



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES

August 21, 2012

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 were as follows:

Greene County Conservation District Directors and Associate Directors

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/Program Associate.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Chuck Kubasik,-Field Representative, PA DEP; Laura Smith-NRCS; and Chris Hardie- Department of Economic Development.

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Jeremy Kelly-Environmental Program Specialist II; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Zack Basinger-WNV Surveillance Monitor; Ty Basinger, Watershed Specialist; Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer; and Robbie Matesic-Department of Economic Development.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the minutes of the July 17th, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Information was received from the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association regarding the PA Farmland Raptor Project; an education project with goals to reach PA landowners, farmers and other interested persons about raptors

and benefits to having these birds on their property. Informational brochures were distributed. Additional copies of the brochures will be ordered and made available at the Conservation District office.

- b. The Southwest Tri-County Local Work Group will be holding a meeting today, August 21, 2012 at 1:00 p.m., at the USDA Service Center, Meadowlands, PA. The group will evaluate current trends and conditions of the tri-county area's natural resources and goals, and prioritize areas where conservation efforts are most needed. Both Ms. Snider and Ms. Rush will be attending the meeting. Also, an invitation was extended to all board members to attend the meeting.
- c. Information was received from Karl Brown, Executive Secretary of the State Conservation Commission (SCC) concerning the District Director Nomination process. Jeff Marshall, Greene County Chief Clerk, and Cookie Popielarcheck, Greene County Assistant Chief Clerk, have been in contact with our office concerning the current nominating committee list. According to the SCC, November 1, 1012 is the deadline for the nominating organizations to submit nominees to the county for consideration by the Greene County Commissioners. A list of the current nominating organizations was distributed to Board members for review and supplied to Mr. Marshall and Ms. Popielarcheck.

Chairman Eisiminger's term is to expire on December 31, 2012. He has indicated that he is interested in serving another 4-year term as a Farmer Director. Also, a Public Director's position remains vacant due to the resignation last year of Theresa Matscherz.

- d. After the agenda was prepared, information regarding the fiscal year 2012-2013 funding allocations through the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program was received. This program provides 50% cost share for district managers, first technicians as well as a general administrative assistance allocation. Funding for this period is as follows.
 - District Manager - \$25,422.18
 - First Technician – \$16,500.00
 - Administrative Assistance - \$300.00
- e. At this time, Ms. Snider announced that our E&S Technician, Lindsay Kozlowski, gave birth to a 7 lb. 4 oz. baby girl on August 20th. Mother and baby are at home and doing well.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Ms. Snider introduced our new Watershed Specialist, Ty Basinger, who started the position on August 13th. Mr. Basinger served as an intern and conducted monitoring for the West Nile Virus Program in 2010. He has been familiarizing himself with the Whiteley Creek Watershed Protection Grant and the Mon River Watershed Assessment. Chairman Eisiminger and Ms. Snider welcomed Mr. Basinger.

Regarding another personnel matter, Intern Zack Basinger will be returning to college and his last day will be August 23rd, 2012. Chairman Eisiminger and Ms. Snider thanked him for his service. Mr. Basinger thanked everyone for the opportunity.

- b. **Farmland Preservation – James F. & Pearl Willis Living Trust Easement**
The Greene County Farmland Preservation (GCFLP) Board continues to wait for the PA Department of Treasury to issue the easement checks for the James F. & Pearl Willis Living Trust Easement. Once the checks are received, a closing can then be scheduled for the easement. The Bureau of Farmland Preservation did request additional information, a death certificate for Mrs. Willis, who had passed away during the easement process.

Work continues on two potential easements for the 2012 year, Charles Harry, Morgan Township; and Harley and Janet Gapen, Greene Township.

Ms. Snider was pleased to note that a total of 6 applications were received for agricultural easements for consideration for this application period.

- c. **USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment**
Development of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE) Mon River Watershed Assessment is ongoing. Activities that have transpired from last month are as follows.
 - The proposal submitted by Paul Ziemkiewicz of the West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI), has been accepted by the USACE and is under a final review.
 - The agreement between Greene County and USACE has been reviewed by both Greene County and USACE Division and submitted to the DC Headquarters for review.
 - The project will begin once an agreement is executed with the USACE and Greene County.

d. **Vehicle Purchase**

The Greene County Department of Buildings and Grounds/Bridges and Facilities Maintenance (Maintenance) has ordered the vehicle. As of August 9th, Maintenance could not give a delivery date. It has been sent for a top and should be ready for delivery soon.

e. **Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Stream Rehabilitation Growing Greener (GG) Grant**

Since our meeting on July 17th, 2012, the staff has received the Taylor design and cost estimate package from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) Technical Assistance Grant Engineer. Ms. Rush met with Mr. Taylor and Morgan Township to review the cost of the project on August 10th. Both Mr. Taylor and Morgan Twp. are committed to completing this project.

