

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
July 17, 2012**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bradley Eisiminger at 10:05 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; Jim Kenney-Director; and Bill Wentzel-Associate Director/Program Associate.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Chuck Kubasik,-Field Representative, PA DEP; Russ Gibbs, DCNR, Bureau of Forestry; and Chris Hardie- Department of Economic Development.

Staff

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

In order to have time for review, Mr. Cowell requested that the meeting packets be mailed earlier, possibly a week before a scheduled meeting. Commissioner Trader agreed.

A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the minutes of the June 19th, 2012 meeting. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

V. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to bring before the board.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Farmland Preservation – James F. & Pearl Willis Living Trust Easement – (Update from last meeting)** – Ms. Rush noted that the Greene County Farmland Preservation (GCFLP) Board is currently waiting for the PA Department of Treasury to issue the checks for the James F. & Pearl Willis Living Trust Easement. Once the PA Department of Treasury issues the checks and they are received by GCFLP then a closing can be scheduled for the easement.

- b. **USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment- (Update from last meeting)**

Development of the USACE Mon River Watershed Assessment is ongoing. Activities that have transpired from last month are as follows. West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI) Director, Paul Ziemkiewicz, PhD has submitted his proposal to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). Discussions need to take place to review the proposal.

- c. **Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Stream Rehabilitation Growing Greener (GG) Grant (Update from last meeting)**

As discussed at last month's GCCD Board of Directors meeting, the Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Stream Rehabilitation was in need of additional projects to utilize the remaining funds that are available due to two landowners that withdrew. They had been qualified to complete projects under this current grant and have been reviewed by the grant advisor, Rita Coleman, PA DEP. The two landowners are Gary Taylor of Morgan Township and Bradley Eisiminger (GCCD Board of Directors, Chair) of Whiteley Township. Mr. Taylor is seeking assistance with streambank stabilization along Ten Mile Creek and Mr. Eisiminger is requesting assistance with stormwater runoff issues associated with his barnyard area.

Ms. Rush explained that GCCD has received the cost estimate package for both the Gary Taylor, Morgan Township streambank stabilization project and the Bradley Eisiminger barnyard area. She is working to schedule meetings with Mr. Taylor and the Morgan Township Supervisors, who is partnering on the project, and Mr. Eisiminger to review the cost to determine the interest level and commitment. GCCD staff needs to confirm each landowner's willingness/ability to complete these projects by the June 2013 deadline and proceed accordingly.

A design package is to follow shortly for Mr. Eisiminger's project. PACD's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Engineer will provide design packages for each project. Mr. Taylor's design package was received with the cost estimate.

One of the original grant recipients, David Lynch, could not complete the work under the original grant deadline and decided not to participate. Since that time, a grant extension was authorized by PA DEP GG through June

2013. Mr. Lynch was recently contacted to determine if he would be able to complete the project with the new deadline that is in place. To date, staff has not received his decision.

d. **Act 13, the Natural Gas Impact Fee (Update from last meeting)**

Ms. Snider reviewed the following information discussed at the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD)/State Conservation Commission (SCC) Joint Annual Conference which she attended July 9th-11th. The SCC is currently preparing to distribute the first-half of the 2011 Impact Fee funds as early as December 2012. These funds will be half of the 2011 allotment and county conservation districts will receive an equal distribution that can be utilized in accordance with the Conservation District Law.

The SCC and the Conservation District Manager's Advisory Committee (CDMAC), comprised of Conservation District Managers, are working on how the second half of the funding will be distributed to county conservation districts through possibly the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program and in accordance with Conservation District Law.

This information was also included in the meeting packets for review and comments. Any comments can be sent to the SCC, PACD, and the CDMAC.

Mr. Kubasik reviewed the allocations for the first half of the funding for each Conservation District as follows.

2011 - \$18,000.00
2012 - \$38,000.00
2013 - \$57,000.00

Although it has not yet been determined, funding for the second-half will most likely be used for the CDFAP for salaries and benefits of District Managers, Technicians and Administrative Assistance.

