

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
February 19, 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; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Jim Kenney-Director; Edward Deter-Director; J. Robert Rice, Director Emeritus; and Greg Hopkins, Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Suzy Petery-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Sean Dougherty, Watershed Specialist; Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer; and Robbie Matesic-Department of Economic Development.

Our new Watershed Specialist, Sean Dougherty, was introduced.

II. OATH OF OFFICE

Commissioner Charles Morris administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Director, Greg Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins, who has served as an Associate Director of GCCD, was appointed to fill the Farmer Director term of Archie Trader which will expire on December 31, 2013. Mr. Trader currently serves as the Commissioner Representative on the Board.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2013 meeting. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

a. PA Envirothon Newsletter

An article regarding former Carmichaels High School student and Envirothon Team Member, Samantha May, recently appeared in the statewide publication.

b. PACD Southwest Regional Meeting

The meeting will be held at the Beaver County Conservation District on March 12, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. It was noted that Mr. Kenney and Ms. Snider are both voting members of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD). Ms. Snider plans to attend this meeting and requested that any Director who would like to attend, contact the office.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. Farmland Preservation

The Greene County Farmland Preservation Board (GCFLP Board) is currently pursuing two easements. One on land owned by Charles Harry of Morgan Township, the other owned by Harley and Janet Gapen in Greene Township. The Gapen parcel, of approximately 110 acres in Greene Township, was encumbered by December 31, 2012 with an acreage discrepancy which the landowner must clear. The Gapen's Attorney is working to correct the discrepancy and it is hoped that the easement can be brought to the state Farmland Preservation Board for consideration at their April meeting.

The title search is ongoing for the Harry Easement of approximately 160 acres in Morgan Township.

b. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment

At the GCCD meeting held on January 15, 2013, it was noted that bi-weekly conference calls will be held to review the progress of the assessment. The first call was held on February 7, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. with USACE Representatives, Ashley Hickenboth and Chad Richards; Paul

Ziemkiewicz, Director of the WV Water Research Institute (WVWRI), Robbie Matesic, Executive Director of Greene County Department of Economic Development, and Lisa Snider and Sean Dougherty of GCCD participating. Following are the highlights of the call.

Budget cuts have had an impact on navigation schedules on the river. Including the closure of the Hildebrand, Opekiska, and Morgantown Locks. Lockages must be scheduled in advance. The small amount of commercial river traffic does not justify manning these facilities.

A draft of the Flooding Section of the Assessment should be completed by the end of March.

Other research being conducted on the river includes a study of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) by Paul Ziemkiewicz, Director of the WVWRI, and an Ecological Flow by the Nature Conservancy. This information will all be used in the assessment of the Monongahela River.

It was discussed that, at the GCCD meeting held on January 15th, action was taken to weigh-in on the U.S. Coast Guard's review of a request to transport brine water on barges on the river. It was learned from the conference call, that the Upper Monongahela River Association (UMRA), of which Paul Ziemkiewicz, is an Officer of the Board of Directors, is in favor of the request provided that proper safety measures are in place and enforced. UMRA believes that the transportation of the brine water would boost the amount of commercial traffic using the locking system. Currently, UMRA is drafting a resolution which will be shared with the GCCD Board Members upon completion.

Ms. Matesic and Ms. Snider explained that they planned to have an UMRA representative participate in today's meeting to further discuss their proposed Resolution and the background regarding lockages; however, they were unavailable. It is hoped that all parties involved, the USACE, UMRA and the U.S. Coast Guard, can attend a future GCCD meeting, possibly in March, or at the very least, participate in a conference call. Since it was felt that additional information is needed, action on the submission of the letter to the U.S. Coast Guard was delayed. The GCCD Board concurred.

c. Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Program

GCCD staff has completed the soils inventory for the ASA applications from Jefferson Township landowners. The township has submitted a letter to the Greene County Planning Commission as notification of their intent to create an ASA. Jefferson Township is hoping to approve the ASA creation at their March meeting.

An additional ASA application was received from Robb Bartholomew for 193 acres in Cumberland Township. The soils inventory was completed and returned to him for submission to the township.

d. Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Stream Rehabilitation GG Grant

The Taylor permitting is complete. Mr. Taylor and Morgan Township are waiting for suitable construction weather to begin the project. The Application for Reimbursement for the project completed by Bradley Eisiminger, GCCD Chair, has been submitted. The additional invoices just received will be submitted as well.

e. Act 13, the Natural Gas Impact Fee

The Act 13 Natural Gas Impact Fee has been discussed at several previous GCCD meetings.

On February 5th, 2013, the Conservation District line item was zeroed out in the Governor's budget proposal. If funding is not restored, it will affect the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) funding we receive from PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and the PA Department of Agriculture (PA DA).

CDFAP funding GCCD currently receives is as follows:

Managers Salary/Benefits--\$27,500.00
First Technician Salary/Benefits--\$16,500.00
Administrative Assistance--\$2,685.00
ACT Salary/Benefits--\$22,425.00
2012-2013 Funding Total=\$69,110.00

If the County Conservation District Funding is zeroed out of the state budget, the Act 13 Impact Fees, distributed by the State Conservation Commission

(SCC), may be utilized to cover the CDFAP expenses throughout the state, including staff salaries and benefits.

Following is the projected funding from the ACT 13 Impact Fees:

2012-2013 funding levels—(based on 2011 Impacts)

PUC Block Grant--\$18,939.39 SCC Funding (Admin)--\$50,800.00

2013-2014 funding levels—(based on 2012 Impacts)

PUC Block Grant--\$37,878.79 SCC Funding Undetermined--\$2.5 M

2014-2015 funding levels—(based on 2013 Impacts)

PUC Block Grant--\$56,818.18 SCC Funding Undetermined--\$3.75M

Funding for Conservation Districts (CCD) is included in Act 13. The law states that CCD allocations will be made before any other programs are funded. For each well drilled, fees are collected for a total of 15 years. PACD is concerned that if this funding is not eliminated, it most likely will never be restored.

The PUC block grants can be used for the payment of salaries. This fiscal year's CDFAP funds (\$50,800) were to be used for administrative purposes only. However, special consideration was made by the SCC, and approval was granted to cost share 50% of the salary and benefits for two of the E&S Technicians' position (full and part-time). To date, approximately \$30,000 of the \$50,800 has been utilized.

The impact of gas well drilling on agricultural lands in Greene County and DEP's oversight was also discussed. Ms. Matesic noted that the County Commissioners Association of PA (CCAP) will be meeting in a few weeks and that perhaps this issue could be discussed by the County Commissioners at that time.

Ms. Matesic suggested that we obtain additional information from other counties experiencing impacts from gas well drilling to benchmark ourselves prior to a discussion with our legislators.

It was concluded that a letter regarding the loss of the Conservation District funding be drafted and sent to our legislators, Senator Tim Solobay and former Conservation District Director, State Representative Pam Snyder.

Ms. Snider requested that the Board review the information that was included in the meeting packets from Robert Maiden, Executive Director of PACD, regarding the funding cuts.

II. New Business

a. Request for Assistance

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

Carole McIntyre – Mini Grant – Franklin Township

Ms. McIntyre is requesting a District Mini Grant of \$1,000 for a spring development repair.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the McIntyre Mini Grant for \$1,000. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

a. Lime Spreader Rental Insurance

Chuck Baily of the Baily Agency was consulted regarding an insurance policy to cover the GCCD lime spreader which is rented to landowners. It was thought that if GCCD was to have the policy, it would be easier for landowners to rent and use it. Currently, the renter is required to cover the equipment under a farm policy, which many do not have. The lime spreader would be added to Greene County's Commercial Insurance Policy as Contractors Equipment. The cost, based on \$12,000 for the replacement of the equipment, would be \$103 annually with a \$2,500 deductible. The insurance would cover the transporting and if an accident was to occur while in use. The deductible would be paid by GCCD, with a revision to the rental agreement to include a small fee toward the deductible. The Agricultural Committee (Jim Cowell, Jim Kenney, Greg Hopkins, Lisa Snider, and Laurel Rush) will meet to discuss the revision of the rental agreement and report back to the Board at the March meeting.

A motion was made by Jim Kenney to obtain the insurance policy and approve the expenditure of \$103. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

b. Unclaimed Property – Authorization

Carol Gooden, Deputy Controller, notified our Fiscal Officer that while completing a search on the PA Department of Revenues Website for the County concerning unclaimed property, it was noticed that GCCD had two claims that need to be addressed. Ms. Salosky has requested information to claim this money and according to the application received, a letter from the Board is needed stating that the Fiscal Officer, Rebecca Salosky, may

act on the behalf of the Board. This will allow her to apply for the unclaimed property which includes bank drafts from Dominion Exploration and Production each of which are \$225, totaling \$450.

