

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
January 15, 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; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Edward Deter, Director; Greg Hopkins, Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director/Program Associate.

**Guests and Cooperating Agencies**

Russ Gibbs-DCNR Bureau of Forestry; Jim Kennedy, PA Department of Agriculture; and Chuck Kubasik, PA DEP.

**Staff**

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Lindsay Kozlowski, Environmental Program Specialist; Daryl Throckmorton-Environmental Program Specialist II; Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer; and Robbie Matesic-Department of Economic Development.

**II. OATH OF OFFICE**

Commissioner Trader administered the Oath of Office to re-appointed Director, Bradley Eisiminger. Mr. Eisiminger was appointed to a 4 year term (January 1, 2013-December 31, 2016) by the Greene County Commissioners at their November 14, 2012 meeting.

**III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, TREASURER, SECRETARY**

***Chairman – Commissioner Trader nominated Bradley Eisiminger. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)***

***Vice Chairman – Edward Deter nominated Commissioner Trader. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

***Treasurer – Jim Cowell nominated Tom Headlee. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)***

***Secretary - Commissioner Trader nominated Jim Cowell. Edward Deter seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

#### **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2012 meeting. Edward Deter seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **VI. TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

#### **VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. The State Ethics Forms were distributed with the meeting packets. The forms must be completed and returned to the office by all GCCD directors by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

#### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **a. Watershed Specialist – Sean Dougherty**

Sean began his position as Watershed Specialist on January 7, 2013.

Sean was not present during the meeting. He was attending a meeting in Washington County in which the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the West Virginia Water Research Institute staff were presenting information that may be pertinent to the Monongahela River Study.

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

##### **c. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment**

A meeting was held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013, with the new Project Manager of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chad Richards, and USACE Chief of Planning, John Pickert. Plans were made to schedule bi-weekly

meetings, via conference call, to discuss the progress of the assessment. It is hoped that public meetings can begin this spring in several locations to encompass all of the 18 counties in the watershed. To begin this task, the aid of Congressional Districts, elected officials, and watershed groups will be requested. The work of Paul Ziemkiewicz, Director of the West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI), will be incorporated in to the analysis.

Water quality issues were also discussed at the meeting. Scientists believe that many of these issues stem more from the natural gas industry rather than from the coal industry. Recent water quality data does not support the publicized reports of Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in regards to bromides. A meeting is to be planned with CMU to discuss this matter further. Those involved in other studies, Rick Lorson, Area Fisheries Manager; and Bob Ventorini, Fisheries Biologist of the PA Fish & Boat Commission will be invited to an upcoming district meeting to discuss their projects within the Mon Watershed so that the board can get a better understanding of what work is being completed in the watershed.

An area of concern of the USACE is the intrusion of Asian Carp, a species that consumes approximately 80 percent of the plankton in the river. It is believed that the carp are traveling from the Mississippi River.

Overall, the USACE finds the Monongahela River to be a valuable fishery and they place extreme importance on the Watershed Assessment, for numerous reasons, including a means to address the Asian Carp.

Additionally, USACE is currently working to identify issues with water withdrawals and water budgets. The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) has entered into a contract with CMU to conduct a water budgeting analysis on the headwaters of the Ohio River. At the invitation of the USACE, Ms. Matesic, Ms. Snider, and Mr. Dougherty, participated in a conference call with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and found that very limited data regarding water withdrawals is available for the Monongahela watershed. A discussion then began regarding the number of stream gauges in Greene County. According to information received from USGS, which will be forwarded to GCCD Directors, five gauging stations are located in the county; however, all may not be fully functional. Functioning gauges, with daily measurements relayed through satellites, are located on the Monongahela River and Dunkard Creek. Data obtained from these gauges is available on the USGS Website. Ms. Matesic and Mr. Snider will follow-up with the USGS to determine ways to pursue better and more stream gauge monitoring in Greene County.

Mr. Deter expressed concern regarding the installation of a 12" gas line by EQT for water withdrawals from Browns Creek. Ms. Snider noted that EQT should have a Water Management Plan approved by the PA DEP. Additional information will be gathered regarding this matter.

The addition of gauges, funding, and their maintenance, etc. was also discussed.