In accordance with the Natural Gas Impact Fee, these funds will be collected for a 15 year period. Ms. Snider noted that this was the biggest concern discussed by the SCC and the CDMAC. Both the SCC and CDMAC expressed concern that the Marcellus Shale Impact Fees will be used to offset cuts to current funding streams, and the long-term implications of funding for conservation districts.

e. **Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Program (Update from last meeting)**

Currently, Cumberland and Greene Townships are adding parcels to their Agricultural Security Areas (ASA's). Ms. Rush noted that Cumberland Township has approved the Richard Phillips and Thomas Willis ASA applications. Both ASA's have not been recorded to date. Greene Township has scheduled the public hearing for the second week of August for the Gapen ASA. Another landowner, from Franklin Township, has

expressed an interest in forming an ASA and it is quite possible that the township may now have the minimum 250 acres to create an ASA.

f. **Vehicle Purchase (Update from last meeting)**

At the June 19th, 2012 meeting, the Board approved the purchase of a new Chevrolet Silverado through the Maintenance Department by use of the municipal “piggy-back” system. Ms. Snider noted that the Greene County Maintenance Department has ordered the vehicle and it could possibly take up to 4-6 weeks for delivery.

g. **CDFAP Application Funding Application for Manager and First Technician F.Y. 2012-2013 (Update from last meeting)**

At the June 19th, 2012 meeting, the Board approved the submission of the Conservation District Fund Program (CDFAP) Application for fiscal year 2012-2013.

At the recent PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference, the maximum funding levels for FY12/13 were set at the following:

Manager- \$27,000.00
First Technician- \$16,500.00
Second Technician - \$0.00
Administrative Assistance- \$300.00
Nutrient Management- \$14,000.00

Ms. Snider noted that the funding for the Nutrient Management Program was brought back to the original levels from 2007; however, the Nutrient Management Delegation Agreement was revised to include additional requirements and duties for the Manure Management program. This includes education activities and reporting requirements which are very similar to what the District currently does for Act 38.

h. **Conservation Leadership School Scholarship – Floretta Chambers (Update from last meeting)**

At the June 19th meeting, the Board awarded the Conservation Leadership School (CLS) Scholarship to Floretta Chambers. Due to a family emergency, Miss Chambers will be unable to attend this year’s event. Mr. Mike Powell, Director of the Penn State University’s CLS, was contacted and GCCD’s check of \$495 will be returned for use next year. Alpha Natural Resources, the sponsoring organization will be made aware of the situation.

It was noted that in the future, more than one applicant should be obtained to avoid this problem.

i. **PACD Proposed By-Law Resolutions (Update from last meeting)**

At the June 19th GCCD Board of Directors meeting, PACD’s proposed By-Law Resolutions were discussed. Ms. Snider noted that PACD voted to approve all of the proposed By-Law changes and Resolutions that were presented at the district meeting. The approved amendments are.

- PACD resolution on DEP's model Agriculture Compliance Policy.
- PACD By-Law Amendment – Regional Director eligibility and amendment process.

Regarding the Model Agricultural Compliance Policy, all comments received from County Conservation Districts were incorporated. Ms. Snider learned at the meeting, that PA DEP needs consistent documentation from each participating county conservation district in the event agricultural complaints lead to non-compliance and a referral is submitted to Regional PA DEP offices for compliance enforcement.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request for Assistance

John M. Stewart – 45 acres – Center & Franklin Townships

A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve this Request for Assistance. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

b. John M. Stewart – Mini Grant Application

Mr. Stewart is requesting \$1,000.00 toward a watering facility for his cattle operation. To date, GCCD has only awarded 2 mini-grants in 2012. GCCD allows up to 5 grant awards per year.

Ms. Rush noted that Mr. Stewart does not have fencing in the area of the proposed water facility but is in the process of having it installed.

Since the proposed area has no fencing, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to table action on this mini-grant. Jim Cowell seconded. (Action Tabled).

c. Dirt & Gravel Road (DGR) Program – Final Payments – Aleppo, Morgan, Washington & Wayne Townships

Aleppo Township has completed both the Guthrie and Morford Road Dirt and Gravel Road (DGR) projects that were awarded in 2011. Both projects have cost over-runs associated with the projects. The extra costs associated with the projects are due to pipe and stone price increases.

The Dirt and Gravel Road Program allows a 10% increase to each contract awarded before a new contract would need to be approved. Aleppo Township is requesting a 10% increase to each of their contracts. The original contract for the Guthrie Road Project totaled \$3,796.80 and a 10% increase would be \$379.68 for a total of \$4,176.48. The Morford Road Project contract totaled \$6,875.35 and a 10% increase would be \$687.53 for a total project cost of \$7,262.88.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve a 10% increase for both the Guthrie and Morford Road Projects. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)

Wayne Township is currently working on closing out their Tustin Run Road Project. The project has been inspected by the Quality Assurance Board (QAB) and approved for payment once invoices are received for the project. Washington Township is currently working on closing out their Gray Run Project.

