



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES

November 20, 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; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Jim Kenney-Director; J. Robert Rice, Director Emeritus; and Bill Wentzel-Associate Director/Program Associate.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Jeremy Kelly- Department of Economic Development.

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Daryl Throckmorton, Environmental Program Specialist II, and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

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 18th, 2012 meeting. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

It was noted that an error of \$15,000 appeared on the last two treasurer's reports. The West Nile Virus Account was closed in March of 2012, but continued to show a balance of \$15,000. When Ms. Salosky, Fiscal Officer, attempted to correct the problem, the \$15,000 was incorrectly added to the General Fund account. The Controller's Office has been contacted to assist. However, Ms. Salosky feels that she was able to correct the problem.

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

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful – Economic Restructuring (ERC) and Buy Local, Buy Greene (BLBG) Committees** – Currently, Ms. Rush serves on the BLBG Committee which is a sub-committee of the ERC. The Committee meetings are held two times a month. Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful will combine these meetings. They are requesting continued representation from the Greene County Conservation District.
- b. **Dominion Transmission, Inc. – Open House – Natrium to Market Project** – Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski attended the Open House to discuss the project on November 15th, 2012 at the Greene County Fairgrounds. A compressor will be added to the existing Crayne Compressor Station, 657 Jefferson Road, Waynesburg, PA. The permitting is not expected to be done until late 2013 with construction targeted to begin in 2014.
- c. **PA Farm Bureau – Information regarding the Agricultural Model Compliance Policy (AMCP)** – Correspondence concerning the 2012 AMCP as recommended by the PA DEP and adopted as amended by the GCCD on September 18, 2012, was received. The correspondence was concerning the PA Farm Bureau's stance on the policy. After reviewing the correspondence, Ms. Rush noted that the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) had already incorporated the PA Farm Bureau's suggestions into the policy, the existing model that was amended by GCCD and approved.
- d. **Izaak Walton League (IWL), Greene County Chapter** – Ken Gayman, IWL Member, invited GCCD to a meeting they are hosting on December 6th, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the former Brown Derby Restaurant on S.R. 19 in Washington County. Wilkes University, Wilkes Barre, PA will discuss water testing, of both drinking water and stream water and the impact of mining and gas drilling. Brian Oram, Professional Geologist, will be speaking.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **E&S Technician's Position** – Daryl Throckmorton was hired to replace Jeremy Kelly, who resigned in September. He began his position with GCCD on October 22, 2012. During his first week, he attended the Annual Chapter 102/105 Training in State College along with Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski.

Ms. Snider noted that he is currently being trained on inspections by Bill Wentzel and completing the administrative review of E&S plans.

- b. Farmland Preservation – James F. & Pearl Willis Living Trust Easement and current easement ranking process** - On November 2, 2012, the GCFLP completed the closing of the James F. and Pearl Willis Living Trust of 100.762 acre. The total cost of the easement is \$60,961.01, with the PA Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Farmland Preservation providing \$47,224.01 in funds and the County of Greene contributing the remaining \$13,737. 00. The County's contribution is made up from a percentage of Clean and Green rollback taxes and annual allocations designated for easement purchases.

Currently, the GCFLP Board is pursuing easements for two other tracts of land owned by Charles Harry, Morgan Township and Harley and Janet Gapen, Greene Township. The GCFLP Board is to meet on December 19, 2012 and will pursue a year end encumbrance of one of the farms.

c. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Monongahela River Watershed Assessment

- West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI), Paul Ziemkiewicz' proposal has been accepted by the USACE and is currently being executed.
- USACE has started their outreach for the assessment and presented an overview at the "State of the Mon" Conference held at Carnegie Mellon University.
- Greene County Department of Economic Development, GCCD staff and USACE will meet soon to discuss and develop outreach and goals.

d. Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Program

GCCD staff has completed the soils inventory for the ASA applications from Franklin Township landowners. Currently the formation of the new ASA is on hold due to the fact that only 73 acres have been submitted to the township for inclusion. ASA law (Act 43) requires a minimum of 250 acres to create an ASA.

GCCD staff has completed the soils inventory for the ASA applications from Jefferson Township landowners for approximately 423 acres. It was indicated by Jefferson Township, that action was to take place at their November meeting to begin the creation of an ASA.

a. Act 13, the Natural Gas Impact Fee

Correspondence received from Karl Brown, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission, was distributed to the Board. The information explains how the Impact Fee was calculated and provides guidance for its use.

The 2011 Act 13 funding for conservation districts is \$2.5 M to be divided between PA PUC and SCC.

