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## Greene County Conservation District

19 South Washington Street – Suite 150 – Waynesburg, PA 15370-2053

Phone 724-852-5278 – Fax 724-852-5341

E-Mail: [gccd@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:gccd@co.greene.pa.us) -- Website: <http://www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd>

### GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES FEBRUARY 15, 2011

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eisiminger at 10:05 a.m. in the Mezzanine Conference Room, Fort Jackson Building, 19 South Washington Street, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Directors in attendance were Bradley Eisiminger, Chairman; Archie Trader, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; Jim Cowell, Secretary; Pam Snyder, Commissioner Representative; Jim Kenney, Director; J. Robert Rice, Director Emeritus; Greg Hopkins, Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director and Program Associate. Guests and Conservation District staff in attendance in alphabetical order included Jim Butler, Izaak Walton League; Ken Dufalla, Izaak Walton League; Charles Hunnell, Guest; Lindsay Kozlowski, Resource Specialist, Greene County Conservation District; Robbie Matesic, Executive Director, Planning and Development; Julie Maxwell, Watershed Specialist, Greene County Conservation District; Kim Moninger, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Martin Niverth, Izaak Walton League; Laurel Rush, Ag Technician, Greene County Conservation District; John Scott, Regional Director, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer, Greene County Conservation District; Lisa Snider, District Manager, Greene County Conservation District; and Deb Winkler, Izaak Walton League. Introductions were made by all guests.

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the Minutes of the January 18, 2011 meeting. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).**

#### IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

CK 810 Void

CK 811 County of Greene – January Salary Reimbursements - \$7,026.66

CK 812 Subway – District Meeting Lunch - \$44.99

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. As required by the State Ethics Commission, the Statement of Financial Interests Forms were distributed to all Board Members for completion.

VI. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

There were no Request for Assistance forms received.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Lisa gave an update on the Floodplain Management Program. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently updated the DFIRM Digital Firm Insurance Rate Maps and she has been visiting municipalities to answer questions and discuss any changes noted by the municipality. So far, she has visited 15 of the 26 municipalities and hopes to complete all visits by February 24<sup>th</sup>. Upon the completion of her visits, the municipalities' comments will be submitted to FEMA. Through her visits, she has found that the maps are difficult to read because they contain no road reference points, only the streams, and the contrast quality of the mapping is poor. Four municipalities Morgan, Wayne, Whiteley and Clarksville Borough are concerned that floodplain boundaries need to be increased within particular watershed. Finally, she noted that these visits have been very beneficial. She feels that an annual visit would be worthwhile to reacquaint the municipalities with the Districts various programs and offer our assistance.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Izaak Walton League of America-Henry Enstrom Chapter of Greene County –Citizens Water Monitoring Partnership Program – As requested at the January meeting, a budget (attached) for the program was provided by the Izaak Walton League and mailed with the Boards meeting notices. Members of the Izaak Walton League were present for further discussion. Izaak Walton League Member Martin Niverth explained that they believe there is inadequate representation by the Regulatory Agencies responsible for providing information and maintaining safe water resources for our County residents. He referred to the current influx of extractive industries, the lack of stream monitoring, the impact it has on our water resources, as well as the prior pollution events experienced on the Dunkard Creek Watershed. Mr. Niverth stressed the value of the Monongahela River as a source of our drinking water, transportation and recreation.

The Izaak Walton League will be working with West Virginia University's Water Research Institute, industry, and governmental agencies to carry out their water testing program. In summary, Mr. Niverth said that the Izaak Walton League cares very much about our water resources, in terms of public health, water based recreation, and a sustainable economy. He also stated that a water resource monitoring program with integrity is necessary to sustain the economy and allow clean drinking water for the citizens. The League is committed to achieving that goal.

As a member of the Izaak Walton League, Robbie Matesic noted that she attended one of their meetings, when they presented the program to their membership, and she is in agreement with Mr. Niverth's comments. She recommended that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) be consulted in regards to this project and since that time they have been contacted. She referred to an e-mail received from Mark Brickner, Water Pollution Biologist from PA DEP's Harrisburg Office. It states that "...the potential for environmental downsides is high right now and having citizen volunteers collect information benefits everyone. We are relying more and more on these folks every day out in the area to relay information to us..."