An inspection has been completed by the QAB and approved for final payment. Washington Township too will need to supply invoices for the project.

Morgan Township has recently informed the office that they have completed most of the Beagle Club Road DGR Project and may need a project increase as well. This will be brought before the board when the township makes the request.

d. **GCCD Fair Display – Promotion of Lime Spreader**

After discussion concerning the upcoming Greene County Fair, the staff requested that the board consider two possible raffles to increase public outreach.

The first raffle could be for one free lime spreader rental (subject to proof of insurance) if the participant completes a questionnaire. The winner of this raffle would be determined the last day of the Greene County Fair at 7 p.m. by a drawing.

The second raffle could be for a ticket to the Project Grass Annual Conference October 11th and 12th at the Kovalchick Center in Indiana, PA. As a disclaimer, the participant would be responsible for travel costs and hotel expenses. Food and conference materials will be provided by the registration. To qualify for the second raffle, the participant would be required to be an active or retired farmer that is either a District Cooperator or makes application to become a District Cooperator. This raffle will be drawn at the September GCCD meeting to allow increased outreach. 2012 Envirothon T-shirts will be randomly awarded by ticket drawing at the fair, no requirements will be made for the t-shirts only name and address will be requested.

With the survey and raffles, it would be necessary to man the display during the late afternoons and evenings Monday through Saturday, resulting in possible staff overtime or flexing of time.

Commissioner Trader noted that Thursday, August 9th, is Senior Citizens Day at the fair and we may want staff there earlier that day.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve our participation in the fair as discussed, with the survey, raffles, and staff members present at the display etc. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

The purchase of a boomless herbicide sprayer to rent has been discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Kenney suggested that we also display his sprayer at the upcoming fair and the Board agreed to do so. It was noted that the survey that will be distributed includes questions about a sprayer.

The possibility of purchasing a tent for next year's fair was then discussed. ***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to rent a tent for this year's fair display. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).***

Ms. Snider indicated that there is funding budgeted for this purpose.

e. **Greene County Farmland Preservation Board Checking Account (Action-Information mailed)**

The Greene County Farmland Preservation Board is requesting that the remainder of funds loaned to the FLP Board by GCCD in January 2010 be transferred to the FLP checking account. The balance of those funds totals \$3,172.89.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to transfer the \$3,172.89 to the Farmland Preservation Board Checking Account. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).

f. **Greene County Tourist Promotion Agency (GCTPA) – Visitors Guide – Advertisement**

GCCD staff participates in the Agritourism program of the GCTPA and the District has never paid membership dues. Dues for an organization are \$25.00 and were not included in 2012 budget.

A motion was made by Jim Kenney to become a member of the GCTPA by paying the \$25 membership fee. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

g. **Microsoft Excel Training**

Fred Pryor Seminars will be sponsoring Microsoft Excel training on August 13th and 14th at Morgantown, WV. The cost to attend both sessions is \$128.00 per person. Becky Salosky would like to attend this training with

possibly 1 other staff member. Ms. Salosky's job requires Excel use and a refresher course is needed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the attendance of two people to the Excel Training. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

h. Whiteley Creek Streambank Protection GG Grant

This project was discussed by Julie Maxwell, former Watershed Specialist, at the last meeting, June 19th, 2012, and also at previous meetings. GCCD is eligible to receive a Growing Greener Grant to conduct streambank stabilization in Whiteley Creek.

Logs necessary to complete the project have been located on Woods Run near the Gamelands #223 Food and Cover Headquarters on a Chevron well-pad site. Chevron is interested in donating the logs and large stones for the project. The project is in urgent need of assistance to move the logs to the site from the well pad which is approximately 1-2 miles away.

The Game Commission is currently working on a list of in-kind match for the project and although the GCCD Board signed previously, a new Landowner Commitment and Agreement will need to be signed with the PA Game Commission (PGC) to address some changes.

Although some materials, equipment and labor donations were originally anticipated by the PGC, PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and Greene County Prisoners, that is unlikely for the 2012 construction season. Ms. Matesic noted that she may contact officials of the PA Fish & Boat Commission to see if any other help would be available.