GCCD received the Eisiminger cost estimate and reviewed it with him. He is committed to this project. Eric Robertson, PACD TAG Engineer, has indicated that we should have a design by the end of August.

GCCD staff has updated the scope of work and the budget to include these new projects.

Ms. Rush noted that she did make contact with David Lynch, the original grant recipient. Mr. Lynch apologized, and indicated that he would not be able to complete the work.

f. **Act 13, the Natural Gas Impact Fee**

On July 16th, 2012, the Commonwealth Court declared the zoning portion of Act 13 unconstitutional. The decision was immediately appealed.

Commissioner Trader noted that this only applies to the zoning portion and should not affect the release of the funds which are expected in December. The projected funding is estimated to be: \$3.3 million to the county, \$5.8 million to the municipalities, and we anticipate \$16,000 for the conservation districts.

g. **Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Program**

Both Cumberland and Greene Townships have accepted and approved applications for additional acreage to be added to their existing Agricultural Security Areas (ASA's) within their respective townships. Those applicants are Richard Phillips (30.67 acres) and Tom Willis (31.45 acres), Cumberland Township and Harley and Janet Gapen (36.78 acres), Greene Township. All additions have been recorded by each municipality at the Greene County Register and Records Office.

GCCD staff has received several more applications from Franklin Township landowners to complete the soils inventory. These applications should give Franklin Township the required acreage to open an ASA.

Also, GCCD staff has received applications from two landowners in Jefferson Township to complete the soils inventory. Jefferson and Franklin Townships will be creating new ASA's. The inclusion of these new areas will bring our total townships with ASA's to 8.

h. Whiteley Creek Streambank Protection GG Grant

Work continues to get this project on the ground. Logs have been located for the project on Woods Run near the Gamelands #223 Food and Cover Headquarters located on Garards Fort Road on a Chevron well-pad site. Chevron has donated and hauled the logs to the project site. Mepco is currently working on the site upstream near where we will be working. Mepco's contractor, Gleim Environmental, has moved the logs closer to the sites and their clearing of the site should provide 6-10 root wads for this project.

The bridge plans have been submitted to Widmer Engineering for review and approval for hauling limits. Work is taking place with Widmer Engineering to prepare a bid package, which should be completed this week. Since the project must be bid, they are concerned that the budget will be insufficient to cover costs of installation.

Ms. Snider has also been working with PA DEP's Grant Advisor, Rita Coleman to revise all of the necessary paperwork.

She spoke to Mark Saucer of the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and he suggested that we consider transferring the grant and all of the responsibilities to the Western PA Conservancy (WPC). WPC has a work crew to complete these types of projects, at possibly a lower cost, which may allow the installation of 4 to 5 structures instead of 3.

Ms. Snider is working on the possibility to transfer the grant and all responsibilities to WPC. Any information she receives will be forwarded to Board members and will be discussed at the next GCCD meeting.

i. West Nile Virus (WNV) – Center Township

Two WNV positive sample results were from Rogersville, Center Township, on July 3rd and July 24th. Since that time, no other positive test results from the same site have been received and GCCD staff continues to monitor the situation. PA DEP, Director of West Nile Virus Program, Ed Farrell, has

been to the site and treated areas susceptible to mosquitoes. Mr. Farrell plans no treatment at this time. If additional positives are received, treatment may be necessary.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request for Assistance
Julia S. Kerr – 300 acres – Cumberland Township

The landowner is requesting assistance with a livestock watering facility for their beef operation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Snyder to accept this Request for Assistance. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

- b. **Nutrient and Manure Management Program Level 2 Delegation Agreement**

- On July 10, 2012 the State Conservation Commission approved the new 5 year delegation agreement, which now includes the Clean Streams Law, Chapter 91 Manure Management Program and Act 38 Nutrient Management Program duties.
- Greene County has been funded at \$14,000 or a ¼ grant. This funding is from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to accept the Nutrient and Manure Management Program Level 2 Delegation Agreement. Commissioner Snyder seconded. (Motion Passed)

- c. **Project Grass Conference Registration – \$95.00**

The conference will be held on October 11th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 12th from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Kovalchick Complex, Indiana, PA.