In order to collect the information in a credible manner, DEP has requested a meeting to facilitate this discussion. Consequently, Robbie has scheduled a meeting for February 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Second Floor Conference Room of the County Office Building. Mr. Dufalla stressed the importance of a credible data base. He said that all volunteers doing the sampling will receive 5 hours of training and will be certified. They expect to begin the sampling early next week.

Mr. Niverth said that all data that is collected will be summarized in a communication log and will be provided to the Water Research Institute, DEP, and the Conservation District. He also said that it is the Izaak Walton League's wish to have the Conservation District involved in this project.

Mr. Kenney asked for a timetable for the project. Mr. Butler responded, stating that the plan calls for the project to begin soon and continue through March 1, 2012. Twenty-one sites will be tested for fifty weeks. The data will then be posted on the web site on a weekly basis.

Mr. Kenney also asked what will be done with the information. Mr. Dufalla explained that there are certain indicators of water quality (Total Dissolved Solids, conductivity, pH, and temperature) and if "hot spots" are found, they will be rechecked. After the second check, if readings are still high, they will be passed on to the appropriate agencies for further investigation.

Mr. Butler presented a flowchart showing how the collected information should flow to the proper agencies and partners.

Mr. Headlee asked what will occur after all the data is collected. Mr. Butler responded and said that the original data will stay with the Izaak Walton League and copies will be given to the Conservation District, DEP, and the WRI.

Mr. Trader noted that there is concern regarding state budget cuts and how they will affect Conservation Districts. After speaking to Lisa, he felt that some funds may be available.

Mr. Kenney referred to the proposed budget which calls for \$18,800 to initiate the project. Mr. Dufalla added that the Harry Enstrom Chapter has added about \$3,000. Mr. Niverth said that the amount of funding needed in the future will be based on the findings of the water testing. Mr. Kenney clarified that 21 sites will be tested and continue in the long term with additional sites being added as needed. Mr. Butler estimated that about \$10,000 per year would be needed to continue testing in Greene County for the long term and will come from other sources. He claimed that Waynesburg University will be assisting the group with grant writing for funds to assist with the long-term continuation of the program.

Mr. Kenney also clarified that long term funding will be obtained from other grants and Mr. Butler added that this could be put in writing. Mr. Dufalla added that an application for a \$5,000 grant (the maximum available) has been made to the National Association of the Izaak Walton League for funding to sustain the project. A decision is expected to be announced in July. Mr. Dufalla clarified that this request is for the initial startup of the program and that they would not be requesting funding next year from the Conservation District.

Chairman Eisiminger noted that the Conservation District is willing to help, but does not want the District to serve in an enforcement role.

**Archie Trader made a motion to donate \$8,500 to begin the project this year. Jim Cowell added that if the Izaak Walton League receives future funding from other sources, that we consider an additional donation. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).**

Mr. Dufalla and Mr. Niverth thanked the Conservation District for their assistance.

Commissioner Snyder confirmed that the project will be done with management from the Conservation District and DEP representation. Mr. Niverth gave his assurance that it would be.

- b. **A motion was made by Jim Kenney to appoint Greg Hopkins and Bill Wentzel as Associate Directors for 2011. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).**

**Lisa noted that Frank Blaker did not wish to continue serving as an Associate Director.**

- c. Chairman Eisiminger appointed the 2011 Committees as follows.

Budget and Audit - Tom Headlee, Jim Kenney, Lisa Snider and Becky Salosky  
Dirt and Gravel Roads - J. Robert Rice, Tom Headlee, Jim Cowell, Lisa Snider, Julie Maxwell and Lindsay Kozlowski

Policy and Legislative - Jim Cowell, Lisa Snider and Laurel Rush

E&S and Compliance – Bradley Eisiminger, Robbie Matesic, Lisa Snider, Lindsay Kozlowski and Bill Wentzel

Education/Outreach/Awards – Tom Headlee, Jim Cowell, Theresa Matscherz, Greg Hopkins, Laurel Rush, Julie Maxwell

Personnel/District Operations – Archie Trader, Jim Kenney and Jim Cowell

Agriculture – Jim Kenney, Jim Cowell, Greg Hopkins and Laurel Rush

Water Resources – Theresa Matscherz, Robbie Matesic, Lisa Snider and Julie Maxwell

- d. Since the Mini Grant Program has not been reviewed or updated in approximately five years, Lisa requested that it be reviewed by the Budget and Audit Committee. This will ensure that the distribution of these grants, still meet the expectations of the Board. The Committee will meet and report back to the Board at the next meeting.
- e. Regarding the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program, Lisa said that Aleppo Township completed a project on Mudlick Road under a contract signed in 2008 for \$3,120. The Quality Assurance Board (QAB) inspected the site and approved it for payment; however, payment was never made. In completing the Annual Report for the program, Lisa discovered the oversight and spoke to the Township. She consulted Mr. Rice, a member of the QAB, who suggested that she bring this matter before the Board. **After discussion, a motion was made by Pam Snyder to approve payment of \$3,120 to Aleppo Township. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).**
- f. The PACD will host Agriculture Compliance Training on March 10<sup>th</sup> in Ligonier. The purpose of the training is to discuss the regulation changes in the Chapter 102 Program specific to agricultural operations. The training is free, with the only cost being for travel. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the attendance of Lisa, Laurel, and Lindsay. Pam Snyder seconded. (Motion Passed).**

## IX. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were mailed with the meeting notices.

Additionally, Lisa noted that the Army Corp of Engineers will hold a stakeholders meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> for the Monongahela River Assessment Project.

The Farmland Preservation Board meeting scheduled to be held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, was cancelled. Plans are to reschedule the meeting for the first part of March. There is an issue with the surface coal rights on the Willis Trust and they are awaiting information from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Farmland Preservation and the Willis' Attorney.

Lisa noted that revisions have been made to the Chapter 105 program that will have an impact on the District. Registration fees have been added to the regulations that are anticipated to help cover program costs for PA DEP. Since the District reviews and issues Chapter 105 General Permit's, fees will be associated with each permit application and will need to be collected, with a portion being submitted to the Department. While there will be an impact on farmers, the fees will not be as high as originally proposed.

Lisa also reported that Daniel Welte was hired as the Second E&S Technician and will begin work on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Laurel noted that the first reimbursement for the Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Growing Greener Project has been submitted. She attended the SW No-Till Conference in Westmoreland County. Laurel also reported that Jeanne Williams was selected to receive the Project Grass scholarship to attend the upcoming Appalachian Grazing Conference.

Julie noted that a one year extension has been approved for the Whiteley Creek Streambank Stabilization Growing Greener Grant. Meetings have been held with the PA Fish and Boat and Game Commissions regarding the project and they hope to begin on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Lindsay noted that she has received many plan revisions which she now must check for adequacy.

Bill noted that he has visited both of Allegheny Powers' projects- the Pursley Substation near Oak Forest and the TrailCO 502 Substation. Both sites have shown improvement.

## X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

- a. Kim Moninger – Kim reported that NRCS is busy ranking and evaluating this year's Farm Bill Applications. Ten applications have been received in Greene County. Survey and design work is being completed for projects that will be constructed this year. All contract reviews have been completed on the 19 existing contracts. One new CREP application has

been received. In closing, Kim distributed a list of last year's activities completed by NRCS in Greene County and noted that it will also be included in the upcoming Conservation District newsletter.

- b. John Scott – John reported that George Greig has been nominated as the new Secretary of Agriculture. He noted that Mr. Greig has served on the Conservation District Board in Crawford County.

XI. The Next Regular Meeting will be March 15<sup>th</sup>

XII. ADJOURNMENT

**With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Archie Trader to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).**

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer