

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
June 18, 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; Jim Kenney-Director; Greg Hopkins-Director; Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director; Bill Wentzel-Associate Director.

**Staff**

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

**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 May 22, 2013 meeting. Tom Headlee 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.

**Laurel Rush** – At the last GCCD meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, approval was made to provide \$2,491.00 to Waynesburg University to conduct a study in Greene County using the Ames Assay. Since that time, two thank you letters were received from the University.

At the Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013, she learned that Penn's Corner is very close to executing a contract with former Penn's Corner Executive Director, Sherene Hess, to serve as the Project Manager.

Approximately 80 consumers and 30 businesses have pledged to participate in the Buy Local/Buy Greene Program, administered through Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful (WPB), by buying a percentage of their products locally. Information regarding this and other programs is available on the WPB website.

As a member of the Center for Beef Excellence (CFBE), Mr. Cowell noted their efforts to improve the marketability of beef in Pennsylvania. Currently, all beef sold in Pennsylvania must be processed in a USDA certified facility. This can be difficult, since there is only one facility located in the area. On the other hand, West Virginia allows meat processed at state certified facilities, which are more numerous, to be sold within the state. The CFBE is proposing similar regulations.

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

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – Currently, work is being done on three large projects. Consol's Patterson Creek Road Widening Project in Morris Township and the Nineveh Sewage Treatment Plant Project also in Morris Township. Both require Individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permits. Both projects have been reviewed and she awaits revisions from the consultant. The third project, the Columbia Gas Line 36 Pipeline Replacement Project, located in multiple townships, is currently under review.

Approximately \$110,000 has been received year-to-date for Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) review and permit fees. This is about a \$21,000 increase in fees received for all of 2012. Much of the increase is attributed to the newly imposed Chapter 105 program fees.

**Sean Dougherty** – Sean will be attending the next meeting of the Izaak Walton League, Harry Enstrom Chapter, on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 where he will present information regarding the services offered by the Greene County Conservation District (GCCD).

He measured the pH of water samples taken at the South Fork of Ten Mile (SFTM) Creek and Purman Run. Both were found to be basic, with a reading of 8 at the SFTM and 8.5 at Purman Run.

Last week, a call was received from an intern, from Platypus, a Pittsburgh based company, working to develop radio controlled boats to conduct water monitoring on lakes and the rivers. This type of monitoring would provide the ability to sample from stream bank to stream bank to show perimeter changes, as opposed to an individual's ability to only test areas along the shoreline.

Discussed at the last GCCD meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, was the need for the compilation and analysis of all water testing data. Mr. Dougherty included in his written report, the various entities he found, via the internet, conducting water sampling. Upon the request of Mr. Hopkins, he outlined the types of sampling being completed as well as many of the sampling locations. Mr. Dougherty noted that while some of locations of water monitoring sites are online, but there was no numerical data uploaded to the sites.

One of the entities included in the report, was the IWLA and a discussion ensued regarding their testing program, which was made possible through an \$8,500 contribution of the GCCD, and their lack of follow-up. Ms. Matesic noted that the expectations of the GCCD Board of Directors were made perfectly clear at a recent meeting with the IWLA and that it is evident that they want to correct past problems. The IWLA was informed of GCCD's request to receive quarterly water quality reports. She also said that the IWLA clearly wants to correct the past deficiencies by providing quarterly water quality reports, etc. They were informed that these deficiencies must be corrected before proceeding. At the request of the IWLA, Ms. Matesic and Mr. Dougherty will be attending their next meeting on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6:30 at the Greene County Country Club to further discuss these issues with the membership.

**Zack Basinger** – Included in his written report, was the number of mosquitos found, since he began trapping, the last week of May. The results indicate a decline in the numbers from last year. Last year the only mosquito that tested positive for WNV in Greene County, was found at the sewage treatment plant located in Center Township. The numbers at this site have declined, possibly due to the removable of a tire pile behind the facility. As a precaution, however, an additional trapping site has been added at the Center

Township Community Park. Construction at the Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority and Reesman's Mobile Home Park has prevented trapping at those sites. After speaking to a representative at Greene County Memorial Park, he was able to place a trap on their property, near Reeseman's.

Only four of the twelve traps available are working properly. Ed Farrell, PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), will deliver new motors for those inoperable traps.

Statewide to date, three mosquitoes have tested positive for WVN; two were found in Erie County and one in Adams County. In his downtime in the West Nile Virus (WNV) Program, he recently visited a construction project site, of which a complaint was received, with Ms. Snider, and has worked with Ms. Kozlowski regarding the plan review process. He found both activities to be very interesting.

