

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
August 20, 2013**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman 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/Commissioner Representative; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Jim Kenney-Director; Greg Hopkins-Director; J. Robert Rice-Director Emeritus; Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director; Gay Thistle-Associate Director; Sandy Theis-Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Charles Duritza-Regional Director, PACD; Robert Maiden-Executive Director, PACD; and Kim Moninger, NRCS.

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Resource Specialist; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Sean Dougherty- Watershed Specialist; Warren Dickerson-Resource Specialist; Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer; Zack Basinger-WNV Surveillance Monitor; and Robbie Matesic-Department of Economic Development.

Ms. Matesic attended a portion of the meeting.

Ms. Snider introduced Mr. Duritza and Mr. Maiden and thanked them for attending the meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Charles Duritza - Mr. Duritza noted his past association with County Conservation Districts, having served as the Regional Director of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) for a number of years, prior to retirement. Currently, he is serving as the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Director with the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD), representing 10 counties. The purpose of his

visit, the first of which is planned for the 10 county area, is to hear the issues of each Conservation District (CD) and work with PACD toward resolutions.

Robert Maiden - His main objective as PACD Executive Director, upon his appointment approximately two years ago, was to be more responsive to CD. To meet that goal, the Regional Director Program was reestablished and visits are planned to all CD to listen to their concerns and discuss their issues.

PACD is comprised of six officers and six regional directors. CD's have the opportunity to present their concerns at PACD Regional meetings, held twice a year. Those issues are then brought before the PACD Executive Board for their consideration and a decision is made to benefit all 66 of Pennsylvania's CD.

One of the main duties of PACD is to serve as a lobbyist for CD at both the state and federal levels of government, primarily at the state level. Through a unified effort of PACD and CD, recent lobbying efforts resulted in the acquisition of funds through Act 13, the Natural Gas Impact Fee, and the continuation of the funding in the state budget.

Senate Bill 1, the Transportation Bill, which provides funding for the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program, may be brought before the state legislature this fall. Approximately \$4 million dollars is currently allocated for the program. S.B. 1 calls for an allocation increase to \$15 to \$35 million. Some consider S.B. 1 as a tax increase, while others feel that it's a lift on the oil and gas franchise tax which is set at \$1.65 about 20 years ago. With this in mind, and if the Board so desires, Mr. Maiden requested that GCCD write to their legislators in support of its passage.

He invited GCCD to voice their concerns to Mr. Duritza or himself at any time and to attend their regional and annual meetings. Some of the topics of discussion planned in upcoming meetings include health care and the use of QuickBooks, accounting software. He thanked GCCD for the opportunity to attend this meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2013 meeting. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Laura Smith, NRCS, Merit Promotion and Transfer** – Ms. Smith has accepted a position as Area Resource Conservationist in Clarion, PA and has left her position as Soil Conservationist at the Fayette County Office.

Ms. Moninger noted that since Suzy Petery has been detailed to Colorado, she and Kevin Paul are currently working in the Fayette Office. Current staff at the Washington Office includes Rennie Stoy and Chuck Shrump, one employee has been deployed by the military.

- b. **Chapter 102 Erosion and Sedimentation Control (E&S) Delegated Activities** – This information was included with the meeting packets and contains the number of plans reviewed, fees collected, inspections made, permits issued, etc. The figures are shown statewide and regional basis.

Mr. Maiden added that the Chapter 102 Delegation Agreement is being revised and should be submitted to CD District Managers for their review in the near future. The agreement will then be presented at the Chapter 102 annual training scheduled for October.

In the past, revisions of the delegation agreement coincide with the revisions of PA DEP's Fee Schedule. However, at this time, no increase of review fees for the Chapter 102 program is planned by PA DEP.

- c. **Grant Amendment, GG, Whiteley Creek Streambank Stabilization Project** – At the September 18, 2012 GCCD meeting, the staff was granted approval to begin the process of terminating the PA DEP grant so that funding could be re-directed to the Western PA Conservancy (WPC). GCCD's request was approved by PA DEP's grant center. This correspondence is the last in that process.

Ms. Snider noted that the WPC has revised the project plans to better utilize these funds.

- d. **District Director Nomination Process Paperwork-SCC** –The State Conservation Commission (SCC) has submitted this information to Jeff Marshall, Greene County Chief Clerk, to begin this process. The terms of Tom Headlee and Greg Hopkins will expire on December 31, 2013. Both gentlemen expressed an interest to continue to serve.

VI. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

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

Laurel Rush – Several agricultural producers have been assisted with General Permits under the Chapter 105 program. York County, representing Pennsylvania, finished 9th at the National Envirothon. The New York team won the competition.

