

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting

April 20, 2010

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eisiminger at 10:05 a.m. at the Mezzanine Conference Room of the Fort Jackson Building, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Directors present were Bradley Eisiminger, Chairman; Archie Trader, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; Jim Cowell, Secretary; Dave Coder, Commissioner Representative; Jim Kenney, Director; and Greg Hopkins, Associate Director. Guests and District staff in attendance in alphabetical order were Mary Jane Kent, Administrative Assistant for Program Support; Lindsay Kozlowski, Resource Specialist; Chuck Kubasik, DEP Field Representative; Robbie Matesic, Executive Director, Economic Development; Kim Moninger, NRCS; Laurel Rush, Agricultural Technician; Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer; and Lisa Snider, District Manager.

Sherene Hess, Coordinator, Penn's Corner RC&D attended a portion of the meeting.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**On a motion by Archie Trader, the minutes of the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

### IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

**On a motion by Jim Cowell, the Treasurer's Report was approved with the following addition. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**

General Fund

CK# 681 Scotty's Pizza – District Meeting Lunch - \$70.00

### V. CORRESPONDENCE

Lisa explained that the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) has a "Directors List Serve" for anyone wanting to receive information via e-mail. The list was circulated for sign up.

#### VI. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

No Requests for Assistance forms were received.

#### VII. OLD BUSINESS

Laurel discussed the next item of business, the Morris-Miller Mini Grant. She explained that the Mini Grant, for a spring development, was approved by the Board last year. In the fall, the contractor excavated at the proposed site and no water was found, even after having the site open during the winter and spring. They, therefore, have requested to go to a secondary site which, Laurel said, is a viable water source. She also said that they are not changing the scope of work, just the location. Since the Mini Grant was previously approved and there were no major changes, a motion was not needed.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Lisa reported that notice was received from DEP informing us that we were awarded a Growing Greener Grant for approximately \$182,000. The grant is for three projects in the areas of Ruff Creek and Pumpkin Run. Two projects will involve streambank stabilization of about 500' of stream. The third project will include the installation of Best Management Practices (BMP's) on a farm on Pumpkin Run. She said that all the projects are in close proximity, along Route 221 between Lippencott and Ruff Creek in Washington, Morgan and Jefferson townships. Lisa explained that the streambank stabilization projects involve a farm that is losing a lot of cropped hayland as a result of the stream gouging and undercutting. The second streambank project is on a farm that boards horses for the Meadows. Their fence has been moved several times due to the stream problem. This project will require a lot of work, including shaping the banks and installing matting. The last project involves installing BMP's on a farm along Pumpkin Run where Total Maximum Discharge Levels (TMDL's) were established in 2008 as a result of high phosphorus counts. Practices will be implemented to control barnyard runoff. Lisa said that information is due to the Grants Center by the end of the week (Board signatures and PA DEP's standard, mandatory, signed Landowner Participation Agreements).

Kim Moninger of NRCS requested that they be kept apprised of the projects and offered their assistance. Lisa said that it is uncertain who will do the engineering work, NRCS or officials from the TAG Program, that is affiliated with NRCS, and provides a free surveying and engineering services dedicated to the Growing Greener Program.

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to move forward with the project. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- b. Laurel presented information regarding the sponsorship of the Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful Farmers' Market. She noted that the market will be held at the same location (American Legion Parking Lot) as last year, but the times have changed. This year's times will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. as opposed to last year, which were 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Laurel said that GCCD has been a sponsor for the past two years and that there are five levels of sponsorship ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. **After discussion, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to sponsor at the "Petunia" level (\$250.00). Dave Coder seconded.**
  
- c. The next item of business discussed was the PA Environmental Council's Marcellus Shale Policy Conference scheduled to be held May 3 & 4 at Duquesne University. Lisa explained that the purpose of the conference is to review the current policy and consider ways to handle the Marcellus Shale drilling. The cost of the conference is approximately \$325.00 and Robbie added that the Pennsylvania Environmental Council offered us two scholarships of \$75.00 a person to attend. Commissioner Coder noted that he recently attended a conference sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics that was very informative and well attended by elected officials, industry, and environmental groups. He also said that this issue now has everyone's attention with discussion on taxation, the distribution of the money, water issues, etc.

Robbie noted that the Redevelopment Authority would like to endorse either a Severance Tax or an Assessment Tax and a lot of information has been obtained that can be mailed to the Board members.