On a motion by Commissioner Snyder, approval was granted to Laurel Rush to attend the conference including the expenditure of a hotel fee for a one night stay. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

- d. **Model CD Agricultural Complaint Response Policy**

This information was mailed to Board members for review. While the PA DEP does not expect all Conservation Districts to adopt this policy verbatim; it does encourage all districts to consider adopting a similar or consistent policy.

This policy specifically addresses the need to document the findings of a complaint investigation and the need to have a formal mechanism to refer non-compliance to the PA DEP.

Ms. Snider requested Chairman Eisiminger to consider that the Agricultural Committee (J. Cowell, J. Kenney & G. Hopkins) meet to review the document and develop a policy for consideration at next GCCD meeting on September 18th.

Chairman Eisiminger agreed and requested the committee to assist.

e. Aleppo Township Dirt and Gravel Road (DGR) 2011 Contract-Guthrie Road

Aleppo Township has completed their DGR project on Guthrie Road, TR 435. The project costs were reviewed by District Staff and the Township Supervisors. It was discovered that the costs of the project exceeded the original contract. The original contract was approved, with a 10% increase, at last month's GCCD meeting totaling \$4,176.48. However, the actual costs incurred by the township for the project were \$7,032.68.

The budget shortfall was a result of a low estimate for the stone and the fact that a contractor had to be hired to complete the installation of the large pipe for the project.

Since the increase exceeds the allowable 10% increase, a new contract will need to be written per DGR requirements, if the board chooses to increase the funding.

Ms. Snider reviewed the DGR funding summary as follows:

1. Total Committed Funds \$114,337.98
2. 2012 Funds Committed plus 10% \$57,033.13
3. 2011 Funds Committed plus 10% \$48,127.35
4. Prior 2011 Commitment \$5,177.50
5. Truck Commitment \$4,000.00
6. Checking account total \$93,360.08
7. PA DEP Replenishment Request pending \$39,351.00
8. 2012-2013 Allocation not received \$67,079.00
9. Total Available funds remaining \$85,452.10

Ms. Snider noted that the DGR Quality Assurance Board has reviewed the project and recommends that the GCCD Directors approve the funding increase and new contract.

A motion was made by Commissioner Snyder for a new contract with Aleppo Township to reflect the cost over runs on the Guthrie Road Project. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

f. Watershed Specialist – Delaware County – Donation Request

It has been brought to our attention, by PACD staff, that Brian Vadino, Watershed Specialist from Delaware County is facing a difficult situation. Brian and his family lost their home due to a fire last month. PACD is requesting donations for the family. If board members or staff would like to make a personal donation, staff will collect and send to the family.

g. 2012 Annual Awards Banquet

A suggestion was made to hold this year's event at Hunting Hills, a wildlife area owned and operated by Roy Sisler. The facility is available on October 15th and 16th. In addition to lunch and the awards presentation, a tour of the facility could also be arranged. Although no firm price was given, it was estimated to be approximately \$15 per person. After discussion, the board agreed to pursue this option. Additional information, prices, etc. will be forwarded to board members for review prior to our next meeting.

VIII. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were mailed with the meeting packets. Additional comments follow.

Lisa Snider – Included in the meeting packets, was an Executive Order signed by Governor Corbett on July 24, 2012, requiring DEP to implement the Permit Guarantee Program. This order will most likely affect GCCD, as we process permits through the 102/105 Delegation Agreement with PA DEP. Additional information will be distributed to the GCCD when it becomes available.

Laurel Rush – A \$500 scholarship was presented to Riley Biddle, a graduate of Carmichaels High School, who will be attending WVU this fall to study agriculture. Scholarships are presented to members of the winning Envirothon team and are made possible through an annual donation from Alpha Natural Resources.

At the May 15th, 2012, GCCD meeting, the Board approved a donation of \$500 to Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful, Buy Local Committee for their marketing campaign. Marketing tools have been purchased including 500 market bags, 1,000 logo pins, and 5,000 book marks. These items are to be distributed to merchants to include with merchandise purchases. The total marketing budget is \$2,000 with approximately \$1,245 being spent to date.