A motion was made by Edward Deter to authorize Rebecca Salosky, through a letter signed by Chairman Eisiminger, to act on behalf of the Board for this matter only. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

c. Chapter 105 Filing Fee Checking Account

Through the Chapter 105 program an administrative filing will be assessed per General Permits starting February 16, 2013. This administrative filing fee will be handled in the same manner as the 102 administrative filing fees for NPDES permitting. According to PADEP, GCCD will need to open a separate checking account to handle the funds. These funds will too be a special account that is restricted.

General Permits 1-15 are issued by GCCD:

- GP-1 Fish Habitat Structures - \$50
- GP-2 Small Docks and Boat Ramps - \$175
- GP-3 Bank Rehabilitation Protection and Gravel Bar Removal - \$250
- GP-4 Intake/Outfall - \$200
- GP-5 Utility Line Crossings - \$250
- GP-6 Agricultural Crossings and Ramps - \$50
- GP-7 Minor Road (Permanent) Crossings - \$350
- GP-8 Temporary Road Crossings - \$175
- GP-9 Agricultural Activities - \$50
- GP-10 Abandoned Mine Reclamation - \$500
- GP-11 Bridges (Authorized by PA DEP) - \$750
- GP-15 Private Residential and Wetlands - \$750

Municipalities are exempt from the fees; however, there is a fee of \$100 to transfer a permit.

The revised applications are available on the PA DEP's website.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to allow the staff to open a new checking account (mostly likely named the Chapter 105 Clean Water

Fund) and obtain the necessary signatures of the Board. Edward Deter seconded. (Motion Passed).

At this time, Mr. Hopkins requested that the GCCD staff visit the site where water is being withdrawn from Brown's Creek by EQT. Ms. Snider had visited the site and found EQT has submitted a Water Management Plan to PA DEP and this site is included in that plan. Concern was also noted regarding the large amount of water being withdrawn from the stream.

d. 2013 Committee Appointments

This item was tabled at our last meeting on January 15th, 2013. ***With the addition of Ms. Matesic to the Policy and Legislative Committee, a motion was made by Edward Deter to accept the Committees as submitted. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)***

e. Associate Board Members

At the suggestion of the Board at our last GCCD meeting on January 15th, 2013, Glodenna Halstead, Gay Thistle, and Jeanne Williams were contacted and all were interested in serving as new Associate Directors. Ms. Williams did express concern that she may be unable to attend all of our meetings; however, Ms. Snider informed her that she would be kept up-to-date with the meeting packet mailings.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve Glodenna Halstead, Gay Thistle, Bill Wentzel, and Jeanne Williams as Associate Directors for 2013. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

f. Appalachian Grazing Conference Registration

At the GCCD meeting on January 15th, 2012, approval was granted to Ms. Rush to attend the conference to be held March 8th and 9th at the Waterfront Hotel, Morgantown, WV with a two night's stay and a \$100 registration fee. At that time, a few Board members expressed an interest in attending the conference and the Board was asked to consider reimbursing any Director for the registration fee. It was noted that the expenditure could be claimed under the administrative portion of the UGWF-CDFAP funding.

A motion was made by Edward Deter to reimburse any GCCD Director who wished to attend. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed – with one abstention – Jim Cowell)

g. Dirt & Gravel Roads – ESM Training & the PACD Water Conference

Items “h” and “j” appeared separately on the agenda; however, they were brought before the Board together at the meeting. Sean Dougherty, Watershed Specialist, has requested to attend both of these meetings, which Ms. Snider feels would be beneficial.

Beaver County Conservation District will be hosting Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Training for the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program, March 19-20, 2013 in Aliquippa, PA. This training would not require an overnight stay. Expenditures for the training would be fuel or mileage and the registration fee. This is the closest location this year for this training.

The PA Watersheds Conference will be held April 5 & 6, in State College, PA. Expenditures for this meeting will include a \$25.00 registration fee, a two nights stay, and mileage or fuel.

A motion was made Jim Kenney to grant approval to Mr. Dougherty to attend both of these meeting with the associated expenditures. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed).

h. Soil & Water Conservation Week Outreach

This year’s Soil and Water Conservation Week is April 28 – May 5. The staff has been discussing ways to promote the program. Following are some of the events that were discussed.

- Hold a Service Fair to provide a venue for volunteers to consult with agricultural and conservation groups (Isaac Walton League, Greene County Farm Bureau, SW PA Woodlots Association, Watershed Groups, Waynesburg University, etc.).
- Request the Greene County Commissioner’s to proclaim the week.
- Work with the Envirothon advisors to participate in their school.
- The Margaret Bell Miller National Honor Society has pledged to participate.
- Work with youth groups to encourage participation.
- Print and provide t-shirts with this year’s theme (Where’s Your Watershed) to individuals who participate.
- Provide resource materials to participating teachers.

After discussion, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve the expenditure of up to \$5,000 for the promotion of the program. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

i. DCED Grants

Since this information was received after the agenda was prepared, it was not included on the meeting agenda.

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has a new grant program funded through Act 13, the Natural Gas Impact Fee. The following four grants, applicable to the Conservation District are available:

- Watershed Restoration/Protection
- Baseline Water Quality Data
- Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment
- Orphan and Abandoned Well Plugging

This information was received from Jeff Marshall, Chief Clerk, on behalf of the Greene County Commissioners to determine if the GCCD would be interested in applying for any of these grants.

After speaking to Ms. Matesic, Ms. Snider found that Greene County uses a Consultant, Delta Development, to assist with preparation of grant applications. Ms. Matesic noted that the distribution of these grant are determined by a Commonwealth Financing Authority and is very competitive. The County usually prepares the basic information for the grant which they forward to Delta to complete. It is the Greene County's suggestion that we do the same.

Additional information, including the application deadline, will be forwarded to the Board for consideration.

j. PA Turnpike EZ Pass

In order to simplify staff travel, Mr. Cowell requested that GCCD obtain an EZ Pass for business travel on the PA Turnpike.

Ms. Matesic suggested that we speak to Jeff Marshall, Chief Clerk, to perhaps obtain an EZ Pass through the County.

k. Staff Resignation

A letter of resignation dated February 19, 2012 was received from Daryl Throckmorton, Environmental Program Specialist. He thanked GCCD for the employment opportunity.

Ms. Matesic noted that she spoke to Tracy Zivkovich, Human Resources Director, to advertise the position as soon as possible.

VIII. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

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

Laurel Rush – In addition to her written report, she noted that the deadline for early registration, with a fee of \$100, has been extended to March 1st for the Appalachian Grazing Conference. Approximately 200 people are registered for the conference.

She announced the following upcoming meetings:

Fayette County Conservation District - March 22nd – Deadline for tree orders
“Cattleman’s College” - March 9th - PA Livestock Evaluation Center
Project Grass Field Day – May 16th - Bill Iams Farm, Washington Co.
Project Grass Grassland Contest - May 7th. Donations may be requested.

IX. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Suzy Petery – Annually, Ms. Petery reviews the Cooperating Working Agreement between NRCS, GCCD, and the State Conservation Commission. The current agreement signed in 1997, provides a written document to work together on many of the environmental and outreach programs. NRCS relies on Conservation Districts to set the tone and prioritize the resource concerns of the county and the area. NRCS encourages Conservation Districts to reflect the community and she is encouraged by the appointment of the three minority Associate Directors with GCCD. Also, the agreement provides the use of NRCS vehicles by Conservation Districts, with the exception of the use for funding raising or regulatory purposes.

Beginning next week, the NRCS computers will be updated and the system may be down.

Round one rankings have been completed for Farm Bill participates. The majority of this funding is coming from the State Office for activity plans (forestry and nutrient management plans). Over 60 applications have been received for the three county area (Greene, Fayette, and Washington). Any outreach for the program would be greatly appreciated.

Robbie Matesic – Two Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Stations are proposed for Greene County, near Mt. Morris and Waynesburg. The conversion of fleets to CNG was briefly discussed.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to enter in to Executive Session. Edward Deter seconded. (Motion Passed)

I. RECONVENMENT

A motion as made by Tom Headlee to reconvene the meeting and move the meeting to recess until a later date, not adjourn, to be determined by the Chairman. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

II. RECONVENMENT OF THE FEBRUARY 19TH, 2013 MEETING

A motion was made by Jim Kenney to reconvene the February 19th, 2013 meeting at 6:34 p.m. Tom Headlee seconded.

Those in attendance of this reconvened meeting held on March 13th, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. were as follows:

Greene County Conservation District Directors

Bradley Eisiminger-Chairman; Archie Trader-Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Jim Kenney-Director; Edward Deter-Director; and Greg Hopkins, Associate Director.

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager and Robbie Matesic-Department of Economic Development.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Edward Deter to enter in to Executive Session. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed).

IV. RECONVENMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to reconvene the meeting after Executive Session. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

The meeting agenda for March 26th will be revised with the Staff Reports being placed at the beginning. This will allow the staff to give a brief report and return to their regular work schedule.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Jim Cowell 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