Chairman Eisiminger requested that a report be provided at the next GCCD meeting regarding the policy conference. **After discussion, a motion was made by Archie Trader to allow Robbie and Lisa to the conference. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).**

Also regarding Marcellus Shale, Mr. Hopkins had a question regarding Zoning Permits for energy companies. He said that the pollution problem on Dunkard Creek has brought to light the problems with the treatment of the brine water. He is concerned because recently plans have been proposed to dispose of the water through deep well injection. He asked if the Conservation District had received any plans for deep well brine disposal. Lisa reported that we have not, and to her knowledge, they would have to be approved by the DEP and/or the EPA. Robbie said that the EPA has primacy for deep well injection in Pennsylvania. She also said that there has been a lot of discussion regarding recycling a portion of the water and using deep well injection to dispose of the most toxic water in certain formations. Lisa said that there are permitted injection wells, one located in Erie, PA and other wells in Ohio where drillers could be taking the water.

Greg stated that at the April Zoning Board meeting of Morris Township, action on a proposal that included a deep well injection site was tabled until next month. He asked the Conservation District to look into this matter and offer assistance to the Morris Township board. Robbie said that a representative from DEP could be contacted to discuss this matter. She also said that Sherene Hess, through the League of Women Voters and Penn's Corner RC&D, has compiled a lot of information regarding Marcellus Shale that we can request. She said that we will explore both sources and report back. She also thought that a DEP representative could be invited to attend a District meeting as well. Greg said that the Morris Township meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Mr. Trader thought that perhaps a few of the Conservation District Directors should attend the Morris Township meeting. Lisa said that she could go to the township office and review the application.

- d. Lisa reported that a donation of \$3,000 was received from Alpha Resources for environmental education. \$2,500 is for the Envirothon scholarships and \$500 for the sponsorship of a student to attend the Conservation Leadership School.

Lisa also reported that an application was made through the Community Foundation for \$3,000 funding for the Envirothon.

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to accept the funds from Alpha Resources. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- e. Jim Kenney inquired about the status of the Duke Lake Dam at Ryerson Station State Park. Robbie said that a Task Force Meeting is scheduled to be held next Thursday. She explained that after the dam was breached, Senator Stout and Representative DeWeese organized a Task Force that included local representation. She said that usually the Task Force is alerted before public information is released. She noted that Lisa needs to be placed on the Task Force as the District Manager. Mr. Trader said that the retirement of Senator Stout is a concern and we need to remain vigilant.

The status of the Wisecarver Dam was also discussed. It was reported that the lake has been drained and the fish taken to Lake Wilma. Lisa stated that we have the Individual NPDES Application for the restoration of the dam portion.

Robbie stated that updates on both Ryerson and Wisecarver will be provided.

- f. Mr. Hopkins said that he planned to bring a guest to the meeting, Dan Wagner, Culinary Arts Instructor at the Career and Technology Center, but due to another commitment, he was unable to attend. Greg hopes to bring him to next month's meeting to discuss an event to showcase "locally grown foods". He said that Mr. Wagner could prepare the meal and has some great ideas. As discussed at previous meetings, we could serve "locally grown" foods at our annual awards luncheon and hold it a little earlier in the year, to take advantage of the seasonal fruits and vegetables.

- g. Regarding another matter, Mr. Kenney reported that he received a ticket while being parked in the county lot at last month's meeting. He talked to an officer at the Borough and the ticket was waived. Lisa said that parking passes will be obtained and distributed to Board members with the meeting notices.
- h. Lisa reminded everyone that this year's Envirothon will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at Ryerson Station. She also said that Mary Jane is coordinating this year's event.

## IX. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Most staff reports were mailed with the meeting notices. Additionally, Lisa reported that the Three Rivers Ecological Research Center representative were to be at today's meeting to discuss the Monongahela River Project, but due to staffing issues, they were unable to attend. They will attend next month's meeting to give a project update. She also reported that Mary Jane contacted Larry Marshall regarding our display space for the Greene County Fair. We will have one space inside for our display and a space outside for the lime spreader. We will only be charged \$50.00 for the inside space. At last month's meeting, we discussed having a display at the Oil and Gas Expo. It was found that every space was filled, but arrangements were made to have an insert in the program booklets that will include information from our office (permitting, contacts, etc). Lisa noted that she has been working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GCCD and the Townships to help prepare their Chapter 102/105 permit applications for township facilities and to assist with complaints if needed. She has a draft from the PA DEP Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control manual that she would like Solicitor Cowen to review before mailing it to the Directors for their review. She also said that the document would enable the municipality to require that a land developer would need to have a GCCD – approved E&S plan on site, for certain – sized projects of for timbering operations, or other land disturbance not related to agriculture. In closing, Lisa said that the interviews for the Watershed Specialist position will be held this afternoon with the assistance of Mr. Eisiminger and Mr. Kenney.

