

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting

July 8, 2010

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eisiminger at 10:02 a.m. at the Second Floor Conference Room, 93 East High Street, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Directors present were Bradley Eisiminger, Chairman; Archie Trader, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; Jim Cowell, Secretary; James Kenney, Director; Theresa Matscherz, Director; and Greg Hopkins, Associate Director. Guests and District staff in attendance in alphabetical order were Lindsay Kozlowski, Resource Specialist; Chuck Kubasik, DEP Field Representative; Julie Maxwell, Watershed Specialist; Bob McBride, Service Forester, DCNR Bureau of Forestry; Laurel Rush, Ag Technician; John Scott, Regional Director, PA Department of Agriculture; Lisa Snider, District Manager and Tracy Zivkovich, Director, Human Resources.

Those present for a portion of the meeting were Chris Hardie, Planner, Economic Development and Chris Markel, GIS Consultant.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Laurel noted that she will be distributing a sympathy card for the family of Byron Hughes, longtime board member, who recently lost his wife, Virginia.
- b. At this time, Mr. Trader stated that everyone was notified of a possible budget problem, but the matter has since been resolved with the passage of a state budget. (*Discussion of a personnel matter has been Stricken from these meeting minutes*) This matter will be discussed later in the meeting.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**On a motion by Jim Kenney, the Minutes of the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as mailed. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to accept the Treasurer's Report as mailed. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

V. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence.

VI. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Rod & Maggie Buttars – 21 acres – Greene Township

**After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Archie Trader to accept this Request for Assistance. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. The first item discussed under Old Business was the Industrial Wastewater Disposal Treatment Plant for gas wastewater near Masontown. Lisa said that at the last meeting the question was asked as to whether this project would be "grandfathered" under the new Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) standards. She said that after speaking with Rita Coleman, PA DEP Watershed Program Manager, she found that the permit is under appeal and that no decision will be made until this is resolved. She went on to explain that when the original permit was issued, it stated that the TDS allowable discharge could possibly be "grandfathered" for three years. It was uncertain to her as to whether the plant is accepting disposal water.

b. Lisa announced that the Carmichaels High School Team placed second at this year's state Envirothon.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The first item discussed under New Business was the Fiscal Year Salary Requests for the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) to PA DEP. Lisa explained that this program provides funding for the District Manager and the First Technician. The CDFAP application was mailed to the Board members in June 2010 and was followed-up by a telephone poll. A formal vote was then requested.

**A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the CDFAP application. Theresa Matscherz seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- b. Lisa noted that the next four items were also mailed to the Board for consideration and a telephone poll was taken, but would also need formal approval.

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the purchase of a computer for the Watershed Specialist. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- c. **A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the Nutrient Management Plan of Jeanne Williams. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the Nutrient Management Plan of Scott Whipkey (Whipkey Cattle Ranch, LLC). Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Laurel noted that she received a Nutrient Management Plan for the Hopkins Farm on June 10<sup>th</sup> and that it is currently under technical review.

- d. **A motion was made by Tom Headlee to place an ad at a cost of \$250.00 in the Greene County Platt Book produced by Penn State Extension for 4-H. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- e. Another application that was mailed to the Board for a telephone poll was the request for funding from CDFAP and PA Dept of Agriculture for the Agricultural Technician's Position (Ag Easement, Ag Conservation Technician, and Nutrient Management).

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the submission of these funding requests. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- f. Lisa said that Suzy Petery, NRCS, had mailed information regarding the next item, Section 1619 Compliance of the 2008 Farm Bill. It was also polled through the mail and by phone calls by NRCS staff and forwarded to Mr. Headlee for signature at this meeting. It acknowledges the release of information regarding their Farm Bill Programs.

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the acknowledgement. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- g. The next item discussed was the repayment of Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) funds to PA DEP. Repayment of these funds is due because of salary adjustments. Lisa said that after speaking to Fred Fiscus, approximately \$7,000 will need to be paid back for which an invoice will be received.

**After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to pay back these funds. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- h. Since Lisa is awaiting word from Greene Township, the Dirt and Gravel Road Program Contracts discussion was tabled.
- i. Since Robbie was absent from the meeting, due to another commitment, Lisa said that discussion on the Marcellus Shale Severance Tax endorsement would need to be tabled until August. Mr. Trader noted that the County would like to see at least 50 percent of the tax going to the counties and municipalities.
- j. Regarding the Conservation Leadership School, Lisa noted that one application was received from Jacob Cumpston, Carmichaels High School a student of Kevin Willis.

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve sending the student and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

k. **A motion was made by Theresa Matscherz to allow Lisa to attend the upcoming PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference scheduled to be held July 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> in State College. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

l. The last item discussed under New Business was the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Lisa explained that the program pays landowners to use good conservation practices and that funding is available through Penn's Corner RC&D to assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with the outreach for the program. She said that approximately \$3,000 is available to each Conservation District which could be used toward Laurel's salary and outreach of the program. Lisa noted that Laurel would probably be working until September to get applications for the program and that much of the work can be done in the office, through our newsletter, mailings, etc. Lisa then presented the program contract with NRCS, Penn's Corner RC&D, and the District which would allow us to utilize the \$3,000.00 for the program. She explained that the contract calls for work with the Penn's Corner Executive Council and Suzy Petery of NRCS to complete eight contacts and a final report. Laurel added that if only six contacts are completed we would still receive payment and that eight is just a suggested number. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to enter into the contract and Theresa Matscherz seconded. (Motion Passed)**