The early bird deadline to register for the Project Grass Conference is September 7th. Anyone interested in attending should do as soon as possible. Also, conference volunteers are needed.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has designated Greene County eligible for emergency loans for an incident period of severe storms and straight lined winds that occurred from June 29th through July 8th, 2012. Anyone that had damage during that period should contact the FSA office.

Robbie Matesic – She noted that Greene County is invited to numerous energy conferences where they have learned that a huge effort is being put forth to explore ways to use the downstream side of the Marcellus Shale, including the dry gas. There is a strong push to convert fleets and vehicles to use this dry gas.

On August 20, 2012, Greene County hosted a group of approximately 20 people from the Allegheny Conference and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance. Although the recent activity in gas drilling prompted the visit and many businesses in Greene County have addressed the opportunity of the Marcellus Shale industry, mining is still the basic driver of our economy. One of the visits was with Alpha Natural Resources, where they discussed the treatment of water discharges and the evolving requirements of the regulatory agencies. The Allegheny Conference offered their assistance in the advocacy of these matters.

At this time, Mr. Cowell discussed the procedures for the review and the distribution of the GCCD meeting minutes.

Jeremy Kelly – He has been busy assisting individuals with General Permit applications.

Ms. Snider noted that the District has a request to review the Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control Plan for the rehabilitation of Duke Lake at Ryerson Station State Park. This plan will accompany any permitting needed for the dam rehabilitation work. Plans call for dredging and replacement of the dam's breastwork.

Ty Basinger - He is becoming familiar with his new position. Reviewing the design, etc. for the Whiteley Creek Watershed Protection Project.

Zack Basinger – Mosquito samples taken on July 3rd and July 24th, 2012 in Rogersville have tested positive for the West Nile Virus. He was instructed by Ed Farrell of DEP to set 5 traps within ½ mile radius of the sewage treatment plant. The landowners were contacted for permission prior to trapping in the

area. The larvicide, BTI, was applied on an old tire pile, in the sewage treatment plants holding tanks, and in a pond behind the municipal building. Following the application, the number of mosquitoes have dropped significantly and no additional positives have been detected. Zack has continued to monitor the area, setting two traps a week as requested by PA DEP staff to monitor the area.

Zack will be returning to college next week and his internship with GCCD will end. Chairman Eisiminger thanked him for his service and wished him good luck in future endeavors.

Bill Wentzel - He has been working with 6 loggers in developing and implementing E&S controls.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Chris Hardie – Chris noted that last month’s meeting of the Greene County Planning Commission was canceled. Currently, the Planning Commission is working on 3 pending projects, 2 in the final stage and 1 in the preliminary stage. About 5 new projects will be brought before the Commission in the coming months. Lot splits, tax abatements, and public notices continue.

As a member of Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful, he thanked GCCD for their donation toward the Buy Local Campaign.

Laura Smith – With the assistance of NRCS, the following practices have been installed in Greene County this fiscal year.

- 10,157’ of fence
- 43 acres of prescribed grazing
- 40 acres of nutrient management
- 1 acre of riparian forest buffer
- 7 spring developments & troughs
- 6 acres of tree planting
- 97 acres of upland wildlife habitat management
- 19 acres of forest stand improvement
- 4 acres of conservation cover

Chuck Kubasik – Pennsylvania hosted the National Envirothon on July 22nd - 27th, 2012 at Susquehanna University in Snyder County. It was also PA’s 25th anniversary of being involved with the Envirothon. 45 states and 9 Canadian Provinces were represented at the event with the following order of finish.

- 1st – Missouri
- 2nd – Ontario
- 3rd - North Carolina
- 4th – New York

5th – Ohio

Pennsylvania's team from Luzerne County finished 15th and qualified for some prizes, etc. The next national competition will be held in Montana.

DEP's Chapter 102/NPDES annual training will be held October 23rd-25th, 2012 at the Ramada Inn, State College, PA.

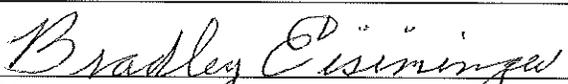
DEP's Regional Roundtable Meeting will be held on November 2nd, 2012 in Westmoreland County.

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Rice expressed his concern regarding our supply of fresh water.

IX. The next regular meeting will be September 18, 2012.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

<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 <u>9/18</u> , 2012.	
	
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District	
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District	