Specifications for materials, equipment and labor, as well as a bid package will need to be prepared immediately. GCCD will need to request assistance from the County Engineer and Solicitor for professional review and possible plan development. GCCD will modify all grant documents to reflect these changes. Possible partnering with the coal companies and groups, such as the Izaak Walton League, Trout Unlimited, etc., were mentioned.

The grant was written for \$180,000 and included in-kind services for labor and since the in-kind labor was lost, the project had to be scaled back. The number of structures to be installed has been scaled back from 7 sites to 3 sites. DEP Grant Advisor, Rita Coleman, is aware of the situation and would like us to complete what we can.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to proceed with the project as needed. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

VIII. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

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

Laurel Rush – A mini grant of \$1,000 was received from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) to offset the costs of the recent manure management workshops held at the Harveys/Aleppo Grange and the Carmichaels Grange.

Zack Basinger – To date, no mosquitoes trapped in Greene County have tested positive for the West Nile Virus. Mosquitoes' numbers are down right now which could possibly be due to the dry weather we are experiencing.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Fees received for the past month is lower than previously; however, the work load has not decreased. Much of the work completed this past month has been for stream crossings and pond inquiries for private landowners. Fees are not received for these projects but a lot of staff time is put into helping the landowners develop E&S plans and achieve proper permitting.

Jeremy Kelly – Visited the EQT line to discuss closing out their ESCGP-1 permit. The plants were dried and weren't in good appearance. A concern is that the plants will die before they reach maturity, if rain is not experienced soon. EQT and Jeremy were going to meet this week to start walking the Sunrise project, but it was decided to move that up a few months in hopes of getting a better ground cover.

Dominion is having some difficulties with the dry weather. They have 100% of the line in the ground and 70% of the line is at final grade. They may need to stay in the area or complete more remediation in the fall.

Lisa Snider – Included in the meeting packets was information regarding the Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) and Shale Gas Forum scheduled to be held on July 24th, 2012 in Ebensburg, PA. The purpose of the forum is to explore the use of AMD by the shale industry. It will also provide the opportunity to voice the needs of our community. Representatives from the West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI) and Mepco will be attending along with herself. She asked Board members to contact her with their ideas that she could present at the forum.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Chris Hardie – Currently, the Planning Commission is working on 3 final approvals and 7 pending projects. In June, 29 tax abatements were approved.

Robbie Matesic – Two years ago, the Pittsburgh Region hosted an event to solicit private investment for economic development. Pittsburgh hopes to

advance as a leader in water treatment technology and an announcement is planned for September 27th, 2012. International companies have been invited to attend this event as well as Greene County representatives. This is extremely important with the amount of water treatment needed in our area by the coal and gas industries. 8 pilot projects will be selected at this time. Ms. Matesic noted that the Charleroi Lock and Dam was recently closed and that it's important that our Congressman know how important our locks and dams are to us. The Board agreed to write to our congressman expressing our concerns. The staff will draft a letter on their behalf.

Russ Gibbs – The Forest Stewardship Data Base was recently updated. Currently, Greene County has 26 active Forest Stewardship Plans comprising 4,200 acres. At the end of each year, he provides a detailed report to each Conservation District. Since he began this position in Greene and Washington Counties in the 4th quarter of 2011, 16 landowners were assisted, with 8 of those being from Greene County and 47 phone assists were made. He distributed business cards and forest stewardship maps.

Chuck Kubasik – He commended the GCCD staff for their detailed reports. The state budget was passed and although there were cuts, they weren't as severe as what was originally proposed. DEP was cut by about 8.7% with an overall reduction of about 40% in a 6-7 year period. Regarding allocation to Conservation Districts, DEP's funding was reduced by 1% and the Department of Agriculture's by 1.9%. The allocations for the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) have been determined as follows. These are the maximum allowed for each category.

District Manager - \$27,000 (no change)

1st Technician - \$16,500 (no change)

2nd Technician – None (no change)

Administrative Assistance - \$300 (reduced from \$1,120)

Funds that had not been used from the previous fiscal year will be divided between Conservation Districts (about \$1,500 per Conservation District).

The funding for the Agricultural Easement Program was cut completely from budget.

The next regular meeting will be **July 17, 2012.**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)

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