Officials from the USGS and the USACE will be invited to attend a meeting of GCCD to further discuss these issues.

**d. Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Program**

GCCD staff has completed the soils inventory for the ASA applications from Jefferson Township landowners. Action by the township is expected to be taken at a meeting early in 2013.

**e. Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Stream Rehabilitation GG Grant**

As reported at the December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 GCCD meeting, the permitting for the Taylor project is complete. Construction will begin as soon as the weather permits.

**f. Whiteley Creek Streambank Protection GG Grant**

The status of this project has not changed since the last GCCD meeting on December 18, 2012. The PA DEP Grants Center is completing the paperwork to transfer the grant to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

**h. Dirt and Gravel Road (DGR)**

The 2013 Funding Applications, and a list of township officials certified to participate in the program, have been sent to the municipalities. The deadline for application submission is April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The 2012 Annual Report Summary has been submitted to the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads. An allocation of approximately \$76,000 is expected for FY 2013-14, a slight increase.

**i. PACD/SCC Winter Meeting**

As reported at our last meeting on December 18, 2012, the meeting will be held on January 23-24, 2013 at the Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA. Any Board member interested in attending, should let Lisa know.

## II. New Business

### a. Request for Assistance

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

### b. Erosion and Sedimentation Control Fee Schedule

GCCD Committee members, Lisa Snider, Lindsay Kozlowski, Daryl Throckmorton and Bill Wentzel met on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Committee members unable to attend were updated.

The current Fee Schedule and proposed Fee Schedule were included with the meeting packets for Board review. Ms. Snider highlighted the changes that were made to the policy. Current language explaining the Permit Guarantee Process, including the additional time frames for the review process, were added to the policy. The majority of the policy was reorganized to be more easily understood according to permits and review times required.

Following are additional changes made.

- The document was reorganized with the Resolution being moved to the beginning of the document.
- The language from PA DEP's Chapter 102 Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Timber Harvesting permitting requirements were added.
- Larger projects require more staff time subsequently, the fees for projects comprised of 10 acres or more of disturbance were revised to be a standard base fee of \$1250 plus \$100 per additional acre of disturbance.
- A charge was established for minor E&S plan revisions. Minor revisions requested by the applicant up to five will remain at no charge; any revisions over 5 requested will be charged \$100 per revision.

***A motion was made by Tom Headlee to adopt and advertise the Fee Schedule, Policy and Resolution as presented by the Committee and in order to advertise the change for a 30 day period; the effective date will be 30 days following the meeting advertisement. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)***

As required, the adopted Fee Schedule will be forwarded to the State Conservation Commission (SCC).

c. **Act 13, the Natural Gas Impact Fee**

Over the past several GCCD meetings, the Act 13 Unconventional Gas Well Fund allocations have been discussed. GCCD staff has been working with Karen Books, SCC, concerning the expenditure of \$50,800 by GCCD for administration of the conservation district board. GCCD has until June 30<sup>th</sup> to come up with true expenditures in the amount of \$50,800 to be used according to CDFAP administrative guidelines. The timeline in which the funds could be expended are the FY 12-13 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013). The guidelines were narrow prior to conversations held by our district and a few others throughout the state (Tioga and Lycoming Counties). Since GCCD is substantially subsidized from the County's General Fund, the administrative costs that can be claimed by the CDFAP Administrative Fund are substantially lower than many conservation districts that are self-administered (i.e. office space, utilities, maintenance, personnel expenses, etc.). The SCC understands the situation and they are willing to work with all conservation districts facing this problem to ensure that funding is allotted to each district as needed. Currently, the SCC is trying to work with the CCD's to identify specific projects that can be approved for funding at the upcoming SCC Winter Meeting in State College on January 23, 2013. They will not be asking for specific projects to be approved, just a broad range of needs that can be approved at a later date. Included with the meeting packets was a proposed budget to utilize the administrative portion of these funds. These items have been submitted to the SCC for their consideration.

Items proposed include:

- Funding for the administration of the Ag Easement Program (a portion of the Ag Technician's salary, offices supplies, publishing, etc.).
- The funding (with a balance of \$3,172) GCCD provided to the Greene County Farmland Preservation Board for operating costs.
- One half of the salary and benefits and overtime costs for two of our Second E&S Technician positions (full and part-time).
- The overages that exceed the cap for the First Technician's salary.
- The salary, benefits, and supplies for the West Nile Program.