On November 19th a check in the amount of \$18,939.39 was received from the Public Utility Commission (PUC) as part of a Block Grant program. This funding is the first half of the \$2.5 million dollars designated for County Conservation Districts according to Act 13.

- Distribution of remaining funds to County Conservation Districts (CCD) was to be voted on by the State Conservation Commission on November 14th. These funds to CCD's are to be utilized consistent with the current Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP).
- The SCC only acted on the 2011 funds. The distribution of the remainder of funds for 2012 and future years funding will be decided at a later date by the SCC, as well as the distribution and reporting.
- SCC will split the second portion of the Conservation District funding for 2011 in the following manner:
 1. All CCD's will receive \$9,400 for administrative funding to be used according to CDFAP guidelines.
 2. The remainder of the funding will be distributed to each CCD impacted by Oil and Gas operations. Each district impacted will receive a \$5,000.00 base fee along with a \$90 per unconventional well fee.
- On December 31, 2011, Greene County had a total of 407 unconventional wells drilled. As a result GCCD will receive an additional \$41,400.00 that will be directed to administrative fees according to CDFAP guidelines.
- Funding summary for GCCD
 1. PA PUC Block grant--\$18,939.39
 2. SCC Admin--\$9,400.00
 3. 2011 Impact Fee--\$41,400.00 (based on the number of unconventional wells drilled)
 4. Total 2011 portion of the impact fee to GCCD--\$74,700.00

Ms. Snider noted that information regarding the number of wells in each county is available on DEP's website and is accurate.

Ms. Snider also noted that the 2012 allocation and future funding will be determined at a later date by the SCC. Greene County is directly impacted by gas well drilling, and it is uncertain how the fund distribution will be determined.

b. **Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Stream Rehabilitation Growing Greener Grant**

The Bradley Eisiminger (GCCD Board of Directors, Chair) project has been completed and surveyed by the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Engineer. PA DEP, Grant Advisor, Rita Coleman, has been notified of the completion and we await her final inspection after which, the paperwork and reimbursement can be completed.

The Taylor Project, a streambank stabilization project, of approximately 180 feet, located in Morgan Township, is a partnership with the township, who will conduct a portion of the work and received funding from GCCD. The permitting is complete and Ms. Rush will contact the Supervisors regarding the start date. The deadline for completion of the project is June, 2013.

c. **Whiteley Creek Streambank Protection Growing Greener Grant**

At the September 18th, 2012 GCCD meeting, the staff was granted approval to write a letter to the PA DEP Grants Center to relinquish the grant. On November 5th, a letter was received from Mark Killar, Executive Director, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC), indicating that the WPC would be willing to complete the project under a separate agreement.

The WPC has begun the process of accepting the remaining funds through an agreement with PA DEP to construct the project. A site visit was conducted by the WPC staff on October 18th to review items available for use and view the sites. WPC has revised the plans and have changed some of the structure materials from logs to stone.

GCCD has submitted the reimbursement request for a final payment, which included Widmer Engineering in the amount of \$1,500 for developing a bid package. A letter was prepared for Chairman Eisiminger to sign to send to PA DEP Growing Greener Grants Center to request the termination of our agreement with PA DEP. This will allow a new agreement that will be entered into between WPC and PA DEP.

The PA DEP Grants Center has indicated that a one year extension for the project may be obtained. This will allow WPC to begin the project during the summer of 2013.

Ms. Snider hopes to remain involved with the project, noting that it would be a great learning experience for a new Watershed Specialist.

d. **Dirt and Gravel Road (DGR) 2011 Contract**

Final inspections have been conducted by the QAB and final payments have been made to Aleppo Township, for the Guthrie Road, Morford Road, and Mason Road projects. The township plans to apply for additional projects in 2013.

Greene Township has completed the Roberts Run Project and is ready to submit for final payment. The QAB visit will be scheduled shortly to ensure timely payment.

Gilmore Township has 3 projects in various stages of completion, which will most likely be completed in 2013.

e. **Permit Decision Guarantee Program**

This new protocol for PA DEP permit processing, has been discussed at previous GCCD meetings and encompasses both the Chapter 102 and 105 programs. The new permit process includes significant tracking for the permit staff. Applicable permits include the review of Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) plans, permit processing of General and Individual National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and Chapter 105 General Permits. The current focus is on, Individual NPDES Permits and General Permit 5, Utility Line Crossings.

The staff has been trained on the new review system and began to implement the protocol for projects received on or after November 14, 2012.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request for Assistance

There was not a Request for Assistance to bring before the Board.

Patrick Ernest – District Mini Grant – Cumberland Township

At the September 18th, 2012 GCCD meeting, the board accepted Mr. Ernest's Request for Assistance. Currently, Mr. Ernest is requesting approval for a District Mini Grant of \$1,000 for a spring development.

Since Mr. Ernest works out of the area, Ms. Rush has not had the opportunity to visit the site of the planned spring development.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve the Ernest Mini Grant application for \$1,000 contingent on a site evaluation. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

b. 2013 Objectives for Annual Plan of Operations

PA DEP requires that each year the objectives are updated and submitted. This requirement is part of the CDFAP funding. A few minor changes were made; the inclusion of the projected Dirt and Gravel Roads Project sites and the addition of manure management under agricultural operations.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the 2013 Objectives. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

c. PA Envirothon Annual Donation Request

Annually, the PA Envirothon requests donations from PA County Conservation Districts (CCD's) to assist with the state Envirothon costs. This year's donations will be dedicated to a scholarship program developed by the PA Envirothon and will be distributed to the top 3-5 winning teams to further their higher education.

GCCD also plans to apply for a \$600 mini-grant from PA Envirothon to enhance the funding we receive from the Greene County Community Foundation. The mini grant cannot be used for food or for salaries. That the grant could be used to contribute to the school districts for their travel, lodging, or for a substitute teacher for the day of the event.

After discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to donate \$500 to the PA Envirothon. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)

d. Erosion and Sedimentation Control Fee Schedule

This year marks the second year of the fee schedule revisions and per the policy requires review. Changes at PA DEP may require fees to be charged for Chapter 105 General Permits and would need to be included. The staff is requesting that the E&S Committee, Bradley Eisiminger, Robbie Matesic, Lisa Snider, Lindsay Kozlowski, and Bill Wentzel, meet to review the policy and fee schedule.

Chairman Eisiminger asked the staff to schedule a date for the committee meeting.

e. 2013 GCCD Director Appointments

A current list of GCCD Directors and their terms was distributed, as appointed by the Greene County Commissioners on November 14, 2012. Commissioner Snyder will be resigning her position as Greene County

Commissioner Chairman, effective November 30th, 2012. Commissioner Trader was appointed to replace her as GCCD's Commissioner Representative and Keith Martin was appointed to replace Commissioner Trader as a Farmer Director. Bradley Eisiminger, whose term was to expire on December 31st, 2012, was reappointed to a four year term (2013-2016). A Public Director position remained vacant due to the resignation of Theresa Matscherz and Center Township Supervisor, Butch Deter, was appointed to fill this term (2011-2014).

Jeanne Williams and Gay Thistle were mentioned as possible Associate Director Candidates.

f. **Appalachia Grazing Conference Registration**

This item was received following the mailing of the meeting packets and did not appear on the meeting agenda.

The Southwestern Regional Project Grass Chapter, as a sponsor of the Appalachia Grazing Conference, is offering a free registration to the 2013 conference. They are requesting that each Conservation District submit a nominee for consideration. Last year, the winner of the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year award was submitted and Ms. Rush asked if it was the Board's wish to do the same this year. She was instructed to contact this year's recipient, Mr. Richard Phillips, and if he is unable to attend, then a selection could be made from the newly signed Greene County Conservation District cooperators.

g. **Brownfield Conference**

This item was also received following the mailing of the meeting agenda. PA DEP is hosting a statewide Brownfield Conference, December 10th-12th, 2012 in Allegheny County, PA. Robbie Matesic, Executive Director, Greene County Economic Development, is requesting the representation of a GCCD staff member.

A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve the attendance of a GCCD staff member to the conference with a possible registration fee. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

VIII. **DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS**

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

Laurel Rush – Mr. Cowell asked if Ms. Rush has received any negative feedback regarding the changes in the manure management program. She noted that since the information appeared in the newspaper, she has received

a number of requests for the Manure Management Manual. The manuals were also distributed at the Willis Field Day and a Farm Bureau meeting.

Bill Wentzel – He noted that he completed a number of inspections during the period he worked 2 days per week.

IX. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Jeremy Kelly – PA DEP has directed the Greene County Planning Commission (GCPC) that as a lot split is being administered, the PA DEP Sewage Module for “Non Building Waiver” will only be accepted if the lot split meets very strict criteria. The PA DEP criteria have been established for some time, but the PA DEP has been lenient in the past. Non-Building Waivers are no longer being granted for lot splits with building potential.

X. The next regular meeting will be December 18, 2012. Since it will be our last meeting of the year and during the Christmas Season, the Board suggested that we hold it at Hot Rods Restaurant, Waynesburg, PA. The staff will check on the availability of their meeting room.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m. Jim Kenney 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>Dec. 18</u> , 2012.	
	
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District	
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District	