The application period for the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) began on August 1, 2013.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Since the GCCD meeting on June 18, 2013, twenty-three Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control plans and General Permit Applications have been received. Sixty-seven plans for a total of \$138,287 have been received year-to-date.

She is expecting her second child and will be on maternity leave beginning in November.

Sean Dougherty – Final payment has been made to Gilmore Township for the projects they completed on Crapple, Meighen, Renner, and Wildman roads under the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program. Program contracts have been completed for all new applications.

Two participants of the Carmichaels Envirothon team; Floretta Chambers and Mackenzie Metcalf have each received a \$1,000 Continuing Education Scholarship, for their two year participation on the winning team.

A payment of \$2,941.00 was approved at the GCCD meeting held on May 22, 2013, to Waynesburg University to conduct a study using the Ames Assay. A requirement for the funding was that the University provide the district with a quarterly and final report of their findings. Mr. Dougherty reviewed a portion of the quarterly report received from Dr. Janet Paladino of Waynesburg University as follows.

- Water samples were taken upstream and downstream from the Cumberland and Bailey mines and downstream from the Coal Lick Processing facility. These samples were chosen to determine whether the release of contaminants from these facilities was potentially causing adverse mutagenic effects on surface waters.

- Data resulting from the Ames test for the Bailey Mine was compiled and evaluated and the samples obtained indicated insignificant mutagenicity above baseline.
- Preliminary results for the Coal Lick processing facility indicated positive results in the Ames test in early spring of 2013. Additional samples will be collected in the fall for confirmation.
- If additional supplies can be purchased by the University, Emerald Mine water samples will be tested.
- Air quality sampling may be done in the future.

Zack Basinger – Approximately 2,802 mosquitos have been collected since he began trapping, the last week of May, with none testing positive for the West Nile Virus (WNV) to date. According to news reports, Washington County did have one mosquito that tested positive for WNV. Mosquito numbers have increased since the last meeting, possibly due to the wet weather. No complaints regarding mosquitos or dead birds were received this year. To date, Pennsylvania has had 592 mosquitos testing positive for WNV, with no human cases being reported to date. Last year, a total of 4,548 mosquitos in PA tested positive for WNV.

Mr. Basinger thanked GCCD for the opportunity to return this year to conduct the WNV program. His last day of employment will be Friday, August 23, 2013, as he will be returning to California University.

At this time, Mr. Cowell commended GCCD staff for their work and the new display at this year's Greene County Fair.

Bill Wentzel – Recently, he visited EQT's Sunrise Project, located in Franklin, Freeport, Gilmore, Jefferson, Wayne and Whiteley Townships, which is under restoration. While the majority of the site is sufficient, a few areas need attention.

Also, he has been working with two timber harvesting sites located on Dephene and Dodds Ridge Roads. Inspection of Ryerson Station State Park's maintenance building in Richhill Township and the First Federal Bank building in Perry Township found both sites to be acceptable. Other inspections include the Columbia Gas Pipeline Exposure Project and the vacant lot in the area of Ruff Creek. The Columbia Gas project has been delayed due to mining problems. This area has been seeded and another inspection is needed to determine if adequate cover has been established. GCCD staff is working with the responsible parties to obtain the proper permits on the area near Ruff Creek.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Warren Dickerson** – Ms. Snider introduced Mr. Dickerson, who began with GCCD on July 15th, 2013, as our new Environmental Program Specialist. Mr. Dickerson noted that he has accompanied Mr. Wentzel on inspections.
- b. **Izaak Walton League (IWL), Harry Enstrom Chapter – Water Monitoring Update** – This matter has been discussed at numerous GCCD meetings. At the request of Chairman Eisiminger, Ms. Matesic gave a brief history of how the monitoring program began. Since Greene County is the fifth most active county for gas well drilling in Pennsylvania, and the fact that several years ago, the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) levels and other water quality issues were found, the IWL thought that monitoring may be useful. They approached GCCD for assistance to fund the endeavor and GCCD provided \$8,500. This funding along with funds from two other sources was used to begin sampling. Since that time, however, very little data has been made available.

Ms. Matesic noted that Mr. Dougherty and she have been attending many of the IWL meetings. At their next meeting, scheduled to be held on Wednesday, August 21st, action will be taken on a proposal from the accounting firm of Cypher and Cypher to conduct a partial audit (agreed upon procedures) of the \$8,500 received from GCCD.

IWL members continue to conduct sampling on approximately 25 county sites, on a bi-weekly basis. Results are not included on the IWL website, but they are provided to the West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI). Hotspots have been found in their testing and have been reported to PA DEP.

Since IWL members were unable to attend today's meeting, Ms. Matesic noted that Ms. Snider and she may be asked to schedule a meeting with GCCD's Water Resources Committee.

Mr. Dougherty noted that the IWL plans to meet with their current members conducting the monitoring.

c. **Farmland Preservation**

The GCFLP Board is currently pursuing two tracts of land owned by Charles Harry, Morgan Township and Harley and Janet Gapen, Greene Township. The Gapen farm was approved at the April 18, 2013 state board meeting. The closing was held on July 31st and a photo and story appeared in the Observer Reporter. This easement is now complete and brings the County's total to 320 preserved acres.

The Charles Harry easement, Morgan Township. An offer letter has been drafted with a 30 day response period. The GCFLP board would like to have his farm ready to present at the October state board meeting.

The GCFLP program received five applications for the 2013 sign-up period. The rankings are complete and the high ranking farm has been notified. All farms submitting an application are notified of their rank.

Ms. Rush noted that while she is pleased with the success and growth of the program; that success has resulted in a significant increase in the workload. Through a Memorandum of Understanding, GCCD currently administers the program. Mr. Cowell asked if the GCFLP could assist with the workload. It was noted that GCFLP has minimal funding. In fact, last year they did not receive any funding from the PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation for the administration of the program. Ms. Snider noted, however, that GCCD was able to recover some of those costs through the allocation from the Unconventional Gas Well Funds.

d. Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Program

Jefferson Township - The ASA has been recorded. This adds four landowners and 429 acres to bring Greene County's total ASA acreage to 10,109.7 acres.

Franklin Township – Laurel met with Corbly Orndorff and reviewed the timeline for creating an ASA. (Corbly Orndorff, Richard Patterson and Bruce Rohrer are the property owners who have submitted applications to date).

Cumberland Township - Received an application for an additional parcel of 19 acres for Richard Phillips. This additional acreage was added to his 2013 farmland preservation application.

e. Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Stream Rehabilitation GG Grant

The Taylor project is complete; Morgan Township submitted their bills for payment. PA DEP Grant Advisor, Rita Coleman visited the site on August 15th, 2013. June 30, 2013 was the deadline for the completion of this grant. We have made several inquiries, but no official correspondence has been received regarding our extension request. An additional project is on-hold in the Ruff Creek watershed to be completed if the extension is approved. J.B. Harrold, NRCS grazing specialist, completed a grazing plan for this project.

f. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment

Joe Donovan, Director of Hydrogeology Research Center at West Virginia University, just completed a study on Abandoned Mine Discharges in the Pittsburgh Basin, looking at Bromides, Chlorides, and the usual Abandoned Mine parameters. The data he collected will be included in the WWRI part of the Mon River Assessment, and included in the spreadsheet calculations done by Jim Stiles.

Mr. Dougherty noted that an additional person must review the Regional Management Summary prior to submission to GCCD for our review.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission doesn't believe that a new river commission basin could be created today. SRBC stated that they were lucky to have a basin formed 40 years ago. Ryan Fisher is near completion on the regional management section of the executive summary and Ashley will send this to GCCD for review.

Discussion was held on what should be included in the economic resources, GIS database building, and data quality sections of the executive summary.

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) is conducting a study regarding water withdraw regulations. The USACE has the authority to regulate certain areas (Tiger and Stonewall Reservoirs). Discussion continued briefly regarding this study and the oil and gas industry. Mr. Duritza noted that ORSANCO does not have the authority to regulate water withdraws; their main focus is water quality.

g. Act 13, the Natural Gas Impact Fee

The State Conservation Commission (SCC) will be meeting on August 26th, 2013 to discuss the allocation of funds to Conservation Districts. Mr. Maiden noted that the distribution of the "line items" in the state budget will also be discussed. PACD is working with the SCC on these matters.

VIII. New Business

a. Request for Assistance

Andrea McCardle & Kevin White – Greene Twp. – 27 acres
Daniel Stoneking – Greene Twp. – 110 acres

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Greg Hopkins to accept these Requests for Assistance. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

Joanne Spitznogle – Mini Grant – Perry Township

In July, a large rain event occurred washing out a portion of a stream near her home. The removal of a gravel bar and streambank stabilization is needed. The estimated cost to complete the project is \$1,200.

A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve the Mini Grant for \$1,200. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

It was noted that this would be the fourth Mini Grant to be awarded in 2013, with a total of five Mini Grants allowed per year.

b. Nutrient Management Plan – Frosty Springs Farm

Ms. Rush presented the Nutrient Management Plan for Frosty Springs Farm owned by Jim and Billie Cowell located in Greene Township. Since the number of animals on the farm has increased, a new plan was required. The plan is administratively complete and has been accepted for technical review. A field visit is scheduled for August 30, 2013.

c. Nutrient & Manure Management Program Delegation Agreement Proposal

The budget portion of the agreement has been updated to include the salary and benefits of Laurel Rush, Agricultural Technician. It will require the signature of Chairman Eisiminger.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the delegation agreement proposal. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).

d. Gapen Conservation Plan- Greene Twp. - 112 acres

Since the July meeting of GCCD was cancelled, a phone poll was conducted regarding this matter. As a requirement of the FLP, a Conservation Plan is needed for this property.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to accept the Gapen Conservation Plan. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

e. **Appalachian Grazing Conference Planning Committee, Request for Assistance**

The Committee is requesting the continued assistance of GCCD Agricultural Technician, Laurel Rush. Ms. Rush noted that she was recently elected as Vice Chairman of the group.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to allow Ms. Rush to continue to assist the committee. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

f. **Greene County Business Expo – October 17th –PA National Guard Readiness Center** - GCCD has participated in the expo in the past. It is a different audience for us as far as education and outreach efforts. It is not something we do every year, but I think there is value especially with the change in regulations i.e. permitting and manure management which is effecting a larger segment of the population. This is probably covered under our Nutrient Management/Manure Management delegation agreement. The registration fee is \$125.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the payment of \$125 to participate in the Business Expo. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed).

g. **Greene County 4-H Donation – Memorial for Bob Andrew**

Former GCCD Agricultural Manager and Greene County Commissioner, Robert “Bob” Andrew recently passed away. Following the meeting, donations for the Greene County 4-H Scholarship Fund will be accepted by Ms. Salosky in memory of Mr. Andrew.

h. **Fred Pryor Seminars – Training Rewards**

Fred Pryor Seminars have been attended by GCCD employees. Most recently, a QuickBooks seminar was attended by Ms. Snider and Ms. Salosky with a fee of \$199 per person. At that time, an Unlimited Training Program was offered for a fee of \$199 per person. Under the plan, one designated staff member could attend any scheduled seminar as well as have unlimited access to web trainings. Only one employee can be designated and can only be changed if that employee resigns.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the expenditure of \$398 for two employees to attend these sessions. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

Mr. Maiden noted that QuickBooks training will be presented at the PACD Winter meeting.

i. **Penn Corner RC&D Council – Appointment of a GCCD Delegate**

This matter was tabled until the September 17th, 2013 meeting.

j. **Allegheny Power - Hatfield Ferry Power Station Correspondence**

Included with the meeting packets were copies of letters from Senator Tim Solobay and Representative Pam Snyder to the Pennsylvania Utility Commissioner and federal legislators opposing the proposed closing of Allegheny Power's Hatfield Ferry Power Station. A request was made to the GCCD Board to consider drafting a letter opposing its closing.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board felt that a letter could be crafted to express our opposition, based on the economic effects and the loss of power, the closure would have on Greene County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve writing a letter, on behalf of GCCD, opposing the closing of Allegheny Power's Hatfield Ferry Power Station provided that the letter include our reasons, the detrimental effects to the economy and power grid. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

Ms. Snider will send a draft copy to the GCCD Board members for their review prior to submission. If GCCD so desires, Mr. Maiden offered to review the letter.

k. **2013 Annual Awards Banquet**

Suggestions were requested to determine award nominees, a date, location, etc. for the event. The month of November was suggested as a possible time. Mr. Cowell proposed presenting an award to Tad Hoy, Greene County Land Manager, PA Game Commission.

Mr. Hopkins asked if there were any energy companies that have completed a project in a sound environmental manner that could be considered for an award. It was noted that there have been both good and bad sites.

IX. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

At our last GCCD meeting on June 18th, 2013, approval was granted to purchase items to upgrade the GCCD display. Many items were purchased and used at this year's Greene County Fair. It is hoped that a durable display

board can be found for purchase in the future. The relocation of our display space was also briefly discussed.

Ms. Rush announced that she has scheduled a Nutrient Management Workshop for October 2nd, 2013, possibly at the GCCD office, should the space allow.

Ms. Snider noted that PA DEP officials recently visited GCCD and discussed their plans for agricultural compliance. PA DEP will select a small watershed area in the Southwest Region to make agricultural compliance visits. To prepare farmers for these visits, should Greene County be selected for an inspection, GCCD plans extensive outreach.

All GCCD Board members were requested to review the “bio” information on the Greene County Website to ensure its accuracy.

X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Kim Moninger – She noted that Suzy Petery will be returning to the Fayette County on September 6th, from an assignment in Colorado.

XI. The next regular meeting will be September 17th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further business to discussion a motion was made by Jim Cowell to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m. Commissioner Trader 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 _____, 2013.	
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District	
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District	

