

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
March 15, 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. Directors in attendance included Bradley Eisiminger, Chairman; Archie Trader, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; Pam Snyder, Commissioner Representative; Jim Kenney, Director; Greg Hopkins, Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director and Program Associate. Guests and Conservation District staff in attendance in alphabetical order were Lindsay Kozlowski, Resource Specialist; GCCD; Robbie Matesic, Executive Director, Department of Economic Development; Julie Maxwell, Watershed Specialist, GCCD; Suzy Petery, SDC, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer, GCCD; Lisa Snider, District Manager, GCCD; and Daniel Welte, Resource Specialist, GCCD. Sherene Hess, RC&D Coordinator, Penn's Corner, attended a portion of the meeting.

Daniel Welte was introduced as our new Environmental Program Specialist.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Pam Snyder to approve the Minutes of the February 15, 2011 meeting. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

CK 822 Subway – District Meeting Lunch - \$29.99

CK 823 Mark IV – Lateral Files and Book Shelves - \$2,552.12

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Lisa presented an e-mail from John Hewitt and Gary Stokum of the Washington County Conservation District regarding the Ag Compliance Work Group, which Mr. Stokum attends, and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) position on compliance with Chapter 102 Erosion and Sedimentation Control regulations.

Lisa noted that District staff plans to work with area farmers to bring them in compliance with the Chapter 102 Program. Conservation Plans can be written by both NRCS staff and GCCD's Agricultural Technician. Some practices are required to be requested through NRCS programs and the Conservation District can assist with planning to assure that Chapter 102 requirements are being met. New requirements of the program mean that a farm could potentially need four types of plans including Erosion and Sedimentation Control, Manure Management, Nutrient Management and a Conservation Plan. Outreach plans are to publish information in the "Greene Saver", to circulate the information in the District newsletter and possibly undertake a mailing that would target homeowners and landowners, business and industry, and farmers;

Significant discussion took place relative to NRCS's role in this process, the need for updated Conservation Plans, and the need for the District to undertake an outreach and education effort to reach landowners with the regulatory requirements that need to be met.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Mr. Kenney gave a brief report on the Appalachian Grazing Conference that was held in Morgantown, West Virginia on March 4th and 5th. Kathy

Voithe was one of the speakers and presented a program on training cattle to eat weeds (Multi-Flora Rose, Iron Weed, etc.). Her website, “livestock for landscape” further explains the process.

A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve a \$75 scholarship to Rick Patton for his attendance at the Appalachian Grazing Conference. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Lisa noted that Erosion and Sedimentation Technical Training (“boot camp”) will be held in May. She requested that the District approve attendance at the Level II training, May 16th-20th, for Lindsay, Daniel and her.

A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the attendance of Lisa, Lindsay, and Daniel at the Level II Training. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

Because the May meeting of the Conservation District is scheduled to be held at the same time as the training, the meeting will be rescheduled to May 24th.

- b. As discussed in February, the Budget and Finance Committee has reviewed and submitted updates to the Water Quality Mini-Grant Program Policy. Copies were distributed with the changes highlighted for the directors to review. The revisions and/or additions include:
- the request for the applicant’s Social Security Number for preparation of a 1099 Tax Form;
 - the exclusion of in-kind contributions for reimbursement;
 - a maximum award of up to \$1,000;
 - clarification that up to 5 grants per year will be awarded;
 - a statement regarding the District’s budget constraints;
 - a deadline of one year to complete the work;
 - priority given to applicants that have not received funding in previous grant rounds; and
 - a statement regarding the need for a permit before work can begin.

A motion was made by Pam Snyder to approve the revisions to the Mini Grant Program Policy. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

- c. Lisa distributed copies of a proposed Compliance/Enforcement Policy (attached) which outlines the responsibilities of the Conservation District and the Planning Commission regarding development issues. It details the handling of complaints, compliance issues, and violations. In accordance with the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO), all projects that come before the Planning Commission must have a letter of adequacy from the Conservation District before they are granted final approval by the Commission. The District will conduct site visits to ensure that Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Post Construction Stormwater Plans are being implemented and the project is being constructed as approved by both GCCD and the Greene County Planning Commission (GCPC). Any stormwater issues that require attention will be reported to the Planning Commission. Lisa and Daniel will attend the Planning Commission Meetings to fulfill the goal of both bodies to assist developers with regulatory compliance. The policy has been developed in response to criticism of the handling of a compressor station development by the Planning Commission and the complainants' questions about fines not being imposed on the developer. The Commission's position is that while the SALDO states that fines "may" be imposed, they prefer to work with developers to ensure compliance, using the levying of fines only as a last resort.

Following a discussion about compliance issues, zoning, municipal regulations, noise suppression regulations and the various compressor station design options being utilized throughout the county, the directors agreed that a workshop/field day to include the District, the Planning Commission and local municipal officials should be held to share information, discuss the cooperation between the Planning Commission and Conservation District and visit a working project site, to encourage better understanding for the municipal officials and to educate them about what permits and approvals are required prior to the onset of a project.

