

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
November 15, 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. Those in attendance are as follows:

Greene County Conservation District Directors and Associate Directors

Bradley Eisiminger-Chairman; Archie Trader-Vice Chairman; Pam Snyder, Commissioner Representative; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Jim Kenney-Director; J. Robert Rice-Director Emeritus; Greg Hopkins, Associate Director; Bill Wentzel-Associate Director/Program Associate.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Chuck Kubasik-Field Representative; Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): Chris Hardie-Department of Economic Development; Laura Smith-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Julie Maxwell-Watershed Specialist; Lindsay Kozlowski – Environmental Program Specialist; Jeremy Kelly-Environmental Program Specialist II; Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer; Robbie Matesic-Executive Director, Department of Economic Development

Mr. Hardie attended a portion of the meeting.

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 September 20, 2011 meeting. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the treasurer's reports. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Correspondence regarding the Greene County Hunger Summit was discussed. The summit was held on November 14th and Commissioner Snyder noted that the well attended event was held to discuss poverty and hunger in the county and find solutions through cooperation and partnership. She also noted that the Annual Food Drive sponsored by Consol for the Corner Cupboard Food Bank will be held today at the front of the Courthouse.
- b. Ms. Snider noted that the Pennsylvania Envirothon is seeking Associate Directors to serve on their Board. The meetings are usually held the fourth Tuesday of the month in Centre or Mifflin County. They only require that 3 meetings are attended annually and assistance is given on the day of the event. Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Wentzel both expressed an interest and requested additional information.
- c. Ms. Snider discussed the proposed Oil and Gas Resolution written by PACD and sent to all GCCD Directors via e-mail. The proposal addresses the changes made by DEP regarding the review of Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control Plans specifically for the Oil and Gas Industry. Originally, Conservation Districts reviewed all E&S plans for oil and gas projects, however; DEP determined that a change was needed and now Conservation Districts only review plans associated with intra or interstate transmission lines. PACD is requesting that the reviews, technical assistance and inspections would be given back to the County Conservation Districts.

Mr. Kubasik added that many Conservation Districts were not prepared for the influx of gas related projects, and legislators were receiving complaints regarding inconsistencies. It was noted that it is unlikely that all districts would be able to handle the volume of project reviews and inspections at all of the sites.

VI. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

There were no Requests for Assistance to bring before the Board.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Due to scheduling conflicts, the date of the Annual Awards Luncheon will now be held on December 7th at 11:00 a.m. at the Greene County Career and Technology Center. The regular meeting scheduled for December 20th will be cancelled. Any necessary GCCD business will be conducted prior to the luncheon.
- b. As a follow-up to discussion at last month's meeting, Jim Cowell solicited quotes for the purchase of rental equipment. Mr. Cowell presented the following information: Bill King submitted quotes for an 8' and 10' aerator and for electric broadcast seeders. The quotes for the aerators are for a "pull" type, since others would be heavy to transport. The seeder is manufactured by Herd with four different mounting brackets for use with a truck, four-wheeler or a side-by-side. A quote for the sprayer was not provided, since it was uncertain whether parts could be obtained. Ms. Rush noted that a minimum of a 60 hp tractor is recommended for the heavy seeder while a 50 hp is sufficient for the other. Since transportation would be easier, Mr. Cowell recommended the 8' model. In order to track its usage, an acreage meter could most likely be installed on the equipment.

Mr. Kenney also contacted Southern States regarding the sprayer. Although a tow behind sprayer was discussed, it is uncertain whether it could be ordered and it has operational drawbacks; including instability during operation and the ease of the valve operation. Southern States rents a 3 point hitch unit with the recommendation that renters bring a small trailer for hauling. He had hoped to have the availability and price quote for the meeting, however, he did not. The rental fee is \$50 per day and the renter must purchase the chemicals (the herbicide and cleaning solution) from Southern States. It's very important that the unit be brought back clean. They also require that only brush type herbicides are used (no Roundup).

It was also noted that many of these herbicides do not require that the applicant be certified through the PA Department of Agriculture.

A local source of the herbicide was discussed. Grow Mark and Southern States do carry them and it was thought that perhaps Waynesburg Milling could order it.

No action was taken on this matter until the interest is determined through the survey to be published in the GCCD newsletter.

- c. A donation of \$150 was made to the Canon National Envirothon in 2007. To date, Ms. Rush noted that, \$6,300 was received in contributions from Conservation Districts.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Ms. Snider gave an update on the Farmland Preservation Program (FLP). The next meeting of the FLP Board will be held on November 16th to discuss the second ranked application, a 101 acre parcel containing the homestead, owned by the James F. and Pearl Willis Living Trust. The first application for the 53 acre parcel of the James F. and Pearl Willis Living Trust could not be encumbered due to the ownership issues pertaining to the surface coal rights. Attorney Greg Hook has completed a cursory review of the title for the 101 acre parcel and found it to be clear. County Solicitor, Cheryl Cowen reviewed the title search and indicated that she could sign off on the title.

