

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
May 15, 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; Pam Snyder-Commissioner Representative; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; and Bill Wentzel-Associate Director/Program Associate.

**Guests and Cooperating Agencies**

Jim Kennedy-Regional Director, PA Department of Agriculture; Kim Moninger-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); 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; Julie Maxwell-Watershed Specialist; Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

Director Jim Kenney was unable to attend the meeting. Information regarding all the matters to be discussed was mailed to him prior to the meeting and he participated in the meeting via conference call.

Chairman Eisiminger introduced Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Moninger.

**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 April 17, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).*

#### **IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS**

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

#### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from Curt Hughes, West Greene FFA Teacher, thanking GCCD for our donation. At the April 17<sup>th</sup> district meeting, a donation of \$1000 was approved for the Greene County FFA Improvement Association. These funds are to be utilized to offset the costs of awards for various activities. A letter was received from Mr. Hughes and he also included photos of their participation in a recent event for cattle judging and will give periodic updates as requested by the board.

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **a. FARMLAND PRESERVATION – WILLIS TRUST EASEMENT**

Ms. Rush provided an update regarding the conservation easement encumbrance of the 101 acre parcel of the James F. and Pearl Willis Living Trust. The easement will be on the agenda for the June 14, 2012 meeting of the PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation, which she and Mr. Willis may attend. As required by the PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation, notification was sent by certified mail to the adjacent landowners, as required by state program regulations. All but a few return receipts have been received. This notification is to inform adjacent property owners that an easement will be considered at the June 14<sup>th</sup> State Farmland Preservation Board meeting held in Harrisburg.

Under the current county agricultural easement application period, which ends June 15, two applications have been received. Those applicants are Bill Milesky of Center Township, and Jim Willis of Cumberland Township.

##### **b. USACE MONONGAHELA RIVER WATERSHED ASSESSMENT**

Work continues with the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a watershed assessment of the Monongahela River Basin. Robbie Matesic, Executive Director of Economic Development, is spearheading the project. Ms. Snider noted that a meeting was held on April 19<sup>th</sup> with the Corps and Dr. Paul Ziemkiewicz, director of the West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI) to discuss the comments regarding the contract being developed by WVWRI to increase monitoring on the Mon River and develop a mechanism to track increases in water chemistry. It is hoped that a contract can be entered with WVWRI to provide additional monitoring on the river that could be included in the assessment.

Another meeting with the Corps is scheduled to be held on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Snyder added that she had recently spoken with the USACE Pittsburgh District Engineer, Colonel William H. Graham, and he is pleased with the progress of the project.

**c. ACT 13 - NATURAL GAS IMPACT FEE**

Two news articles regarding this matter were mailed with the meeting packets. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) requested a modification of the preliminary injunction against Act 13. The preliminary injunction prevented portions of the Act dealing with zoning issues from going into effect for 120 days.

**d. ENVIROTHON**

Four of the five school districts participated in Greene County's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Envirothon held on May 11<sup>th</sup> at Ryerson Station State Park. Carmichaels Team #1 won the competition with a total of 390 points out of a possible 500. They will go on to compete at the state competition on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown. A news release will be appearing in the Observer Reporter in the near future. Carmichaels Teams #2 and #3 took second and third place at the county competition as well.

**VII. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE**

Ethan Virgili - Cumberland Township - 14 acres

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve this Request for Assistance. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Ms. Moninger noted that Mr. Virgili contacted the NRCS Office and he is very receptive to farming in an environmentally conscience manner. Laura Smith and J.B. Harrold, of NRCS, visited the farm and learned that in addition to the 14 acres, he rents 200 acres.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. ACT Technician & Easement Support Program Cost Evaluation for FY 2011-12**

The cost evaluation is necessary to determine if any unused funds are available that could be disencumbered for another county's program. The evaluation for FY 11-12 shows that the funding required by the program, at our county level, will exceed what was granted by the state; therefore no funding will be disencumbered.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Snyder to approve the ACT and Easement Support mid-year cost evaluation for FY 11-12 for signature by the Chairman and submission. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**b. Dirt & Gravel Roads Program –2012 QAB Rankings**

Ms. Snider presented the following Dirt and Gravel Road projects in the order they were ranked on May 9<sup>th</sup> by the Quality Assurance Board (QAB).

Greene Township - Roberts Run Road (TR 604) - 5 cross drains and re-establish a ditch line. Total grant request - \$10,695.00. Ranked #1 of 6 with average score of 32.2 out of 55.

Gilmore Township - Wildman Hill Road (TR 404) - 1 stream crossing, geotextile to separate base and add road base. Total grant request - \$4,410.00. Ranked #2 of 6 with average score of 26.4 out of 55.

Gilmore Township - Renner Creek Road – Gilmore Township submitted 2 separate applications for Renner Creek Road; QAB recommended funding for application #1.

