

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
May 24, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eisiminger at 10:00 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

Theresa Matscherz-Director

J. Robert Rice-Director Emeritus

Greg Hopkins-Associate Director

**Guests**

Ken Dufalla-Chairman-Izaak Walton League

Chuck Hunnell-Izaak Walton League

Martin Niverth-Izaak Walton League

Ann Bargerstock-Department of Economic Development

Chris Hardie-Department of Economic Development

John Scott-Regional Director, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

**Staff**

Lisa Snider-District Manager

Lindsay Kozlowski-Environmental Program Specialist

Julie Maxwell-Watershed Specialist

Laurel Rush-Ag Technician

Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer

Dan Welte-Environmental Program Specialist II

Caitlin Davin-Intern

Robbie Matesic-Executive Director, Department of Economic Development

Chris Hardie and Ann Bargerstock attended a portion of the meeting.

Izaak Walton League Member, Martin Niverth, introduced himself and members Ken Dufalla and Chuck Hunnell. They attended a portion of the meeting. Lisa introduced our intern for the summer, Caitlin Davin.

## 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 April 15, 2011 meeting. Theresa Matscherz seconded. (Motion Passed).**

## IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

Ck 847 Scotty's Pizza – District Meeting Lunch - \$57.00

## V. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence discussed.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. An update was given concerning the Compressor Station and Oil and Gas Workshop that was previously discussed at the March District meeting. Plans are progressing on the workshop that is targeted to municipal and zoning officials. Robbie and Lisa also learned that Mickey Dikun, President Greene County Association for Township Officials, requested assistance from Representative DeWeese's Office to determine what local governments can do regarding environmental and public safety issues. Therefore, it's likely the workshops will be jointly sponsored by Greene County Conservation District, Greene County Planning Commission and Greene County Association of Township Officials. The workshops will include visits that are being planned to the Jupiter Site on Pipers Ridge, the McQuay Compressor Station near Rogersville, and possibly a site in Southeastern Greene County. Township Officials will discuss the

workshop at their next Quarterly meeting to be held on July 11<sup>th</sup>. A draft agenda has been prepared and Lisa hopes to finalize the plans by the end of June or the beginning of July.

- b. Progress continues on the Willis Trust Easement. Two of the three documents needed have been recorded at the Courthouse. Plans are to submit the complete Encumbrance Package to the Bureau of Farmland Preservation by the end of June.
- c. The Greene County Envirothon was held on May 5. Carmichaels High School Team 1 won the competition with 443 points out of a possible 500 points. They will now compete in the the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual State Envirothon Competition being held today and tomorrow at the Susquehanna University and Shikellamy State Park. Recent State budget cuts may affect future funding for the local school districts to attend the local contest and it may become necessary to request additional funds through the Community Foundation to pay for busing and substitute teachers.
- d. Harry Enstrom Chapter of Izaak Walton League members were present to give an update on the Citizens Monitoring Program. Mr. Dufalla thanked the GCCD for their contribution to begin the program and added that another grant was obtained. He distributed information (attached) regarding the program and highlighted the following.
  - Water testing is well underway with the identification of 26 sampling sites, 20 of which are considered primary sites.
  - Training and certification was conducted for 23 volunteers, and 16 volunteers were deployed and are sending data for the website.
  - Three “hot spots” have been identified, 2 of which were confirmed and reported to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). Mr. Dufalla noted that when the acceptance of fracking fluids was discontinued at the Franklin Township Sewer Authority plant, the electronic conductivity dropped by approximately 400 points.
  - Further funding has been obtained by the group.

Data collected by the volunteers is accessible through the website developed by the Izaak Walton League at [www.iwla.org/harryenstrom](http://www.iwla.org/harryenstrom). The data that is being collected and stored by the volunteers is that of pH, temperature, electric conductivity, and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS).

Special attention is given to collection data that have high values, such as Total Dissolved Solids over 500 mg/L and electronic conductivity over 1,000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ . These collection sites labeled as Areas of Concern are being “red lined” as problem areas. One such site is Whiteley Creek and he reviewed the sample data. In eleven tests conducted on Whiteley Creek, only two were found to be in compliance.

A high concentration of bromides has been found at Smith Creek. Mr. Dufalla referred to the recent problems with the water supply in Carmichaels where a boil water notice was issued. He explained that in this situation in order to stabilize the reaction of the bromides in the water, the chlorine levels were to be reduced, resulting in the contamination of the water.

A large amount of bromides have also been found in Whiteley Creek. The current U.S. EPA drinking water standard calls for no more than 80  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$  parts per billion of bromide, which when combined with carbon and other chemicals form trihalomethanes (THM's) in drinking water supplies, which are carcinogenic. Test results from Whiteley Creek on March 23<sup>rd</sup> show that 1,028  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$  parts per billion of these chemicals are present; which are eventually flowing into the Monongahela River. These results have been reported to the U.S. EPA.