Approximately \$3,900 remains of the \$5,000 the GCCD allocated to the FLP program; however, additional funding may be needed. Also, the applicant, Mr. Willis, will owe \$2,000 for the appraisal fee which will cover some of the costs associated with the easement. Ms. Snider will contact the GCCD Board members should additional funding be necessary. Since the first parcel of 53 acres has been put on hold until a clear title is available, there may be expenses that are not reimbursable. Mr. Willis will need to show clear title on the 53 acre parcel before expenses related can be recovered. This extra expense is the reason for the possible need for funding from the District. No action was taken on this matter.

- b. ***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to adopt the 2012 Budget (attached). Archie Trader seconded.*** Lisa noted that next year we will distribute, on a quarterly basis, a report outlining the actual funds spent versus the amount budgeted.
- c. ***A motion was made by Pam Snyder to approve the 2012 Objectives (attached). Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)***
- d. An evaluation of the Chapter 102/105 program was conducted by representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on November 8th. Lisa noted that a copy of the report was included with the meeting packets. Mr. Kubasik added that the evaluations are completed every 3-5 years, to ensure that the delegated duties are completed satisfactorily. Some items they review are the administration of the Clean Water Fund, processing NPDES permits, conducting E&S inspections, handling complaints and promoting education and outreach. Mr. Kubasik commended the District for fine job that was done.

- e. ***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to donate \$500 to the Corner Cupboard Food Bank. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).***
- f. A donation of \$150 will be made to the Pennsylvania Envirothon. Since, funding was included in the budget, a vote was not needed.

IX. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports (attached) were either mailed with the meeting packets. Additional comments follow.

Lisa Snider – Discussed at the September 20th meeting and included with the meeting packets was information regarding the proposal by Williams Transco, to construct a new natural gas pipeline. Lindsay is invited to participate in a pre-application meeting scheduled with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) officials in December to discuss the large multi-county project to discuss GCCD's role.

Laurel Rush – The Manure Management Manual is now available. Plans are to conduct ag compliance training in conjunction with the Ombudsman and Washington County possibly in the spring.

Mr. Cowell inquired about the nutrient management certification mentioned in Ms. Rush's staff report. She said that it is a recertification and that she is required to pay for both public and commercial certification.

She will be participating in a Career Day today at Mapletown High School.

Julie Maxwell – She recently attended a meeting regarding the "State of the Mon" in which Bob Ventorini of the PA Fish and Boat Commission participated. He discussed the Macroinvertebrate Study and thanked the GCCD for our \$15,000 contribution for the study. Copies of the written report will be mailed upon completion. She distributed a copy of the PowerPoint presentation which discusses some of the findings of the study.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Last week applications were received for three additional E&S control plans, all accelerated, since her written report. Year-to-date totals received for GCCD E&S review fees is \$115,000. Additionally, approximately \$81,000 was submitted to PA DEP for their disturbed acreage fee.

Bill Wentzel – He conducted an initial inspection of the Dominion Appalachian Project located in Center, Franklin, Jefferson, Morgan and Richhill Townships. He feels that they have done a good job despite the large amount of rain we have experienced. They are closing out the right-of-way for the winter. They have

installed temporary stabilization measures, a water control structure, silt fence, seeding and mulch.

An inspection of the Lamar site in Franklin Township was also completed and a few issues that need to be corrected were found. A final inspection of the Dominion Hub III Project, Center Franklin and Wayne Townships, was found to be in very good order. Five final inspections were completed on logging operations.

Jeremy Kelly – Approximately 3 miles of the National Fuel pipeline located in Richhill Township have been permanently stabilized with temporary stabilization measures installed on about 8-10 miles. He will be conducting another inspection in December with company officials.

On November 9th, Ms. Snider, Ms. Kozlowski and he gave a presentation to the Woodlot Owners Association regarding Best Management Practices on pipeline areas.

X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Chuck Kubasik – The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) along with the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) will sponsor training regarding the newly released Nutrient Management Manual. The meeting for this area will be held on December 9th at the Westmoreland County Conservation District office with lunch provided. For those who are unable to make that meeting, another one will be held in Meadville on December 8th. Mini grants of \$500-\$1,000 will be available to Districts to conduct local training. Formal announcement will be forthcoming.

Chris Hardie – Nine projects were brought before the Planning Commission at their November meeting, which was the most ever. The December meeting will bring eight projects to the board as well as six projects in various stages that could also be ready for that meeting. Year-to-date totals are 450 public notices received, 70 lots splits and subdivisions, and about 200 tax abatements completed.

Laura Smith – An Engineering Field review will be conducted on work completed in Greene County of Friday, November 18th. Due to the wet weather, many projects are still under construction and will extend the work into December. To date, USDA does not have a budget and therefore, do not have field evaluations or ranking forms; however applications are still be accepted. Changes have been made in the administration of the programs and additional information will be reported in the future. Lastly, Ken Kearns, Civil Engineering Technician in the Washington Office, retired in October.

Greg Hopkins – Mr. Hopkins urged caution regarding the proposed Williams Transco project. Ms. Snider assured the Board that the staff is very alert to projects, conducting inspections and contacting company officials. She noted that the addition of our Resource Specialist, Jeremy Kelly, has helped tremendously with the inspections.

Chairman Eisiminger inquired about the Momentum Project. Thus far, nothing has been seen by either the GCCD or GCPC.

XI. The next regular meeting will be **January 17th, 2012.**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. Commissioner Snyder seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer

<u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u>
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on _____, 2012.
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District