Mr. Kubasik noted that future Impact Fee Funding will not be administered in this manner. Commissioner Trader suggested that a plan be developed to utilize future funds.

***Pending approval of the SCC, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to excuse the GCFLP Board for the repayment of the \$3,172 and also to submit the Administrative Assistance Financial***

***Statement to include the above items. Jim Cowell seconded.  
Motion Passed)***

**d. CDFAP – Agricultural Conservation Technician (ACT) Program  
Contract – July 1, 2012-June 30, 2017**

The ACT Program Draft Contract was discussed and the funding levels of \$30,784.48 were approved at the GCCD meeting held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012. At that meeting a final contract was not available for signature by the board. A contract for the ACT program was received by our office. Being that, the board approved the funding levels and reviewed the draft contract approval and the signature of Chairman Eisiminger is needed. The draft document that was reviewed at the September meeting had not changed in its final version.

In addition to the contract, other items required include the Acknowledgement Sheet for the quarterly reimbursement payment of funds with the signature of Chairman Eisiminger and a copy of our W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to execute the contract and provide the additional items. Edward Deter seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**e. GCCD Monthly Meeting Date & Time Change**

Keith Martin was appointed by the Greene County Commissioners to serve as a director of GCCD at their meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. However, due to a schedule conflict, Mr. Martin is unable to attend our meetings as currently scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at 10 AM. Mr. Martin could be available for a meeting on Friday mornings.

Chairman Eisiminger spoke to Mr. Martin prior to the meeting. Mr. Martin indicated that he would understand if the board chose to not change to meeting date to accommodate his schedule. Commissioner Trader also spoke with Mr. Martin and Commissioner Trader indicated that Mr. Martin conveyed that he appreciated the appointment to the board and that he would have no hard feelings if the meeting day could not be changed. Since, the meeting day had been established for a number of years, it was the consensus of the Board to continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to retain our current meeting dates, the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Edward Deter seconded. (Motion Passed)***

f. **Associate Board Members**

Associate Directors are appointed on an annual basis. Greg Hopkins and Bill Wentzel served as Associate Directors for the GCCD in 2012. Three individuals, Gay Thistle, Jeanne Williams, and Glodenna Halstead were also mentioned as potential candidates. A letter will be sent to these individuals expressing the board's interest to ask them to serve as Associate Directors.

Mr. Kubasik noted that an Associate Director, who has served two years or more, may be appointed by the County Commissioners to serve as a Conservation District Director, should a vacancy occur, without going through the nominating process.

***A motion was made by Edward Deter to appoint Greg Hopkins and Bill Wentzel as Associate Directors for 2013. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

g. **2013 Committee Appointments**

As a result of director and staff changes this year, a revision of the committee members is needed. Action on this matter was tabled until the next meeting, scheduled to be held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Ms. Snider will contact each board member to review the committees and prepare a list of volunteers to serve on each committee. This list will then be provided to Chairman Eisiminger so that appointments to the committees may be made at next month's meeting.

h. **Southwest Regional No-till Conference Registration**

The meeting will be held on January 30, 2013 at the Fred Rogers Center at St. Vincent College Campus, Latrobe PA. Ms. Rush is requesting to attend the conference with a registration fee of \$30. Any board members interested in attending, should contact the office so that registrations can be made. Ms. Snider noted that she will send our new Watershed Specialist, Sean Dougherty, to the conference.

***A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the attendance of those interested in attending the conference. Edward Deter seconded. (Motion Passed)***

i. **Appalachian Grazing Conference Registration**

The conference, which Ms. Rush is requesting to attend as a member of the planning committee, will be held on March 8 -9, 2013 at the Waterfront Hotel, Morgantown, WV. Registration is \$100 and a two night hotel accommodation would also be needed.

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to grant approval to Ms. Rush to attend the conference, with the above expenditures. Edward Deter seconded. (Motion Passed)***

j. **Contribution to the Culinary Arts Department at the Career and Technology Center**

The Career and Technology Center Culinary Arts Department has been invited to participate in an Inaugural function in Washington, D.C. The GCCD has used the CTC's Culinary Program services in the past, and been very pleased with the outcome. In an effort to support our local youth, the Board considered making a small donation to offset their expenses to the event.

