

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
April 19, 2011

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, 19 South Washington Street, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Those in attendance are as follows:

Greene County Conservation District Directors and Associate Directors

Bradley Eisiminger-Chairman
Archie Trader-Vice Chairman
Tom Headlee-Treasurer
Jim Cowell-Secretary
Pam Snyder-Commissioner Representative
Jim Kenney-Director
Theresa Matscherz-Director
J. Robert Rice-Director Emeritus
William Wentzel-Associate Director
Greg Hopkins-Associate Director

Guests

Robbie Matesic-Executive Director, Department of Economic Development
Chris Hardie-Planner-Department of Economic Development
Bob McBride-Forester, DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Suzy Petery-Supervisory D.C.; Natural Resources Conservation Service
John Scott-Regional Director, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Staff

Lindsay Kozlowski-Environmental Program Specialist
Julie Maxwell-Watershed Specialist
Laurel Rush-Ag Technician
Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer
Lisa Snider-District Manager
Dan Welte-Environmental Program Specialist II

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve the Minutes of the March 15, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).

In order to have time for review, the Board requested that they receive the meeting minutes a few days prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader that all Board Members receive the Agenda and Meeting Minutes by mail prior to the meeting. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS

A motion was made by Jim Cowell, to approve the Treasurer's Reports with the following additions. Commissioner Snyder seconded. (Motion Passed).

CK 834 Penn's Corner Conservancy – 2011 Dues - \$300.00

CK 835 County of Greene – Cell Phone - \$47.90

CK 836 Scotty's Pizza – District Meeting Lunch - \$54.73

V. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence discussed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Following the discussion at the March meeting, plans are progressing for Oil and Gas Workshops for municipal officials. There will be three sessions; a day-time meeting, an evening meeting, and a Saturday meeting. The workshop agenda will address municipal responsibilities and zoning relating to all oil and gas development. Alan Eichler, Environmental Program Manager, PA DEP's Southwest Regional Office of Oil and Gas, has agreed to discuss permitting and also bring staff from the Office of Air Quality to discuss the permitting of oil and gas facilities. Each workshop will include a visit to a compressor station (possibly EQT's Jupiter Station) and a Marcellus Shale well site. Lisa Snider reported that

she hopes to e-mail a draft workshop agenda for review within the next two weeks. These sessions will provide guidance to municipalities relative to a December 2009 PA Supreme Court Ruling that confirmed municipality's land use controls regarding drilling sites as long as the municipal ordinance is developed in compliance with the PA Municipal Planning Code (PA MPC, Act 247 of 1968 as amended). Extending an invitation to environmental groups was briefly discussed and it was concluded that while no one will be excluded, this workshop will be geared toward these municipal issues.

- b. In response to an inquiry at last month's meeting, an update was given on the Lamar Prospect site permitting, located near I-79 on Baker Road in Franklin Township. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Permit was issued by the GCCD on March 29, 2011 following nearly 18 months of coordination between the developer and PA DEP. Site visits are now being conducted by Mr. Wentzel and Mr. Welte on a weekly basis and inspection reports are being provided to PA DEP.

Stormwater basins are currently being constructed to improve the conditions at the site. Lamar Prospect has multiple on-going compliance matters to be addressed for this site.

- c. The signed contract for the West Nile Virus Program has been received from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The contract for \$5,500 begins July 1, 2011 and ends December 31, 2011. These funds are sufficient to pay for a temporary summer intern to conduct the monitoring. Contact with the County's Department of Human Resources requesting that they begin the search for an intern has been made. Beginning in July, Lindsay will complete 10-15 credits of on-line training, in order to maintain her current PA Department of Agriculture pesticide license. This is needed in the event spraying would need to be conducted this summer. A portion of this grant can be directed to cover this cost.
- d. Laurel gave an update on the Farmland Preservation Program (FLP). Progress is being made on resolution of the surface coal rights and the life estate issues for the 53 acre Willis Trust Easement, and hopefully, the complete encumbrance package can be submitted to the Bureau of Farmland Preservation by the end of June. The regularly scheduled FLP Meeting for April 20 has been postponed to allow time for the Affidavit of

Ownership and other Lucas Life Estate documents to be filed at the Courthouse.