A motion was made Pam Snyder to adopt the Joint Compliance and Enforcement Policy. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

d. Mr. Kenney presented proposed changes to Southwest Project Grass By-Laws as follows;

- a maximum of two votes per county will be allowed at each meeting (the County Conservation District Representative and a farmer);
- in order to vote at the meeting, a county must be in good standing and have their dues paid by February;
- a second Treasurer will be added for auditing purposes.

This matter will be discussed at the next project Grass meeting, to be held in May, and considered for a vote in the fall. Copies are available for further review.

e. Lisa informed the directors about the Marcellus Shale Development Family and Child Well Being Project and of an e-mail received from Kari Whitehead of Penn State University asking for assistance identifying survey participants directly affected by the industry. The County Commissioners have already participated and any suggestions of potential participants may be directed to Lisa, who will share the information with Ms. Whitehead.

f. Lisa informed the board about the update of the County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan and an overview of the requirements to allow hazard projects (natural and manmade) to be eligible for funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The plan must be updated every five years and the planning process is underway. The update will also include hazards associated with the oil and gas industry.

VIII. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff Reports were distributed with the meeting packets. Lisa noted with the occurrence of all the wet weather, a number of complaints have been received and updated the board on the status of the Lamar Project. While all erosion and sedimentation controls are in place, and the site is stabilized enough to prevent sediment from leaving the property, they cannot resume work until all permits are approved.

Mr. Trader noted that complaints have been received by the Commissioner's Office and he requested that the Conservation District conduct an onsite inspection. Mr. Wentzel and Mr. Welte will inspect the site today or tomorrow and report back at the next meeting.

Lisa reported that she has met with all the municipalities and discussed the flood plain maps and ordinances. The municipalities are awaiting Letters of Final Determinations from FEMA as to when they can begin the revision of their ordinances.

Lindsay reported that Dominion Transmission has added six acres to their large Appalachian Gateway Project. In the future, she expects to receive plans for the EQT's Sunrise Project which should also be a very large project.

Dan noted that he is becoming familiar with the county.

Lisa reported that she and Dan need new computers. The funding is included in this year's Budget and she was instructed to consult with the District prior to ordering through the County's IT Department. The computers will be ordered and received very soon.

IX. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

- a. Suzy Petery – The Conservation Stewardship Program, which began last year, pays agricultural producers and forest landowners to do good work on their land. Three applications were received for this round of funding, with one moving forward to the interview process. To date, three contracts, covering 145 acres, have been executed under the Farm Bill Program, for a total of 17 active contractors. Most of these are with agricultural producers, but some are either wildlife plans or forest stewardship activities. Princeton Hydro is developing the "Planting Plan" for the easement area of Dunkard Creek for the dam removal project. Mrs. Petery requested that the District include the review of the Memorandum of Understanding between NRCS and the District and also the review of Section 1619, the Freedom of Information Act, at the April Conservation District Meeting.
- b. Sherene Hess – The Ag Committee of Penn's Corner has developed several programs aimed to help the farmer and landowner protect their land. A No-Till Conference was held in February and was well attended. Anyone that knows a farmer who would be willing to share his No-Till experience at next year's event, scheduled to be held at St. Vincent College, should let her know. Upcoming events include the Grassland Evaluation Contest on May 3rd with the Grazing Lands Conservation

Initiative providing their assistance. Any 4-H or FFA student who wishes to participate should contact her office. Other projects in the development stage are the Reforestation Project in Armstrong County and the Drinking Water Protection Regional Project. A forum was held in conjunction with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to discuss the Conservation Reserve Enhancement (CRP) Program for Fayette and Westmoreland Counties. This type of forum is also available to any counties that are interested. Sherene reported that due to budget cuts, the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program is in jeopardy. The Penn's Corner Charitable Trust would remain in operation as a 501-C-3 charitable organization..

- c. Chuck Kubasik – Chuck was unable to attend the meeting, but forwarded a report which Lisa presented. In the State Budget, the following programs were funded at last year's levels: the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the State Conservation Commission, the Nutrient Management Program, and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund Program. The allocation for the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) increased and will receive \$10 million dollars. The Abandoned Mine Discharge (AMD) Treatment Fund was cut by 50 percent and the West Nile Virus Program received a \$50,000 cut. Flood control projects and the Safe Water Grant Program were completely eliminated. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will lose 69 staff positions, mostly in the Water Quality and Watershed Programs bringing the number of DEP employees to 2,770, down from 2,839.

Bob Maiden has been appointed Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) He previously served as a Community Relation Consultant with DEP's Southwest Regional Office. Jack Tressler, a director with the Somerset County Conservation District, was appointed to serve as the PACD Regional Director.

The next Southwest Regional PACD Directors Meeting will be held on October 14th at the Beaver County Conservation District Environmental Building.

X. The Next Regular Meeting will be April 19th

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Archie Trader to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 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