Application #1 - 5 culvert crossings, geotextile, road base and ditch under drain. Total grant request - \$27,155.00

Application #2 – consists of only the addition of ditch underdrains.

Total grant request - \$13,195.00. Ranked #3 of 6 with average score of 21.4 out of 55.

Aleppo Township - Mason Road (TR 360) – 1 stream crossing – replace current culvert with 47” x 71” steel squash pipe. Total grant request - \$11,348.00. Ranked #4 of 6 with average score of 17.8 out of possible 55.

Gilmore Township - Meighen Run Road (TR 430) - 1 stream crossing, geotextile to separate base and add road base. Total grant request - \$4,110.00. Ranked #5 of 6 with average score of 17.4 out of 55.

Gilmore Township - Crabapple Road (TR 410) - 1 stream crossing, geotextile to separate base and add road base. Total grant request - \$4,150.00. Ranked #6 of 6 with average score of 17.2 out of 55.

The QAB recommended that all of the projects be approved for funding. Two funding options were proposed for the Renner Road Project in Gilmore Township. The QAB recommended that a grant of \$27,155 be awarded to include culvert crossings, road base, ditch, and slide work.

The total cost to fund all of the projects, as recommended by the QAB, is \$61,868. Approximately \$83,000 is available for project funding.

Mr. Kenney asked if other townships were interested in applying for projects. Ms. Snider said that for the first time, Springhill Township is interested; however, they were not quite ready to submit an application, and perhaps another funding round can be opened this fall.

Monongahela Township has a two-phase project currently underway. Morgan Township is currently completing work on Beagle Club Road. Washington Township has completed their work under the program and a final inspection will be made in the near future.

***A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve funding for all of the above projects as recommended by the QAB. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)***

At the State Conservation Commission (SCC) meeting being held today (May 15), it is expected that the Dirt and Gravel Road funding allocations for FY 12-13 will be approved. Greene County is expected to receive \$67,000 - an increase from previous years of nearly double the amount of funds previously received for the program.

- c. **West Nile Virus (WNV) Program** - Ms. Snider requested that the Board consider hiring an intern to conduct monitoring for WNV this summer. The position would be open from June 1 to August 31 and would be fully funded by GCCD. The intern would only monitor, assist with complaints, and submit samples to PA DEP for processing. DEP's WNV county grant program has been downsized over the last few years due to lack of funding. This has led to the increase of 5 counties that PA DEP is now responsible for monitoring. Currently, only two PA DEP WNV monitors cover the southwest region of PA.

Greene County Conservation District's participation would ensure that sampling is being conducted on a regular basis to track the colonies of WNV carrying mosquitoes. PA DEP will provide training, dry ice, and coolers. In the event of a positive finding, PA DEP would provide guidance and assistance on a case-by-case basis.

The estimated cost to employ an intern for 35 hours per week is \$4,945.40 of which, fuel costs alone are estimated at \$1,200. Commissioner Snyder instructed Ms. Snider to work with Tracy Zivkovich, Human Resources Director during the hiring process.

Since the county truck is frequently used by Mr. Kelly to conduct inspections of construction activities, there may be a need for another vehicle for the WNV monitoring. Commissioner Trader said that other county vehicles may be available and the Commissioners and Jeff Marshall, Chief Clerk, can assist with locating a vehicle for use, if at all possible.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the hiring of an intern for WNV monitoring. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)***

- d. **Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful Donation** - The Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful “Buy Local, Buy Greene” Committee is launching an educational and marketing campaign to encourage area residents to patronize local businesses and to support local agriculture. The group is requesting a \$500 donation to assist with outreach and education for a county-wide campaign.

Ms. Rush serves on the committee and further explained this is a new local initiative that evolved from the local Farmers Market. In addition to GCCD and Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful, other participants on the committee include Community Bank, Greene County Tourism, University of Pittsburgh, Small Business Development Center, and Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce. A logo has been chosen and a kickoff is planned for June.

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to donate \$500 to Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful. Commissioner Snyder seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Mr. Jim Kennedy mentioned the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture’s “PA Preferred” Program. This logo is available for use by others and he offered his assistance with the program. Ms. Rush noted that the Greene County Farmers Market Committee has promoted this campaign, as well as the “Buy Fresh, Buy Local” program, a national campaign, administered locally by the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA). She will work with Mr. Kennedy on the program.

## **IX. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS**

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

**Lisa Snider** – The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) and the State Conservation Commission (SCC) will be hosting the 65<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Conference, July 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Proposed policy changes will be mailed to board members for their review and comments. Ms. Snider will submit any

comments recommended by the board to the upcoming conference where they will be reviewed for acceptance by PACD.

