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

# Greene County Farmland Preservation Minutes

## March 16, 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 1:03 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; and Archie Trader, County Commissioner.

**Staff**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***A motion was made by Richard Belding to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2016 meeting minutes. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

1. FLP Board Fundraising Account - $8,073.91
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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Wright stated that the GCFLP Board received the 2016 Allocation of Funds from the PA Department of Agriculture for $122,712.00. These funds are based off a number of things, but one of the contributing factors is how much the County donates to the program.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Bylaw Committee**

The application period change from January 1st, 2016 – December 31st, 2016 to January 1st, 2016 to March 31st, 2016 was approved at the state farmland preservation board meeting on February 18th. Ms. Wright stated that we have not received a letter yet, but Doug Wolfgang confirmed this through email.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Greene County Community Development Block Grant Program**

This is a proposed waterline extension located along Orndorff Road in Franklin Township. Crystal Simmons requested a letter of determination on the impacts that could be associated on locally preserved farmlands. Ms. Wright stated that a letter was drafted affirming that the waterline was not located on a conservation easement, although there was an Agricultural Security. The Agricultural Security Area law does not affect waterlines; however, this can increase the development potential and value of the land.

**State Ethics Forms**

Ms. Wright reminded the Board that they needed to complete their state ethics forms by May 1st, 2016.

**Farmland Preservation Appraisers**

Ms. Wright contacted both our current appraiser, Mr. Scott York, and the Fayette County Farmland Preservation Board Appraiser, Mr. James J. Kelly for 2016 quotes for appraisals. Mr. York quoted an appraisal at $3,000.00 and Mr. Kelly quoted an appraisal at 1,500.00 - $2,000.00. Mr. Archie Trader said that it would be best to go with the cheaper appraiser.

***A motion was made by Archie Trader to use Mr. James Kelly as our appraiser this year. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**2016 GCFLP Application Period**

Ms. Wright stated that she had received to Farmland Preservation Applications. One application is for William A. Cree Jr. for 57.35 acres. The other application is from David K. Bell for 120 acres. The Board discussed that they will hopefully be able to move forward with both farms

and encumber all of the 2014 and 2015 funding. This will allow the Board will be able to leave the application period open from January 1st to December 31st as was amended in the bylaws.

The Board plans to conduct the farm visits and LESA scoring before the April 13, 2016 meeting starting at 9:30 AM followed by the meeting at Hartley Inn in Carmichaels and 1:00PM. The Board discussed the LESA score form after the meeting was adjourned.

**OUTREACH**
None

**STAFF REPORTS**
Karlie Wright discussed her staff report that was sent to the board members. She added that she had completed her two manure management workshops.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 1:00 PM – Hartley Inn, Carmichaels, PA. Proceeded by farm visits at 9:30 AM for LESA scoring.**

**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 April 13, 2016. |
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| Chairman, Greene County Farmland Preservation |
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| 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