As recommended by the Bureau, the county's FLP Application Period has been suspended for this year so that 2010-2011 conservation easement funds can be available for the purchase of the Willis Trust Easement. Letters will be sent to all Agricultural Security Area (ASA) program participants to inform them of the one year suspension.

- e. At the March meeting, Sherene Hess, RC&D Coordinator, Penn's Corner, indicated that due to federal budget cuts, the program's funding was in jeopardy. As of Friday, April 8, 2011, Sherene and Program Assistant, Vivian Bernardo, no longer work for Penn's Corner, but have been retained as staff of the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Consequently, the Executive Council of the Penn's Corner RC&D Conservancy Charitable Trust will administer all programming and a full council meeting is planned for the near future. An Executive Council conference call is planned for next week. Laurel Rush was elected Secretary of the Executive Council at the last meeting.
- f. Commissioner Trader asked if we had received any information regarding the water testing being completed by the Izaak Walton League (IWL) through the grant from the GCCD. Julie, Dan and Lisa reported that they participated with the IWL volunteers in training conducted by PA DEP, to learn how to take samples in "areas of concern" or "hot spots". Since testing has been done for about a month, Commissioner Trader requested that the IWL be contacted to request data to be kept on file.

In-Stream Data Loggers were also briefly discussed. This equipment is being used by DEP, the West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI), and the River Alert Information Network (RAIN) at various locations through the county and the Monongahela River. It was noted that all the data should eventually be shared. Robbie noted that Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Civil Engineering, has also been monitoring bromide in the Monongahela River.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mrs. Petery was present to review the Memorandum of Understanding between the GCCD, the NRCS and the State Conservation Commission. Revisions were made to the Cooperative Working Agreement in 1997.

The agreement states that we will work together and through teamwork all participants will have input in the decision making process, communicate, coordinate and share training opportunities and will work together on Comprehensive Resource Management Planning from a local grassroots level. She stressed that NRCS relies on the GCCD to guide and lead in identifying important local conservation issues. The agreement also states that the GCCD will assign someone to the Local Work Group for Farm Bill Programs. NRCS agrees to provide program management leadership, program management policies, and technical leadership for planning and implementation.

Suzy also reviewed the acknowledgement of Section 1619 Compliance, which was signed by the GCCD in June, 2010. This acknowledgement recognizes the need to protect agricultural producer's private information, including names, names of the business, telephone numbers, social security numbers, cropping information, and payment or contracting information.

- b. This year's Envirothon will be held on May 5th at Ryerson Station State Park. Testing will begin at 9:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. Directors are encouraged to attend. A grant was received from the Community Foundation to fund the event. Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. provided funding for scholarships for the winning team.

- c. Lisa discussed the Floodplain Management Program. She has worked with Dan Fitzpatrick, PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) under a three year contract with the PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) to assist municipalities with updating and adopting new floodplain ordinances. The current contract expires in June of this year and she requested that the board consider entering into another three year contract. **A motion was made Tom Headlee to approve entering into a new contract to work with PSATS for PA DCED's technical assistance with the PA Floodplain Management Program. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).**

Since changes are needed on the floodplain maps, the "Letter of Final Determination" will be mailed in July.

VIII. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

The Staff Reports (attached) were mailed with the meeting notices.

Lisa Snider - A sample of an insert titled "*I'm Planning on Moving DIRT . . . What Do I Need to Know?*" that will be included in the *Greene Saver's* April 2011 Edition was distributed for comment. It discusses Chapter 102 (Erosion and Sedimentation Control) and Chapter 105 (Stream Encroachment) regulations for farmers, residents, contractors, etc. Approximately 20,000 copies will be distributed by mail as an insert to the *Greene Saver* and an additional 1,000 copies will be available for distribution to municipalities.

A copy of the GCCD Annual Report and GCCD Newsletter was distributed to the Board of Directors and to the District's mailing list.