***A motion was made by Tom Headlee to donate \$250 to the Culinary Arts Department. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**IX. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS**

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

**Lisa Snider** – She congratulated Daryl Throckmorton, E&S Technician, on his upcoming wedding.

**Laurel Rush** – She distributed copies of the 2013-2014 Pennsylvania Conservation Planners produced by the PA Ombudsman program with funding from PA DEP. An article advertising the calendars will be placed in the next GCCD newsletter.

At this time, Mr. Cowell noted that he attended this year's Pennsylvania Farm Show where Governor Corbett assured the audience that the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) will continue.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – She noted that plans are to hold bi-weekly meetings with Ms. Matesic, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Snider, Mr. Throckmorton, and herself to discuss coordination of mutual projects with the GCPC.

## **X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS**

**Russ Gibbs** – Mr. Gibbs gave an update on the Forest Stewardship Program. Since his last report, four additional program participants were added for a total of 29. In the four counties in which he is assigned, a total of 72 visits on 3,100 acres were made in 2012. In Greene County, 18 visits on 500 acres were made as well as 196 phone assists.

**Chuck Kubasik** – He noted that effective January 1, 2013, the PA Department of General Services, increased the personal mileage rate \$.01 for a total of \$.565. Generally, Conservation Districts follow the state's mileage rate.

The PA Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) Regional Director's meeting will be held on March 12, 2013 at the Beaver County Conservation District Office. Plans are to appoint a PACD Regional Director to cover the 10 county- area at the meeting.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) will hold a Regional Roundtable Meeting on March 22, 2013 at the Westmoreland County Conservation District office.

Currently, applications are being accepted until February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for the District Manager's position in Allegheny County. The starting salary for the position will range from \$65,000-\$75,000.

The PA DEP Regional Office in Pittsburgh will be filling a Compliance Specialist position that will benefit County Conservation Districts in the region.

**Robbie Matesic** – As Ms. Kozlowski noted, the GCPC and GCCD have been working closely on projects and this has been very beneficial for the applicants to have this assistance in the land development approval process.

A member of the Greene County Farmland Preservation Board has resigned. The Greene County Commissioners will name his replacement at their next meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The PA Environmental Council has begun a campaign to promote our rivers. Through an on-line site, voters can choose their favorite river, one of which is the Monongahela River. The vote only takes a few minutes.

The Greene County Office of Economic Development has been working closely with the Tri-County Oil and Gas Expo to assist in the planning of their annual event. In addition to the expo, coordination with Penn State University Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research (MCOR) to develop a two-day conference (May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>) to discuss the use of natural gas and how it is changing global markets is underway. As it becomes available, additional information will be forwarded regarding this conference. According to the USACE, Penn State University and the University of Oklahoma's work in shale gas is identified as the premiere work in the country. The Universities have been visiting areas in Eastern Europe and other countries to assist them in exploring and drilling their shale gas.

Vehicles run by natural gas and fueling stations were also briefly discussed.

**Jim Kennedy** – He commended Greene County for the work they do. Record attendance was set at this year's Pennsylvania Farm Show to promote agriculture. He also noted that Western Pennsylvania did very well in the exhibits at the show, receiving several honors.

Mr. Cowell expressed concern regarding the method used to bring children in to the show, should an animal break loose. Mr. Kennedy advised him to write to the organizers of the show with his concerns.

## **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to enter in to Executive Session. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

## **XII. RECONVENMENT**

***A motion as made by Commissioner Trader to reconvene the meeting. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Prior to adjournment, Ms. Matesic noted that relevant news articles are reviewed and e-mailed to all staff members. Pertinent information will also be forwarded to GCCD Board members.

The U.S. Coast Guard has received a request from barge and shipping companies to transport brine water used in the natural gas industry in barges on the river. To date, the Coast Guard has denied the request.

***Since an accident could result in extreme environmental consequences, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to draft a letter on behalf of GCCD supporting the Coast Guard's decision to deny the request. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**XIII. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

**XIV. The next regular meeting will be February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

*With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Edward Deter to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 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 _____, 2013.
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District