Mr. Headlee noted a recent news report regarding the hazards of standing water attracting mosquitoes.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. 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. Closing will be scheduled once the checks are received from the state Treasurer.

The Charles Harry easement, Morgan Township. An appraisal and a deed description plot will now be completed for this property.

The GCFLP program received 5 applications for the 2013 sign-up period. Four applications are rollovers from 2012 and one is a new application. These applications will be reviewed by the GCFLP Board at their next meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Trader noted that he is pleased with the progression of the program.

### **a. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment (MRWA)**

A conference call was scheduled to be held on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013; however, miscommunications lead to its cancellation. Mr. Dougherty provides notes

of all of the conference calls which are very beneficial in keeping everyone up-to-date on the progress of the study. Ms. Snider is working to provide information regarding stormwater, including Greene County's view on this issue, for the MRWA. Data collected by the West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI) has been compiled and is now being reviewed to determine if it can be incorporated in the MRWA.

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

Jefferson Township approved the ASA creation at their March meeting. They still need to submit a notarized copy of their resolution. Mr. Headlee, also serves as Greene County's Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds, suggested that Ms. Rush and he meet with Jefferson Township to address this matter.

Franklin Township will have the required acres to create their ASA once Corbly Orndorff submits his application. Richard Patterson and Bruce Rohrer are the other two property owners.

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

The Taylor project is complete. The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) engineer was on site on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 to inspect the project. Morgan Township will submit their bills early next week. The current deadline for the completion of the grant is June 30, 2013. An extension of one year has been requested.

An additional project is being pursued in the Ruff Creek watershed to be completed if the extension is approved. J.B. Harrold, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Grazing Specialist, completed a site visit to begin developing a grazing plan for this project.

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

An e-mail regarding PACD's recommendation to the State Conservation Commission (SCC) regarding the distribution of the Act 13 funding was included in the meeting packets. The recommendation, made with the input of Conservation Districts and the Conservation District Managers Advisory Committee, (CDMAC) is as follows.

Sixty (60) percent of the Act 13 funding will be distributed equally among the sixty-six (66) conservation districts.

Forty (40) percent will be distributed to conservation districts with gas wells drilled the previous year. Each impacted county conservation district will receive a \$5,000.00 bonus as well as a \$190 per well drilled that year. Any remaining funds not distributed will be distributed to conservation districts with well activity.

It was noted that funding for Conservation Districts is included in the law, valid for fifteen (15) years, with a cap of \$7 million dollars. Discussion continued regarding the number of wells drilled and the amount of funding each conservation district will receive and other programs that are funded.

The 2011 distribution by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) of Unconventional Gas Well Funds under the Conservation Fund Allocation Program has been discussed at numerous previous meetings. Ms. Snider noted that approximately \$6,000 of these funds remained and will be used on office furniture, file cabinets, etc., prior to the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 deadline.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **a. Request for Assistance**

**Ronald H. Watters – 157 acres – Whiteley Township**

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to accept this Request for Assistance. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **b. Trout in the Classroom – Training – June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Sean is requesting to attend this conference to assist Mapletown High School teacher, Amber Burkett, with their new program. The training will be held in Bellefonte, PA with the only incurred expense being mileage to and from the training.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve Mr. Dougherty's attendance of the training. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)***

c. **Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP)**

A request was received from PA DEP to submit the fiscal year 2013-2014 cost share funding application for the manager, first technician and second technician with the GCCD. Following is the preliminary figures for the salary and benefits requested for each position.

District Manager - \$55,482.03

First Technician - \$41,130.74

Second Technician (Full Time & Part Time) - \$40,119.74

Commissioner Trader noted that the Greene County Salary Board will meet on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and may discuss a Cost of Living Increase (COLA). In order to ensure the correct figures are used, he suggested that the submission be delayed until that time.

***A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve the application for CDFAP application pending any major changes. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)***

d. **Updated Fair Display Funding**

A request was made to use up to \$5,000.00 to update and purchase new weather resistant items for the outdoor fair display. Those items may include tables, a display, table coverings, signs, promotional items, etc. It was noted that many of these items can be quite costly. Since the display is manned part-time by GCCD employees, Mr. Cowell suggested that shirts with the GCCD name be purchased for easy identification.