As approved at last month's meeting, revisions were made to the Mini Grant Application which is currently located on the website.

Regarding Chapter 102, there is no update from the PA DEP Ag Compliance Workgroup as discussed last month. Although we believe a meeting may have taken place, Gary Stokum of the Washington County Conservation District was not notified of a scheduled meeting. Lisa will follow-up to assure the GCCD receives future reports.

Lisa, Lindsay, and Dan, will be attending the E&S "Boot Camp" at Fort Indiantown Gap during the third week of May.

Julie Maxwell - There has been some confusion between PA DEP and the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PA F&BC) regarding the type of stream encroachment permit needed for the Whiteley Creek Streambank Project. Originally, it was thought that a Small Projects Permit would be needed; however, the PA F&BC have explained that a GP-1 permit can likely be used. The PA F&BC is looking into this matter.

Dan Welte – Dan reviewed his written report detailing each review completed, each inspection made, and complaint investigated. He received training from Chuck Kubasik, PADEP Field Representative and Darl Rosenquest, Engineer. He attended a "Webinar" regarding Marcellus Shale at the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Plans have been received for a large pipeline project, EQT's Sunrise Project. The project will disturb approximately 579 acres and was submitted with an accelerated review fee of \$55,200.

Laurel Rush – Laurel participated in several outreach events including the Warrior Trail Meeting and the Cooperative Extension/Farm Bureau Annual Banquet. She distributed several Conservation Planning Calendars and Agricultural Compliance Brochures. She also attended the Northwest Grazing Conference where Temple Grandin was the main speaker. A complaint related to agriculture was received and investigated by Laurel and a representative from DEP. Laurel noted that at a recent meeting of Penn's Corner RC&D, a representative from Alcoa discussed the reclamation project at the Mather Site. She suggested that we invite them to discuss this project at a future meeting.

Bill Wentzel – As a follow-up to an inquiry at last month's meeting regarding the Lamar Prospect site, Bill explained that he has been conducting regular inspections of the site. He reports that most of the sediment is staying onsite. A new supervisor, Bob Connors, has been hired to oversee work on the site and it seems as if he has put forth a great effort to do a good job. He does see a problem at the adjacent gathering line site which Lisa noted has been reported to the DEP Bureau of Oil and Gas.

Robbie Matesic – Robbie announced that the Tri-County Oil and Gas Expo will be held on May 21st at 10:00 a.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds.

IX. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Bob McBride – DCNR plans to fill the Service Forester position for Greene and Washington Counties in the near future. It is uncertain whether this person will be housed in Greene or Washington County. The need to fill the position is apparent, since 5 out the 7 forestry assessments recently completed were in Greene County.

John Scott – George Greig has been nominated as the Acting Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Greig currently serves as a Director with the Crawford County Conservation District. Mr. Scott recommended that John Stella be contacted to arrange for training and licensing for those interested in food handling for the Waynesburg Farmers Market. He will provide Laurel with his contact information.

Chuck Kubasik - In Chuck's absence, Lisa reviewed his report as follows: The State Envirothon will be held on May 24th and 25th at Susquehanna University and Shikellamy State Park. E&S "Boot Camp" will be held May 16-20 and the Conservation District Management Summit on June 8th and 9th. Other important dates include May 6th for the DEP's Southwestern PA Roundtable Meeting and October 14th for the Southwest Regional PACD Directors Meeting. He requested that the Directors complete the Leadership Development Director Training Modules. Bob Maiden was appointed as the new Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) and Jack Tressler, Somerset County Conservation District Director, was appointed as PACD's Regional Director.

Chris Hardie – Chris thanked the Conservation District Board and Mr. Welte for the assistance with land development complaints. Currently, 8 to 10 land developments are before the Planning Commission Board; with about half of those being gas related. This year, four to six approvals were granted, 15 Lot Splits were completed, and 150 Public Notices were received.

X. The Rescheduled Regular Meeting will be May 24th.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer

MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on _____, 2011.

Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District