS

State Ethics Forms

Ms. Wright reminded the Board members that, if they haven't already, completed State Ethics forms were due on May 1, 2016 and we are still missing a few.

NEW BUSINESS

2016 FLP Application Period

1. William and Lura Ann Cree (57.35ac), Cumberland Township – LESA Score: 43.37
2. David K. Bell (92.81ac), Morgan Township – LESA Score: 38.31

Ms. Wright stated that both applicants have paid their "Good Faith" payments and filled out the necessary paperwork to move forward with the encumberment process for their Farmland Preservation Easements.

Greg Hook – Title Searches

Ms. Wright stated that on May 9th and 10th, 2016 the Board was polled to gauge their consideration to have the Board's attorney, Greg Hook, complete title searches after the necessary information was completed by the applicants and that formal action is required.

A motion was made by Archie Trader to have Greg Hook complete the title searches for both the Cree #2 farm and the Bell #1 farm. Richard Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

Encumberment Timing

Ms. Wright explained to the Board that technically the Cree #2 farm is ranked higher than the Bell #1 farm and wanted to know what the Board would like to do if at some point the Bell #1 farm was moving along faster than the Cree #2 farm. Mr. Trader stated that he thought we needed to keep the easements moving along.

> ***A motion was made by Archie Trader to move along with both easements as things needed done, but we would complete the Cree #2 farm first because it is the higher ranking farm. Richard Belding Seconded. (Motion Passed)***

James Kelly – Appraisal Service

Ms. Wright stated that she received a contract from James Kelly, Appraiser for both of the applicants. It will be $1,500/appraisal, which is significantly cheaper than the previous appraiser contracted by the GCFLP Board. Ms. Wright also stated that the language in the contract is the same as ones used in previous years. The contract needs to be signed by the Board Chairman if approved.

> ***A motion was made by Richard Belding to approve the appraisal contract for James Kelly and to have him begin the appraisals after a clear title has been presented by Greg Hook. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Miles Davin – Survey

Ms. Wright requested that she also be able to begin contacting Miles Davin about closure for the applicants' survey requirement.

> ***A motion was made by Jim Willis to contact Miles Davin to complete the closure process, after a clear title has been presented by Greg Hook. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)***

OUTREACH

Ms. Wright asked the Board if there was anything specific that they would like her to do for the Greene County Fair or if they would like her to just have posters there like last year. Multiple Board members think that the posters would be fine. The Board members expressed their concern for beginning an ASA in Whiteley Township. They requested that we send townships a letter or memo about ASA's and that we are helping landowners begin ASA's.

STAFF REPORTS

Karlie Wright discussed her staff report that was submitted to the board members. April Brummage also discussed what she has been doing since she started.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 1:00 PM – 2nd Floor Conference Room, County Office Building.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

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 Sept. 21, 2016.
Chairman, Greene County Farmland Preservation
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