Ms. Snider noted that the PA DEP has proposed changes to the Chapter 105 Program, Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permitting. Fees may soon be charged for stream crossing and streambank stabilization permits. PA DEP is currently working on revising the Chapter 105 program to include updating other permitting fees. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by the Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Quality Board (25 Pa. Code, Chapter 105) (Dam Safety and Waterway Management) has undergone a 30 day public notice which ended February 27, 2012. More information will follow when received by staff.

**Laurel Rush** – The Agricultural Law workshop was held in conjunction with the Washington County Conservation District on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Amity Fire hall. They were pleased with the number of attendees - about 32 people. She thanked Ms. Snider for delivering the food. Three additional workshops for manure management are planned to be held at the Granges throughout the county. Mr. Cowell added that he found the workshop to be successful and useful, and said that the new regulations will affect anyone with animals. He urged fellow board members to support and attend future events.

On Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Rush and Mr. Jim Cowell will be attending the Project Grass meeting at Somerset, PA. This will be Mr. Cowell's first meeting as an Executive Committee member.

Mr. Cowell inquired about the change in Ms. Rush's staff report. Ms. Snider said that we are completing time studies to show exactly how our time is spent. It has been helpful in determining time spent on grants, etc.

**Julie Maxwell** – As discussed at the board meeting held on April 17<sup>th</sup>, she attended the Marcellus Shale Visual Assessment Training on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Waynesburg University as requested by the Fayette County Conservation District and the Mountain Watershed Association. Julie presented the monitoring safety portion of the program. Representatives from the Dunkard Creek Watershed Association, Greene County Watershed Alliance, and the Wheeling Creek Watershed Association were also in attendance. It was a valuable program, but unfortunately, perhaps due to the limited advertising, the meeting was not well attended. A manual was assembled and is available to anyone interested.

Also discussed at the last meeting was the Whiteley Creek Fish Habitat/Streambank Restoration project. She has been in contact with Dave Beale, the Watershed Specialist in Armstrong County, who has a lot of experience with these projects and may be able to help. He may also be able to

refer us to an experienced and reliable contractor who knows how to install the fish habitat structures and would do good work.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** - Since preparing her written report, two accelerated Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) control plans have been received. One of which is for a proposed building on the Lamar Site in Franklin Township. An amendment to their existing National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES) will be necessary for the project.

**Bill Wentzel** – He recently visited the Lamar site. They are cooperating to correct a few minor issues that were found.

**Jeremy Kelly** - He has been busy conducting inspections of gas lines under construction. Seeding has been established on National Fuel's pipeline. Work has increased on both Dominion's Appalachian Gateway project, located in Center, Franklin, Jefferson, Morgan, and Richhill Townships, with Precision Pipeline acting as the main contractor, and EQT's Sunrise project, located in Franklin, Freeport, Gilmore, Jefferson, Wayne, and Whiteley Townships with Precision Pipeline acting as the main contractor. Several issues involving ponds, belonging to private property owners, have been encountered in the Sunrise Project. They have been cooperative in trying to correct the problems. He is concerned about whether some of the ponds were installed by the landowners properly and according to PA DEP's specifications.

Complete construction of the Dollar General Store in Dry Tavern is expected within the next couple of weeks.

Earlier today (May 15), a complaint was received regarding Dominion's Sunrise Project and an illegal waste dump. The complaint will be investigated and addressed after the meeting.

## **X. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

Ms. Snider noted that news articles regarding GCCD related items have been appearing in the Observer-Reporter once or twice a week. Some in the "Conservation Corner" section and some as separate articles. About 18 articles have been prepared. If anyone has anything they would like to see published, please let her know. Lisa continues to work with Shelly Brown of the Greene Saver to develop a poster for distribution to the townships.

Ms. Rush added that several inquiries were received following the mailing of the 1,253 postcards to landowners in the Clean and Green Program to promote Agricultural Security Areas.

The lime spreader was rented earlier this month.

**XI. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS**

**Kim Moninger** – NRCS just completed a round of contracting for Farm Bill Programs for FY 2012. Greene County received \$3,200 in funding for 2 forestry plans encompassing 167 acres. She urged anyone interested to contact the office. Mr. Cowell asked how many Greene County applications were funded. She estimated it to be about one half. She also said that changes have been made to the ranking and funding procedures.

**Chris Hardie** - He gave an update on the activities of the Planning Commission. The Commission is working on 12 projects in various approval stages. To date; over 400 public notices have been received and 20 lot splits and 13 tax abatements were approved. Their next meeting will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Jim Kennedy** – He thanked GCCD for the opportunity to attend their meetings. He stressed the importance of the manure management workshops and getting the word out to the farming community. There is a misconception that the equine operations are not affected by the new regulations and it’s important to correct it. North and Northwest counties in Pennsylvania are starting to experience the impacts of the Marcellus Shale Industry. In the future, our experiences may be called upon.

XII. The next regular meeting will be **June 19, 2012.**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

<b><u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u></b>
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