Mr. Hopkins noted that the expenditure of \$5,000 was approved for the planned Service Fair at the GCCD meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Ms. Snider explained that since many events were scheduled for the same day, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the fair was cancelled with no expenditures. Plans are to reschedule the event early next year.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the expenditure of \$5,000 for materials for the fair display. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

e. **U.S. Coast Guard – Transportation of Frack Water on the Monongahela River**

Commander Lindsay Weaver was scheduled to participate in a GCCD meeting, via conference call, to discuss this matter. However, her busy spring and summer schedule has not allowed her the time to do so. She sends her apologies and suggested that we compile and e-mail our questions to and she will make every effort to answer them. Ms. Weaver noted that no action has been taken on this matter and talks are moving slowly. Ms. Snider noted that she will send an e-mail to GCCD directors requesting that they submit their questions to her which she will forward to Ms. Weaver.

f. **Floodplain Management Agreement**

At the last GCCD meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, the Board agreed to allow Ms. Snider to pursue this issue for presentation at this meeting. Upon contact with Dan Fitzpatrick of the Department of Community and Economic Development, Ms. Snider learned that currently, there is no funding available to reimburse conservation districts for completing the work (ordinance review). He advised her to forward any municipal ordinances received to him and check back next year regarding the status of the program.

Ms. Snider noted that the Federal Emergency Management's Floodplain Maps should be available for distribution to the municipalities by the end of 2013.

**IX. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

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

**Robbie Matesic** – She noted that all GCCD Directors should be receiving an invitation to the grand opening of the Tractor Supply Store located in Waynesburg, PA. The invitation includes a \$25 gift card.

She referred to an article that appeared in the Observer Reporter regarding the gas well drilling and its effect on the Clean and Green Program. The program allows farmers and landowners to pay a lower property tax rate on plots larger than 10 acres that are used for agriculture or are forests, or open land. The law governing the program was revised in 2010 so that any land used in gas and oil drilling could no longer claim the tax break and a roll back tax was to be charged to the landowner. She presented a map showing the

large number of properties enrolled in the program in Greene County as well as a map showing those properties with gas wells.

Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski close work with the Planning Commission and the municipalities regarding land development projects has been very beneficial in the coordination of those projects. She commended them for their great job of completing the review of projects in a timely manner.

Some time ago, the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (PA DEP BAMR) expressed an interest in assisting with the Mather Gob Pile, but, higher priority sites prohibited any action from being taken. Recently, PA DEP BAMR contacted Greene County regarding the site, now owned by the Greene County Industrial Development Authority (GCIDA). Senator Solobay and Representative Snyder are advocating assistance with the site. About four years ago, Alcoa completed test plots with favorable results. Now Alcoa may work with the PA DEP BAMR to complete additional work of the site and she may enlist the assistance of GCCD Watershed Specialist Sean Dougherty.

It was noted that a presentation of the Alcoa test plots was made at a Penn's Corner RC&D meeting and additional information may be available for distribution to the Board. Any available information will be distributed to the GCCD Board.

At this time, Ms. Rush noted that Suzy Petery, Supervisory District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has been temporarily transferred to Colorado for approximately 120 days or until early September. This along with the impending departure of Laura Smith of the Fayette County Office, who has accepted a position in the Clarion Office, puts a burden on two employees to cover the entire field team area. Since, most of Ms. Rush's technical work is completed through NRCS; it could slightly impact her work.

Mr. Hopkins inquired about an upcoming conference hosted by the Westmoreland Conservation District regarding compressed natural gas vehicles. Ms. Matesic noted that there are other groups, one of which Clean Cities, who hosts many of these conferences and she offered to share the information.

At a previous GCCD meeting, the appointment of delegates to the Penn's Corner RC&D Council was discussed. The current delegates are as follows.

Commissioner Trader, Commissioner Representative, Robbie Matesic, Alternate; Jim Cowell, Conservation District Representative, Laurel Rush Alternate; Lisa Snider, Member-At-Large

With only the Commissioner Representative and the Alternate permitted to vote, Mr. Cowell noted that he soon will changing jobs and will be available to attend more of the RC&D meetings. He requested consideration of a change of the appointments in order to be eligible to vote.

Commissioner Trader agreed to consider this matter.

**XI. The next regular meeting will be July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.**

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Kenney inquired about the vacant Resource Specialist position and the interviews he participated in some time ago. Ms. Matesic said that an offer of employment was extended, to the gentleman recommended by GCCD representatives, Warren Dickerson of Bobtown, PA. He will begin his tenure with GCCD on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013.

The office move of the GCCD was briefly discussed. No determination has been made.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

***With no further business to discussion a motion was made by Jim Kenney to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 p.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	