During the last sampling, readings on Smith Creek were also high at 481  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$  parts per billion. High TDS levels were found at Dunkard Creek and reported to the EPA, PA DEP, and West Virginia Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). One common factor of these areas is mine discharge.

However, TDS readings were not high at all Greene County locations. They were quite good in the Western part of the county, with the exception of the Enlow Creek Watershed. Mr. Dufalla said that the main concern of the Izaak Walton League is the health and safety of our citizens.

Mr. Niverth mentioned the group hopes to coordinate with the local water authorities as the project progresses. Since there is not a state or federal bromide standard for drinking water, they are working to establish one.

- e. As requested, Lisa gave a 90 day update on the hiring of a Second Erosion and Sedimentation Control Technician, the cost of employment

and the program fees received. She distributed a spreadsheet (attached) that includes the monthly breakdown of program fees received for each account and program type. Also included was the number of inspections conducted. She noted that at last week's Chapter 102/105 training, she informed the Acting Secretary of the PA DEP, Michael Krancer, of our counties need for a full time enforcement specialist at the PA DEP Southwest Regional Office. Currently no staff is dedicated to assisting Conservation Districts with necessary enforcement actions.

- f. Also discussed at the April meeting, was the Floodplain Management Program. Lisa has been working with Dan Fitzpatrick, PA Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) and the PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) on the new grant contract and reimbursement from the current contract. It is expected to be at least a year before a Letter of Final Determination is sent to the local municipalities to begin the process of ordinance updating because FEMA is undergoing map updates within the County. It is perfect timing for a new contract. All mapping studies will need to take place prior to any ordinance updates or final mapping. Mr. Fitzpatrick will be informing our office which municipalities are undergoing detailed studies as soon as he receives that information.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Lisa distributed information (attached) regarding the costs for the West Nile Virus Program. A grant was approved through PA DEP; however, our grant contract does not begin until July 1<sup>st</sup> and this does not allow very much time for training or sampling. It is estimated that the cost to employ a person for one month will be approximately \$1,200. She requested approval to hire an intern to staff the West Nile Virus Program with payment of the June salary by the GCCD. She noted that there may be a slight possibility that the salary could be recovered through the grant. **Following discussion, a motion was made by Archie Trader to hire someone immediately. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).**
- b. The current list of Nominating Organizations for the Conservation District was reviewed. Mrs. Matscherz noted that PA Cleanways is no longer in existence and would need removed from the list. In the past, three other organizations, the Southwest PA Woodlot Owners Association, the

Greene County Fairboard, and the Rotary were discussed as possible Nominating Organizations.

**Following discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to invite the Southwestern PA Woodlots Owners Association to become a Nominating Organization. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).**

**A motion was made by Theresa Matscherz to remove PA Cleanways as a nominating organization. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).**

- c. Ann Bargerstock, Grant Coordinator, Greene County Department of Economic Development, was present to discuss the Greene County All Hazard Mitigation Plan. The initial process for the plan began 5 years ago as required by the PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA). With the assistance of a consultant from Michael Baker, Jr. the first update is being done this year and will be a 5 year plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide a document to identify and determine the need for projects that can be funded to prevent disaster situations. As part of the process, work has been done with the municipalities, DCNR officials at Ryerson Station State Park, the fire departments, and emergency service providers to encourage their participation. Last night the final public meeting was held to discuss how the plan will be presented for public review. The document will include all the hazards that were in the plan five years ago (flooding, landslides, dams) as well as the addition of oil and gas related issues and radon. The plan should be available within the next 30 days for public review. It will be distributed to the GCCD for review and comment as well. This plan will allow the county to apply for funding to correct a problem before it becomes a hazardous situation. Robbie asked if air and water quality is addressed in the plan. Ann said that water quality is addressed, however, air quality is not, as it is not under the jurisdiction of PEMA.
- d. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to grant approval to Lisa to attend the District Management Summit in State College on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).**
- e. **A motion was made by Jim Cowell to grant approval to Lisa and Lindsay to attend the Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit 4 training in State College, June 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Archie Trader**

**seconded. (Motion Passed).** Lisa noted that the attendance at this training was not included in the budget, but it is mandatory due to a regulation change.

- f. Recently the Dirt and Gravel Roads Quality Assurance Board (QAB) completed evaluations on the Beagle Club Road in Morgan Township, Creek Road in Monongahela Township and Morford Road in Aleppo Township. All three projects qualify for the program; however, the QAB requested that contact be made with the municipalities for further clarification. The Townships have since addressed those issues, but Lisa was out of town at training and has not had an opportunity to receive approval from the QAB. Consequently, approval of these projects will be deferred until the June meeting.
- g. Lisa sent information by e-mail regarding Senate Bill 1100. This Bill proposes the establishment of an Impact Fee on Marcellus Shale drilling and would require the adoption of Zoning Ordinances. Robbie added that Shirl Barnhart, Morgan Township Supervisor, is on the Executive Board of the PA State Association for Township Officials (PSATS) and has been invited to meet with the Governor's Marcellus Shale Commission. Additional information regarding this matter should be available in the future. Commissioner Trader added that during a tour of the county last week with officials from Governor Corbett's office, he discussed the effects the industry is having on the area.