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION-None

X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Since the matter of funding was being discussed, Chuck Kubasik gave his report at this time. He said although he did not have specific funding numbers, the State Conservation Commission will be meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> to decide where the cuts will be and how the cost share will be restructured. He did have information on the overall budget cuts and he reported as follows- The funding for The Department of Agriculture was reduced by 11.7 percent, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was reduced 9.2 percent, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) was

reduced 11 percent (state parks were reduced 7.3 percent). Chuck reported that over the last two years, DEP's budget has been reduced 37 percent (over \$100 million dollars). He went on to explain that there are two "line items" in the PA DEP budget to fund Conservation Districts. DEP's share of the funding through the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) was reduced by \$146,000. He also explained that these funds are for the salaries of the District Manager, the Technician and for Administrative Assistance Funding. He also said that the total amount of funding for this program 2009/10 was \$3.06 million and for 2010/11 it will be \$2.914 million. The other "line item" that provides funding is through the Department of Agriculture. 2009/2010, this program received \$1.65 million and this year 2010/11 it will be funded at \$1.039 million (a decrease of \$611,000). He explained that these funds are for cost sharing of the District Manager, the Agricultural Conservation Technician, Ombudsman, Leadership Development, etc. Overall, Chuck said that the total reduction of funding for Conservation Districts is \$750,000. Regarding the Nutrient Management Program, he said that last year the program was funded at \$3.1 million and this year at \$ 2.741 million (a reduction of \$369,000). Chuck also said that there could be up to 1,000 layoffs in the state government and that will be dependent on the level of federal funding.

Ms. Zivkovich added that although there is a budget, the County is uncertain how the reductions will affect County programs. She said that some cuts will be absorbed at the state level, but some will be passed on to the county.

In light of the budget problems, Mr. Hopkins urged everyone to contact our Legislator and ask him to support the Natural Gas Assessment Tax proposal that would provide the largest share to the counties and municipalities.

John Scott – Mr. Scott reported that the Department of Agriculture's budget was reduced by 11 percent and that most of these decreases will affect the Farmland Preservation Program. The final determination of what programs will be affected has not been made. He also said that the Fair Fund was also affected by budget cuts.

Bob McBride – Mr. McBride introduced himself as the PA DCNR Service Forester for Greene, Fayette and Somerset Counties. He explained that about 80 percent of the funding for his position is through the U.S. Forest Service. He also said that he has been working with Suzy Petery of NRCS on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). He added that a lot of

the funding for the Stewardship Planning Program has been reduced. In closing, he reported that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodlot Owners Association is one of the most active in the state.

Chris Hardie – Chris reported that the Planning Commission is currently reviewing nine projects with four of those being gas related (compressor stations or compressor buildings). Two hundred and twenty Public Notices have been received with about seventy percent of those being oil and gas related. Thus far this year, thirty-five lot splits have been received, with eight of those pending in DEP, and sixty Tax Abatements. The West Greene Planning Group hosted a Marcellus Shale Speaker and he plans to draft up the notes from the meeting and distribute them to all of the Boards.

## XI. STAFF REPORTS

Laurel began the staff reports noting the following upcoming meetings. Pennsylvania will be hosting the Manure Expo which will be held instead of the annual Nutrient Management meeting. She said that although she does not plan to attend, she does have an agenda for the meeting for anyone interested in attending. A Dairy Grazing School/Pasture Walk will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Hidden Valley, hosted by USDA NRCS & Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative. The last meeting she announced was the Seasonal Rotational Dairy at the Holderhome Farm in Jefferson, Maryland on September 21<sup>st</sup> hosted by NRCS, Penn's Corner RC&D, USDA, Westmoreland County Conservation District..

Julie noted that we have received the “upfront” money for the Ruff Creek Growing Greener Grant. This grant was to work on 3 farms located in the Ruff Creek Watershed and Pumpkin Run Watershed by installing agricultural best management practices and stream bank stabilization. She has been familiarizing herself with the county.

Lindsay reported that since her report in June, we have received one NPDES application, three ESCGP-1 applications, 10 general permits, one E&S plan, and one minor modification.

Lindsay also reported on behalf of Ty Basinger, the West Nile Virus Surveillance Monitor. She noted that he has been setting about, 10 traps per week, along with “dipping”.

Mr. Hopkins noted that the Carmichaels Envirothon Team finishes at the top of the state every year with Kevin Willis as their advisor. He thought that perhaps Mr. Willis should be recognized for his exceptional efforts. Lisa said that he attends the Annual Awards Luncheon every year where he is recognized. She added that we can take a look at how many years he has had a first place team, which she thought was around eight, and perhaps create a special recognition for him.

Lisa noted that Waterways Conservation Officer, Tom Crist of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, will be transferring from Greene County in August. Regarding the Farmland Preservation Program, Lisa said that at the last meeting she was directed to work with Laurel to draft a letter asking for donations for the program.

Regarding another matter, she said that Franklin Township has been very cooperative to ensure that all necessary permits are obtained by developers.

- XII. The next regular meeting will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup> as a possible picnic meeting.

**A motion was made by Tom Headlee to bring Mary Jane back for 90 days. Jim Cowell seconded.** Lisa will have to speak to Ms. Zivkovich in Human Resources regarding this matter and report back to the board. The County has the ultimate decision regarding all personnel matters. **A motion was then made by Jim Kenney to amend the previously stated motion by returning Mary Jane to her current status, with the District paying her salary for up to three months, or until the County resolves the budget issues and can resume coverage. If after three months Ms. Kent's position is not funded fully by the County, then the Conservation District will review the status one month prior to the end of the 3 month period. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Before closing, Mr. Hopkins asked if we would be losing a board member through the resignation of Dave Coder as County Commissioner. Lisa said that Commissioner Coder is the Commissioner's Representative on the GCCD Board and affirmed that the Commissioners will need to select a replacement.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**On a motion by Tom Headlee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.  
Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer