



## Greene County Conservation District

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### GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### MINUTES

January 18, 2011

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bradley Eisiminger at 10:00 a.m. in the Mezzanine Conference Room, 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; and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director and Program Associate. Guests and Conservation District staff in attendance in alphabetical order were Lindsay Kozlowski, Resource Specialist, Greene County Conservation District; Chuck Kubasik, Field Representative, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Robbie Matesic, Executive Director, Department of Economic Development; Julie Maxwell, Watershed Specialist; Bob McBride, Service Forester, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR); Laurel Rush, Ag Technician, Greene County Conservation District; Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer, Greene County Conservation District; and Lisa Snider, District Manager, Greene County Conservation District.

Jim Butler of the Izaak Walton League attended a portion of the meeting.

#### I. OATH OF OFFICE

Commissioner Pam Snyder administered the Oath of Office to Jim Cowell, Jr. who was reappointed to serve a term of 2011 through 2014.

#### II. REORGANIZATION

**A motion was made by Tom Headlee to retain the slate of existing officers. Pam Snyder seconded. (Motion Passed).**

The officers for 2011 are: Chairman - Bradley Eisiminger; Vice Chairman - Archie Trader; Treasurer - Tom Headlee; and Secretary - Jim Cowell.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**A motion was made by Pam Snyder to enter into Executive Session at 10:05 a.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).**

IV. RECONVENMENT

**Following the Executive Session, a motion was made by Pam Snyder to reconvene the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).**

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the Minutes of the December 21, 2010 meeting. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).**

VII. TREASURER'S REPORTS

**A motion was made by Pam Snyder to approve the Treasurer's Reports with the following addition. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).**

CK 794 – Scotty's Pizza – District Meeting Lunch - \$ 55.00

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

Lisa noted that the Southwest No-Till Conference will be held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Vincent College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

IX. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

There were no Request for Assistance forms received.

## X. OLD BUSINESS

- a. A grant contract of \$5,500 was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the 2011 West Nile Virus Program. It was noted that the notification of the Commissioners and Conservation District Board are required, as well as Board signatures.
- b. The board was reminded that the early registration deadline for the Appalachian Grazing Conference is the first week of February. Mailings were recently made that included information regarding the scholarship for anyone interested in attending. Also, an announcement should soon be made regarding the selection of an individual who will receive a paid registration through Project Grass. At last month's meeting the Board chose to nominate Jeanne Williams and Jim Butler for consideration.
- c. Lisa gave an update on the Floodplain Management Program. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) held a public meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> to present and discuss the revised floodplain maps. As a result, Lisa will be contacting each municipality to schedule a meeting to answer any questions and discuss any changes that are needed such as road and stream names, and municipal boundaries. Due to changes in the base flood elevation and or municipal boundaries, four townships; Center, Franklin, Morgan, and Wayne can submit an appeal provided they invest in the preparation of Hydraulic and Hydrologic studies. Also, all municipalities will be required to adopt a revised Floodplain Ordinance. Reimbursement for expenses for the District incurred for this program is made available through the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) via the Floodplain Monitoring Program.

## XI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Members of the Izaak Walton League attended our meeting on December 21, 2010 to explain and request funding for a project to conduct water testing. At that time, the Board advised them that they would take the matter under consideration.

Commissioner Snyder requested that the Izaak Walton League provide a detailed budget for the project and Mr. Butler has agreed to provide that information.

**Since two Board Members were absent from the meeting, a motion was made by Pam Snyder to table action on this matter until the Board had better representation. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).**

- b. Lisa distributed a list of meeting dates for 2011 (attached). Meetings will continue to be held the third Tuesday of the month. The dates will appear as a Public Notice in the Observer Reporter and any cancellations will be included in the Community Events Section of that newspaper. **A motion was made by Pam Snyder to adopt those meeting dates. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).**
  
- c. Lisa also distributed a list (attached) of the Partnership Delegates for various organizations and programs; including Penn's Corner RC&D, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD), Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WCAMR), Project Grass, and the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program. She noted that Tom Crist and Mary Jane Kent will be replaced on the Dirt and Gravel Roads Quality Assurance Board (QAB) by Eric Davis, current Waterways Conservation Officer of the PA Fish & Boat Commission and Julie Maxwell, Watershed Specialist with the Conservation District. She noted that Julie's role would be as a non-voting member who would be responsible for scheduling meetings and preparing minutes for the QAB. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the delegates with the above replacements. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).**
  
- d. A list of Directors, their terms, Associate Directors, and those interested in becoming Associate Directors was also distributed as attached. Lisa noted that Associate Directors are appointed on an annual basis. Last year's Associate Directors were Frank Blaker, Greg Hopkins, and Bill Wentzel. After discussion, Lisa was instructed to contact last year's Associate Directors to see if they are interested in serving this year as well.

Chuck Kubasik noted that if an unexpected change to the board occurs, revisions to ACT 217 allow Associate Directors with two years experience to be appointed to the board without going through the nomination process.

**A motion was made by Pam Snyder to table action on this matter until the February meeting. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).**

- e. The next item discussed was appointments for the eight District Committees for 2011. She requested that the Members review the list and inform Bradley Eisiminger or her on which committees they are willing to serve. Mr. Eisiminger will then appoint the Committee Members at the February meeting based on Members' input. The current committee assignments will be emailed to the Board members. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to table action on this matter to allow for review time. Pam Snyder seconded. (Motion Passed).**
- f. At the request of Mr. Cowell, approval was granted for Laurel to attend the Northwest Grazing Conference, scheduled to be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Dubois, PA. **The motion was made by Archie Trader and seconded by Jim Cowell. (Motion Passed).**

It was noted that this conference is scheduled to be held on the same day as our Conservation District meeting.

- g. Laurel discussed the Agricultural Conservation Technician (ACT) Program and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) request that the District complete a mid-year program cost evaluation. The 2010-2011 program allocation for salary and benefits is \$22,425, but she estimates that an additional \$4,000 is needed. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) uses the evaluation to determine if there will be any funds that may revert back to the Department for reallocation to other participants during the remainder of the fiscal year.

## XII. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

In addition to the written reports submitted, Lisa noted that, weather permitting, a visit to Hartley Hill Road is scheduled to be made on Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Greene Township completed a project there under the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program and a final inspection is needed so payment may be made.

Laurel announced that she will be coordinating this year's Envirothon, tentatively scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>. She also attended a "technical training" sponsored by NRCS where information regarding construction design and "as built" was discussed. Mr. Cowell inquired about the status of the Miller Mini Grant. Laurel will check on this matter and report back.

Julie noted that an extension has been requested for the Whiteley Creek Stream Bank Restoration Growing Greener Grant. She has been working to complete the permitting for the project. Lisa added that a meeting will be held on January 27<sup>th</sup> with the Game Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) and a company who wishes to complete mitigation work in the area. The company is looking for an area in the Whiteley Creek Watershed to complete mitigation for a new strip mine that will be permitted across SR 88 near Sugar Grove Church in Monongahela Township.

### XIII. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

- a. Chuck Kubasik - Chuck distributed a written report. In addition, he noted that Governor Corbett has nominated Michael Krancer as the Acting Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Mr. Krancer, an Attorney from the Philadelphia area, currently serves as a Judge on the Environmental Hearing Board. Senate confirmation is pending.

Another appointment made was that of John Hines as the Executive Deputy Secretary of Programs with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Mr. Hines previously served as the Deputy Secretary for Water Management.

In closing, Chuck referred to the second page of his report which discusses the Farmland Preservation Program. It notes that since the inception of the program in 1988, over \$1 billion has been spent, preserving 4,000 farms comprising 444,000 acres.

- b. Robbie Matesic – Robbie noted that legislation has passed regarding the Bureau of Farmland Preservation and the Clean and Green Program. It mandates that counties "roll back" the taxes on drilling sites permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a seven year

period. The "roll back" is deferred until the site is restored. The County's Chief Assessor will be attending training to obtain additional information. The Planning Commission is already taking this into consideration by advising participants of the Clean and Green Program to contact the Chief Assessor.

Under the direction of Liz Witte-Menhart, Director of Tourism, the Agri-Tourism project is moving forward with over 100 participants. She requested that Laurel attend future meetings. The list will appear on the County website and in a planned brochure and it will give agricultural producers the opportunity to promote their products and events.

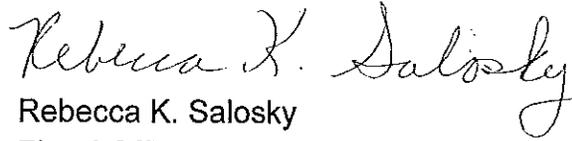
In closing, Robbie noted that she, Lisa and Julie, have been attending meetings with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to discuss their plans to conduct a Watershed Assessment on the Monongahela River. A public meeting is planned for February 17<sup>th</sup> in Morgantown.

XIV. The next regular meet will be held on February 15, 2011.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Pam Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).**

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer

Greene County Conservation District

**MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the  
Greene County Conservation District on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

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Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

*Bradley Cisimingo*      *Chairman*

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Secretary, Greene County Conservation District

*James A. Conwell*