

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
February 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 are as follows:

Greene County Conservation District Directors and Associate Directors

Bradley Eisiminger-Chairman; Archie Trader-Vice Chairman; Pam Snyder-Commissioner Representative; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Jim Kenney-Director; Greg Hopkins-Associate Director; Bill Wentzel-Associate Director/Program Associate.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Kevin Paul - 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.

II. REORGANIZATION

- a. Commissioner Snyder administered the Oath of Office to re-appointed director Jim Kenney. Mr. Kenney was re-appointed by the Greene County Commissioners to serve a four year term, January, 2012 through December, 2015.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Snider noted that a correction was made to the January 24, 2012 meeting minutes that were mailed to directors. Omitted from Section II,

Reorganization, Election of Officers, was the motion for Secretary and Treasurer. ***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2012 meeting with the correction. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).***

V. TREASURER'S REPORTS

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the treasurer's reports with the following addition. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

Ck 985 – Scotty's Pizza – District Meeting Lunch – Approximately \$55.00

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Eric Davis, Waterways Conservation Officer, PA Fish and Boat Commission, will be on military leave until October. His absence will affect his participation on the Quality Assurance Board of the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program. The Waterways Conservation Officer Scott Opfer, Fayette County, will participate in the Greene County Envirothon and be available for complaints, etc.
- b. A donation of \$3,000 was received from Alpha Natural Resources. \$2,500 was donated for the Continuing Education Scholarship for the 2012 Greene County Envirothon winners and \$500 for the sponsorship of a student to the 2012 Penn State's Conservation Leadership School.

VII. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

There were no Requests for Assistance to bring before the Board. However, Ms. Rush noted that three applications were received from individuals interested in joining Agricultural Security Areas (ASA's); Harley Gapen of Greene Township, Tom Willis of Cumberland and Jefferson Townships and Richard Phillips of Cumberland Township.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Ms. Snider gave an update on the Farmland Preservation Program. The encumbrance package for the 101 acre parcel of the James F. and Pearl Willis Living Trust was submitted to the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Board for consideration. The Farmland Preservation Board is awaiting their response.

Ms. Snider noted that a funding increase has been approved for Greene County's Farmland Preservation Program. The 2012 funding levels will be

\$174,345 in state funds and \$8,330 in Greene County certified funds for a total of \$182,675.

- b. Work continues with the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a watershed assessment of the Monongahela River Basin. Ms. Matesic noted that our comments, regarding the initial assessment, have been submitted to the Corps and they hope to begin the final assessment in June. Also, Greene County has made a commitment to bring in partners who were not part of the initial assessment process.

The assessment will cover 18 counties in three states; Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Ms. Matesic noted that we would work with David Craft, GIS Coordinator, to develop a map to show the area the assessment will include.

Commissioner Trader requested that a summary and information for any agenda item requiring board action be included in the meeting packet sent to the directors prior to the meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Ms. Snider contacted Ed Farrell, West Nile Virus Coordinator, PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), regarding program funding. Due to ongoing funding reductions, and because there were no cases of WNV reported in humans in the area, he has indicated that Greene County will not receive funding for the 2012 program.

Currently, there is a balance of \$16,364.11 in the West Nile Virus Checking Account. Since no additional funding will be forthcoming from DEP, and because the funds are all owed to the GCCD's General Fund, a separate checking account is no longer needed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Snyder to close the West Nile Virus account and transfer the funds to the General Fund Account at First Federal. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

The board expressed concern regarding the elimination of the program. Ms. Snider informed them that monitoring will continue, but will be performed by West Nile Virus staff from the Pittsburgh Office. The Board feels that the program equipment should be retained by the GCCD.

- b. The Chapter 102 "Boot Camp" will be held in two sessions; March 26th thru 30th and April 3rd thru 5th at Fort Indiantown Gap. Ms. Snider feels that it would be beneficial to have Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Kelly attend both sessions

and is requesting approval because this will require both to be absent from the office for eight days.

A motion was made Jim Kenney to grant approval to both staff members to attend both sessions. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).

- c. At the January 24th meeting, approval was granted for Ms. Snider to rewrite the Teleconference Policy adopted by the State Conservation Commission specifically for GCCD. It has been completed and was included the meeting packets for review. A copy is attached.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the GCCD Teleconference Policy (attached). Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

- d. On February 14th, 2012, Governor Corbett signed into law H.B. 1950, Act 13. The House of Representatives Democratic Committee analysis of House Bill 1950, prepared by Ali Fisher, Legal Counsel to the Minority Leader, the Gas Well Impact Fee legislation, was included in the meeting packets. A copy of the entire Bill, a large document, is available for review. Ms. Snider highlighted the following items pertaining to Conservation Districts:
 - County Conservation Districts will receive a portion of the impact fees collected.
 - Half of the funding will go directly to the 66 County Conservation Districts.
 - The remaining funds will be distributed by the State Conservation Commission according to Conservation District Law through the Conservation Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP).

The allocations will be as follows:

- 2011 - \$2.5 million
- 2012 - \$5 million
- 2013 and beyond - \$7.5 million per year

This should ensure dedicated funding to Conservation Districts for many years.

Commissioner Snyder noted that the County Commissioners have 60 days to adopt the ordinance that allows counties to; however, the ordinance must be advertised before action can be taken. She also said that impact fees from Act 13 by the PA PUC to the counties, municipalities, conservation districts, etc. All municipalities will be required to have existing ordinances reviewed by the Public Utility Commission (PUC). If the county chooses to not adopt the ordinance, fifty percent of the municipalities can override the county's decision. A meeting with all local elected officials will be scheduled.