Laurel reported that two Nutrient Management Plans are under review and two of the three have applied for state funding. She displayed and discussed the "Farm Emergency Response Packets" that were distributed at the Penn State/Farm Bureau Annual meeting. She said that she has some extra packets and they are also available at the Extension Service. She

announced two upcoming Field Days. A “Pasture Tour” co-sponsored by the Southwest and Northwest Project Grass Chapters on May 20<sup>th</sup> in Lawrence County where they will be visiting Pasture Made Creamery and Crest View Farms. The second is the Westmoreland Conservation District is sponsoring a “Pasture Walk” for horse owners on May 26<sup>th</sup> in New Florence. Information is available for both events. Regarding the lime spreader, Laurel noted that maintenance was done on the machine and it is in great shape. Two rental inquiries have been received. Laurel distributed information that will be appearing in the Greene Saver regarding the lime spreader. In closing, Laurel reported that she received information regarding the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program with an application deadline of May 17<sup>th</sup>. The program, specifically for agricultural producers, is designed to promote ground and surface water conservation and improve water quality.

Mary Jane announced that currently applications are being accepted for Dirt and Gravel Roads projects. To date, she has not received any applications, but she has spoken to a few townships who intend to apply. She also said that there are two open contracts; Shoestring Road in Morris Township and Gray Run in Washington Township. Mary Jane noted that Bill Wentzel is undergoing shoulder surgery today.

#### X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

- a. Chuck Kubasik - Chuck reported that the District can expect some extra funding (\$1,865) from a one-time supplemental Administrative Assistance grant. This money is in addition to the \$3,060 that was provided to each District earlier this year. He announced that Tom Crist, Conservation Officer, of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, will be transferring to Westmoreland County sometime in August. He also said that Mr. Crist will not be available for this year’s Envirothon and he will be operating the Aquatics station. Lisa said that there should be extra people available to assist.
- b. Sherene Hess – Sherene reported that the Penn’s Corner RC&D Development Council held their quarterly meeting in March where they elected the following officers. Doniele Andrus, Beaver County, Chair; Dave Beale, Armstrong County, Vice Chairman; Kay Pierce, Allegheny County, Secretary; Gary Stokum, Washington County, Treasurer; Ryan Harr, Butler County, Member-at-Large. Also at the meeting, they approved several new projects including the No-Till Conference scheduled for February, 2011 at Saint Vincent’s Conference Center, the 2010

Grassland Evaluation Contest on May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Hydro CAD Training, June of 2010 and the Farmer's Market and Green Forge. The next quarterly meeting will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Before closing, Sherene distributed a list of the Committees of Penn's Corner RC&D Council.

Laurel added that the Core 4 Calendar Project is moving forward and they hope to have it published by August.

Mr. Kenney asked about the Hydro CAD Training and said that it may be beneficial for the Planning and Development Department. Sherene said that Penn's Corner is helping to coordinate the training which is scheduled for June 15-17.

- c. Kim Moninger – Kim reported that NRCS has been busy working on contracts, with four Greene County landowners in various stages under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Work is being done with a landowner under an Agricultural Assistance Management contract. Approximately six landowners are under contract and working on the implementation of their Conservation Plans for forestry or grazing. In closing, Kim reported that Suzy and J.B. Harrold spent a day in Greene Township last week to complete grazing plans.
- d. Tom Headlee – Tom noted that the West Greene FFA won speaking contests in State College and now will go to the Mid-West to compete in the National competition. He also said that the Waynesburg Chapter of the FFA also won a competition in State College.
- e. Lisa noted that binders were prepared and distributed by Becky that contain the Annual Report, Objectives, Budget, and Teamsheets. As required by the State Conservation Commission, these items were also submitted to them.
- f. Jim Kenney inquired about the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County. Lisa said that she thought that it was decided to put this matter on hold until the workload eased. Mr. Kenney also asked about payment from the county for the salaries paid by the District during the state budget crisis. The staff indicated that a spreadsheet was prepared and submitted to Planning. Mr. Trader will look into this matter.

XI. The Next Regular Meeting was changed and will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup>

XII. ADJOURNMENT

**With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer