

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
December 17, 2013**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Ken Dufalla-President, Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) ,Harry Enstrom Chapter; Chuck Hunnell-Member, IWLA, Harry Enstrom Chapter; and Suzy Petery-NRCS.

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Warren Dickerson-Resource Specialist; Zack Basinger-Resource Specialist; Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist; and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

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 November 19, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

V. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to bring before the Board.

VI. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

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

Lisa Snider – At the last GCCD meeting on November 19th, 2013, a proposed budget was presented and approved by the Board with minor changes. Those changes were made and the final budget was included with the December meeting packets. At the request of Mr. Jim Kenney, a summary of staff salaries and how each position is funded was compiled and also included.

Following is a list of review and permit fees collected to-date under the Chapter 102/105 programs.

E&S Review Fees - \$85,387.50
Chapter 105 Clean Water Fund Permits - \$68,000.00
NPDES/Clean Water Fund Permits - \$12,000.00

Lindsay Kozlowski, Resource Specialist, is expected to return from maternity leave at the beginning of January, 2014. Zack Basinger, Resource Specialist, began full-time with GCCD on December 16th, 2013.

Laurel Rush – With the assistance of Liz Menhart, Greene County Communications Director, an article regarding manure management was drafted and recently appeared in the Observer Reporter and the Greene Saver.

The No-Till Conference will be held January 29, 2014 in Latrobe, PA. While entitled, No-Till, soil health, as well as other topics will be discussed.

A matter discussed at previous GCCD meetings, was the initiative by the Southwestern PA Planning Commission (SPC) to develop a local food distribution chain. The first planning meeting will be held on January 22nd, 2014. Periodic updates will be given.

Warren Dickerson – Ms. Snider and he have completed the technical review of the erosion and sedimentation control plans for the Carmichaels Area School District's building improvements project in Cumberland Township and Dominion's Natrium to Market project in Franklin and Morgan Townships. Also, he completed an administrative review of Equitran's H-164 pipeline

project in Center and Morris Townships. And, along with Mr. Basinger, an inspection of Consol's Patterson Creek Road Widening Project was conducted.

Zack Basinger – Several administrative tasks for the Chapter 102/105 program have been completed. He accompanied Ms. Snider to a site along Route 21 and Mr. Dickerson on an inspection of the Patterson Creek Road Widening Project. Also, he assisted Mr. Dickerson with the administrative review of the H-164 pipeline project.

Jared Zinn – Work is underway with the Washington County Conservation District on a groundwater related project which Ms. Snider will discuss later in this meeting.

Bill Wentzel – Corrective action has been taken in response to the deficiencies found at the inspection of PennDOT's Morrisville Corridor project.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. Izaak Walton League

Ken Dufalla, IWLA Harry Enstrom Chapter President and Chuck Hunnell, IWLA Harry Enstrom Chapter Member, were present to discuss the IWLA Harry Enstrom Chapter Citizens Monitoring Project and the use of the funds donated by GCCD. At the IWLA meeting on June 17th, 2013, approval was granted to enlist the services of Cypher and Cypher to complete an audit of the funds donated by GCCD. Thereafter, all the necessary paperwork was provided to Cypher and Cypher and the IWLA is awaiting the completion of the audit. Mr. Dufalla contacted Ms. Robbie Matesic, Executive Director, Greene County Department of Economic Development to inform her that the IWLA was awaiting the audit. Cypher and Cypher contacted Ms. Matesic and indicated that the audit would be completed in November; however, to date, the IWLA has not received it.

Mr. Dufalla noted that all the paperwork pertaining to the project (cancelled checks, test results, etc.) is available for review.

Mr. Cowell noted that although the GCCD Board of Directors requested periodic updates regarding the project, to his knowledge, an audit was never requested. And he felt that the funds used to pay for the costs of an audit could have been used to conduct additional water testing.

Mr. Dufalla said that test results from Ten Mile Creek, Whiteley Creek, and at several mine discharge locations are troubling, with high levels of bromides present; as well as other chemicals usually not associated with mining. The IWLA has written to the PA Department of Environmental Resources (PA DEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

with their concerns and to request that tests be conducted to determine if radioactivity is present in the water. He requested that GCCD also contact these regulatory agencies regarding these water quality concerns and cooperate with other entities involved to find a solution to the problem.

In the near future, all of the test results will be available from the West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI). Additional information can also be obtained from their website at iwlaharryenstrom.org.

Mr. Hopkins stressed the importance of water quality and its importance to GCCD. He suggested that GCCD develop a strategy regarding this matter. He noted that the publication of quarterly reports or an annual report detailing Greene County's water quality may be an option.

Mr. Hunnell stressed the need for PA DEP to verify the test results and urged that all parties work together to resolve the problem.

Ms. Snider noted the importance of compiling the data collected by all the organizations (IWLA, WVWRI) to use as a tool to present to regulatory agencies.

Ms. Thistle suggested that GCCD write to PA DEP to request radioactive testing.

This matter will be addressed under New Business.

b. Farmland Preservation

1. The GCFLP Board is working to encumber a parcel of land owned by Charles Harry, Morgan Township. This farm was accepted by the State Farmland Preservation Board at their meeting on December 12, 2013. The inclusion of this farm brings the total of preserved farms to four, encompassing approximately 400 acres.
2. The GCFLP program is pursuing the high ranking farm owned by the James F. Willis and Pearl Willis Living Trust. Farm #3 is the second ranking farm in the 2013 round and a title search is being pursued. (The high ranking farm cannot provide clear title at this time.)

c. Agricultural Security Area Program

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).

Greene Township- the Township has begun the process of adding the Wilber Colvin property to their ASA.

d. Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Stream Rehabilitation GG Grant

The third stream crossing was surveyed by Ms. Rush and Mr. Zinn for completion of the permit package. In order to obligate the remainder of the grant funding, several other small projects are being considered. The new deadline is June 30, 2014.

e. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment

A draft copy of the Regional Watershed Management Section of the Assessment was received and is currently under review. USACE hopes to submit the Navigation Section to GCCD by the end of 2013. Also, Ms. Snider and Mr. Zinn are drafting information detailing the stormwater management issues in Greene County to be included in the Assessment.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request for Assistance

There were no Requests for Assistance to bring before the Board.

b. 2014 Annual Plan of Operations-Objectives

A copy of the proposed 2014 Annual Plan of Operations/Objectives was included for board review with the meeting packets. Ms. Snider presented an additional project for the Board of Directors consideration. Recently Ms. Snider met with representatives of the Washington County Conservation District (WCCD) to discuss the CATTFISH project. WCCD has developed this project which involves the placement a measurement device, built as a prototype by Carnegie Mellon University, in homeowners' toilet tanks to determine water temperature and conductivity.

The WCCD would like to see this program include Greene County residents participate in the project as well. The initial goal is the placement of approximately 30 of these devices in Greene County. Ms. Snider requested that the Board consider allowing GCCD Watershed

Specialist, Jared Zinn, to assist the WCCD on the project. His time would be spent contacting homeowners to target areas where mining and/or gas well activity is taking place as well as in areas where no mining or gas well activity is taking place, but is planned in the future.

In conjunction with the CATTFISH Project, data loggers to begin determine a baseline are planned to be placed in Greene County waterways. To assist with staff salaries and material purchases, Gary Stokum, District Manager, WCCD, plans to apply for a grant through Colcom. Initially, however, there may be a need to purchase data loggers, at a cost of approximately \$1,200 per unit, CATTFISH devices and water testing. Additional information will be brought before the GCCD Board, possibly at the next meeting scheduled to be held on January 21, 2014.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the inclusion of this project in the GCCD's 2014 Annual Plan of Operations. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed).

Ms. Petery requested that additional information be included under the Agricultural Operations Section of the APO. Including; working with the USDA NRCS to promote locally lead conservation programs and financially assisted programs. She noted that Conservation Districts are vital to the Farm Bill, agricultural movement and the local advancement of the agricultural community. She also suggested that forest resources be expanded upon in the APO.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to include the additional information requested by Ms. Petery. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

c. 2014 Meeting Dates & Public Notification

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to accept the meeting dates as presented (the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.) and the expenditure for a public notice. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

It was noted that GCCD's current office location was included; however this could change and would be advertised at that time.

d. 2014 Associate Board Members

The current structure of the board (Tom Headlee and Greg Hopkins both were reappointed by the Greene County Commissioners to serve a 4 year

term, ending 2017) and a letter inviting additional individuals to serve as Associate Directors with GCCD was included in the meeting packets. Those individuals include Ralph Adamson, Phil Cowen, William Cree, Sr., Jerry Day, Linda Harry, Martha Hoy, and Frank O'Leary.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve sending a letter to the above individuals inviting them to serve as Associate Directors. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

e. Delegation Updates

Ms. Snider presented a list of current GCCD Delegates for various organizations. The replacement of Sean Dougherty, former Watershed Specialist, is needed. Ms. Snider proposed the following.

Western PA Coalition of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Jared Zinn

Dirt and Gravel Roads Quality Assurance Board
Warren Dickerson, Non-Voting Member/Coordinator

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the above delegates as presented by Ms. Snider. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

f. Act 13 UGWF Funds – Special Project - Manure Storage Facility – Greene County Fairgrounds

A meeting was held with the Greene County Commissioners concerning the manure storage facilities at the fairgrounds. Bradley Eisiminger, Jim Cowell, Lisa Snider and Laurel Rush met with Commissioner Trader, Commissioner Zimmerman and Jeff Marshall, Chief Clerk. Following the meeting, we were given the go ahead to begin the process to assist the County with the development of a Nutrient Management Plan for the fairgrounds. This will allow us to utilize NRCS in the development of the design and certification of the project, which will in turn save the district around \$5,000.

The GCCD Board was polled on the use of the UGWF monies to cover the cost of approximately \$1,000 to develop the nutrient management plan instead of hiring an engineer whose costs were \$6,000.

GCCD staff is to meet with NRCS on December 11th to begin the Inventory and Evaluation (I&E) for the project. Thereafter, an estimated cost to build these two structures should be available.

Ms. Petery noted that NRCS is committed to completing the I&E, but, due to their workload, they have not yet committed to completing the design work for this project. However, she did say that there should be design assistance as well.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the use of the UGWF funds to cover the cost, approximately \$1,000, to develop a nutrient management plan and to work with NRCS regarding this matter. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

g. Lime Spreader Maintenance

A verbal quote of \$200 was received from King and Sons Equipment in Morgantown, WV, to inspect the gear boxes, grease the wheel bearings and adjust all chains. There would be an additional charge for any parts needed. GCCD's approval would be received prior to installation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve an inspection of the lime spreader at a cost of \$200 and if there is a need for parts, etc., a poll of the Board will be made. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

h. Transportation Bill H.B. 1060 – Dirt and Gravel Roads Program

The Bill was approved by the State Legislature and will provide additional funding for the program. Ms. Snider noted that the biggest program change will be regarding low volume paved roads and may mean that some tar and chipped roads may be eligible for funding. The Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads is working to finalize the program requirements.

i. Gene Saurborn – Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan Review

Ms. Rush noted that the Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan for Gene Saurborn has been received and is under administrative review.

j. Annual Awards Banquet- Award Nominees

On behalf of the Agriculture Committee, comprised of Jim Cowell, Greg Hopkins and Laurel Rush, Mr. Hopkins presented the following. On

separate occasions, visits were made to the farm of Jim and Linda Olczak located in Center and Franklin Townships and the property of Ed and Verna Presley in Wayne Township.

The Committee recommended the Olczak's for the Cooperator of the Year Award and the Presley's for a Conservation Restoration Award.

Additionally, the Committee recommended that a Special Recognition Award be presented to the Community Foundation of Greene County for their support of the Envirothon Program.

A motion was made by Archie Trader to accept the Agriculture Committee's recommendation and approve the above nominees for the 2013 conservation awards. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

h. Letter to PA DEP – Requesting Testing for Radioactivity

This matter was discussed under Old Business, and at this time, was brought forward for a vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to draft a letter to PA DEP requesting that testing be done to determine whether radioactivity is present in mine pool discharges. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

The letter will be sent to Governor Tom Corbett; Senator Tim Solobay; Representative Pam Snyder; PA DEP Acting Secretary, Chris Abruzzo; and PA DEP water quality and mining officials (Greensburg and California Offices) with a request to be apprised of the findings. Ms. Snider will draft the letter for Board review prior to submission.

IX. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Suzy Petery – As discussed earlier in the meeting, an Inventory and Evaluation (I&E) was conducted by NRCS staff at the Greene County Fairgrounds with Craig Krotzer, Engineer, John Riley, Fairgrounds Manager, and Laurel Rush in attendance.

Over 60 applications (10 in Greene County) were received for NRCS Conservation Programs in the three county area (Fayette, Greene and Washington). Field visits and rankings will most likely begin in January, 2014.

A meeting will be held on December 18th, 2013 at the Washington County NRCS office to discuss safety of the three PL 566 flood control dams and the pre flood control assisted watershed areas of Wheeling, WV, and Parman and Cross Creek, in Pennsylvania.

A site was recently visited that could potentially utilize some of remaining funds under the Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Growing Greener grant.

A workshop on Soil Health, which would be beneficial for Ms. Rush to attend, will be held on January 8th, 2014 in Indiana, PA.

A Soil Conservationist position in the Lemont Furnace office has been posted, for a two week period, on www.USAJobs.gov. Applicants must be recent college graduates, earning their degree within two years.

In working with GCCD and Greene County on the nutrient management plan at the fairgrounds, Ms. Petery stressed that the importance of the landowner accept the plan and work to adhere to it.

XI. The next regular meeting will be January 21st at 10:00 a.m.

At the request of Mr. Dufalla, the Izaak Walton League, Harry Enstrom Chapter, may have representative at GCCD regular meetings.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Greg Hopkins 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 _____, 2014.	
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District	
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District	