- e. The Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Training for the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program will be held March 21st and 22nd at the Greene County Fairgrounds. To date, approximately 18 individuals are registered to attend. The staff will contact all municipalities who have not registered by the first week of March. Around that same time period, information regarding the next round of applications will be mailed. As she did last year, Ms. Snider plans to conduct meetings with each township to discuss their needs and offer assistance.

Currently, Ms. Snider has been working with Dave Creamer of the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads on the Creek Road Project. This large project in Monongahela Township should be underway soon.

- f. In response to Chapter 102 regulation update that occurred in 2011 the Agriculture Compliance Strategy Plan Development and Implementation Committee comprised of Conservation Districts, PA Dept. of Agriculture, PA State Conservation Commission and PA DEP representatives developed a draft Agriculture Compliance Policy. This policy was developed mainly for handling complaints to meet EPA requirements imposed on PA DEP for the Chesapeake Bay Region. This policy is only in draft form and is to be reviewed by all County Conservation Districts.

Ms. Rush mailed a draft copy of the complaint driven Agricultural Compliance Policy to the Agricultural Committee and it was also included with the meeting packets. Comments are being sought regarding the draft policy for complaint driven compliance issues. She discussed the comments made by the GCCD Agricultural Committee as follows:

- The policy requires that a complaint be investigated within one business day.
- The committee noted that complaints regarding erosion and sedimentation (E&S) are offered a longer period of investigation.
- The policy would cover all farms, regardless of size. The committee's concern was the increased workload.
- Lastly, the "three strikes" rule gives individuals a lot of time to come into compliance before action is taken.

Two other policies are planned for plan development compliance and plan implementation compliance. She requested additional comments for inclusion in a written response.

- g. In conjunction with Washington County Conservation District and the Ombudsman Program, a grant was obtained to conduct a workshop for interested residents of both counties to discuss agricultural law changes regarding the 102 program and the manure management manual. The workshop will be held on Saturday, May 12th, 2012 at the Amity Fire Hall. Since the grant does not cover food, Washington County Conservation

District has committed \$250. An additional \$250 will be needed from GCCD, which is included in our budget for events and workshops. A fee of \$5.00 will be charged for the workshop.

X. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

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

Laurel Rush – Due to a scheduling conflict, the date of the 2012 Envirothon has been changed and will be held on May 11th at Ryerson Station State Park. Mr. Cowell and Ms. Rush will both be serving on the Project Grass Executive Committee. She thanked Mr. Cowell for his service.

Lindsay Kozlowski – She and Mr. Kelly, along with representatives from EQT and the Army Corps, recently conducted an inspection of the Sunrise Pipeline Project. Eight stream crossings were visited and most were found to be satisfactory. Problems with the others were addressed onsite.

Jeremy Kelly – Adding to Lindsay's report above, Mr. Kelly noted that it was raining the day of the inspection with EQT representatives and ACOE. This helped to show any failure of Best Management Practices (BMP's) at the stream crossings. The entire project has more than 200 active stream crossings. About 189 of those are both road or equipment crossings and 11 involve wetlands. Excessive rain has delayed the project which was originally expected to be completed in March.

He had previously visited 37 crossings on the project with Ms. Snider, Mr. Wentzel and Ms. Kozlowski. The problems identified at that time are being corrected.

Mr. Kenney noted that it would be helpful for the district to be notified, via e-mail, of current work locations.

Bill Wentzel – He has been working with three loggers to resolve erosion and sedimentation (E&S) issues. Also, he has been working with Mike Younken of M&J Erosion to resolve issues at the Lamar Site in Franklin Township. A final inspection of the Texas Eastern Pipeline was recently completed. For the most part, the work area was found to be satisfactory with the exception of an area on the Joe Simatic property. Work to correct this problem will be completed in the spring.

Robbie Matesic - Dana Mining and MEPCO, in conjunction with the Greene County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, have proposed to stock fish in Dunkard Creek. The PA Fish and Boat Commission have requested that the

stocking be delayed until a survey of fish and habitat can be completed. They hope that the stocking can be done in the fall.

XI. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Ms. Snider noted that Jon Stevens of the Observer-Reporter is willing to publish articles for GCCD. Plans are to publish a "Conservation Corner" where timely information such as Agricultural Security Areas, Farmland Preservation, the lime spreader, etc. can be published.

An article regarding Agricultural Security Areas and Farmland Preservation is planned for the March edition of the Greene Saver. Ms. Rush added that an article promoting the agricultural workshop is planned for the April issue.

Also, a mailing list is being compiled from "Clean and Greene" participants and cooperators. Mr. Paul suggested social networking.

Chairman Eisiminger briefly discussed the excessive rain and its negative impact on farming operations. Mr. Cowell noted the advantages for a farmer to construct a heavy use area for feeding stock in the wet weather.

XII. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Kevin Paul - Ranking continues on Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications. The majority of the funding for the program is through the National Office of Air Quality.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to donate \$500 to the Greene County Career and Technology Center's Culinary Arts Department for the purchase of a composter. Commissioner Snider seconded. (Motion Passed).

Mr. Cowell will obtain an invoice from Dan Wagner, Culinary Arts Teacher, for presentation at the March 20th meeting of GCCD.

XIII. The next regular meeting will be **March 20, 2012.**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 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 _____, 2012.

Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District