Numerous problems have occurred with the PA DEP expedited Oil and Gas permits and at a recent training that Lindsay, Dan, and Lisa attended, they learned that the expedited permits may be eliminated by PA DEP.

The granting of eminent domain rights to pipeline companies was briefly discussed. Robbie noted that recently the PA Public Utility Commission (PA PUC) gave Laser Northeast Gathering, a pipeline company, the power of eminent domain by designating them a public utility and added that the information regarding this PA PUC decision will be forwarded for review.

Air quality at compressors stations was also briefly discussed.

## VIII. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were mailed with the meeting packets or distributed at the meeting.

Laurel Rush – Laurel announced that Jim and Billie Cowell of Frosty Springs Farm will host the PA Cattleman's Association Summer Field Day on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. She encouraged everyone's attendance and noted that they were Pennsylvania's 2009 Environmental Awards Winner. Notice of the event was published in the most recent Greene Saver with a schedule of events planned to be published in the next issue. In closing, she noted that the first Farmer's Market was held last Wednesday.

Lindsay Kozlowski – On Bill Wentzel's behalf, Lindsay noted that he has conducted several inspections, including the Lamar Site. Lisa added that sediment basins and swales have been installed at the site. Cooperation regarding resolution of issues at the site continues. Lindsay noted that she has spent considerable time reviewing EQT's large pipeline project, known as the Sunrise Project. The GCCD had approximately 60 comments and they are being addressed by EQT. Additional acreage will be added to the project and those additions will be forwarded to the GCCD in mid-June. Other plans received include the installation of a power line, a pipeline replacement, a stream augmentation, construction of a building in Perry Township, and construction of a hotel in Franklin Township. Plans will also be submitted for a stream crossing for a Consol project. She reviewed the status of each project since the last meeting as listed on the Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Log Book. Lindsay noted that she attended Chapter 102/105 Boot Camp last week and that suggestions were made as to how to improve the training. Lindsay will meet with Chairman Eisiminger following the meeting to further discuss pipeline projects.

Julie Maxwell – Julie noted that plans were to begin the Whiteley Creek Streambank Stabilization Project on June 7<sup>th</sup>; however, wet weather may delay its start. She has been assisting the Economic Development Office with the Environmental Assessment for the Airport Project. In Laurel's absence during her Maternity Leave, she will be responsible for the rental of the lime spreader and the Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Growing Greener Grant Project.

Dan Welte – Dan completed the review of six projects, mostly utility lines and stream crossings, and some were found to be administratively incomplete.

Plans were received for the Trail Co project, a power line that will run from Osage to Whiteley. Consol is replacing the bridge over Patterson Creek on Route 18. Regarding complaints, grass is growing on the right-of-way at Barton Hollow and the project is now in the hands of DEP. Measures have been taken to correct the problems at the Gerald King Lumber Project in Morris Township and at Lingus Manufacturing along Browns Creek. He also mentioned the Chapter 102/105 Boot Camp Training that the staff attended last week.

Lisa Snider – C.J. Foster has received authorization from PA DEP to continue work at the Halliburton site, contingent upon them signing the permit. They are, however, contesting some of the conditions and it is uncertain if permit approval will be received. The GCCD received complaints regarding gas drilling sites. Dan has visited those sites and they were reported to PA DEP inspectors and supervisors, which has resulted in fines being levied.

Robbie Matesic – A Marcellus Tri-County Expo was recently held at the Washington County Fairgrounds. The attendance was excellent with over 1,000 attendees and 350 exhibitors. Community Bank will be hosting a job fair on June 17<sup>th</sup>. According to the Greene County Career Link, there may be 1,000 job openings in the coal industry in the next four years. David Craft, GIS Coordinator, will be working with Lindsay to track pipelines and well sites in the county. Maps of these areas will be provided at future meetings. Chris Markel of Geograph IT, the county's GIS Consultant, has developed software, "Marcellus Monitor" that tracks all permitted sites and oil and gas activities. The monthly subscription cost is \$25. She may request that Mr. Markel attend a future meeting for a presentation. Robbie also said that numerous inquiries are received by their office for building space for the industry. Robbie requested that Laurel schedule meeting with Liz Menhart to complete the Agri-Tourism Brochure.

#### IX. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

John Scott – John briefly discussed the gas industry.

Chris Hardie – Chris noted that the Planning Commission, in conjunction with the Conservation District, is working on 11 active projects and 5 pending projects. They include: the Brodak Airplane Museum in Cumberland Township, 6 compressors stations, a building addition at Morgantown Technical in Perry Township, the Mather Wastewater Facility, and Alpha Coal's Number 10 Airshaft.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**A motion was made by Jim Cowell to enter in to Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. to discuss personnel issues. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

XI. RECONVENMENT

**A motion was made by Tom Headlee to reconvene the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

XII. The next Regular Meeting will be June 21<sup>st</sup>

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Archie Trader to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 p.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer