

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
March 26, 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; Edward Deter-Director; Greg Hopkins, Director, Glodenna Halstead, Associate Director; Gay Thistle, Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Kim Moninger-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer; and Robbie Matesic-Department of Economic Development.

Greene County Commissioner Blair Zimmerman; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Lindsay Kozlowski-Environmental Program Specialist; and Sean Dougherty, Watershed Specialist attended a portion of the meeting.

Introductions were made for newly appointed Associate Directors, Ms. Halstead and Ms. Thistle. Chairman Eisiminger welcomed them to GCCD.

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 February 19, 2013 meeting. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Edward Deter 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 – She attended the following meetings.

- Regional Nutrient Management training on March 21st. Topics of discussion included soil testing and the implementation of the Manure Management Manual on small farm operations.
- The Appalachian Grazing Conference, held on March 8th and 9th, 2013 at the Waterfront Hotel, Morgantown, WV, was very successful, with approximately 368 people in attendance.
- At the Penn's Corner RC&D meeting on March 18th, she learned that the fiduciary agreement with the River Alert Information Network (RAIN) was solidified.
- Upcoming meetings she will be attending include the joint annual meeting of the Greene County Farm Bureau/Greene County Cooperative Extension on March 27th and the NRCS Technical Meeting on March 28th.

To date, 15 landowners have been assisted, including Lewis Fox, who obtained a Mini Grant Application for a spring repair.

Sean Dougherty – He attended the Dirt and Gravel Road Program's Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Training sponsored by the Beaver County Conservation District (BCCD) on March 19th and 20th. The training provides eligibility to assist municipalities with the program. Applications for the Greene County program are due by April 30, 2013. Also, at the meeting he met BCCD's Watershed Specialist, Marty Warchol, who offered her assistance.

Three conference calls were held with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Monongahela River Watershed Assessment. He is working to obtain contact information for watersheds groups, etc. in the area. With the

assistance of David Craft, GIS Coordinator, maps are being drafted showing the legislative districts.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Since the last meeting, the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) has instituted its General Permit fees, resulting in an increase in the fees GCCD has collected. Following is a summary of the program activities to date.

- Twenty-one Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control Plans have been received for a total of \$32,725 in review fees.
- Twelve of those plans have been reviewed and approved which included three NPDES Permits and nine stream crossing permits.
- A total of four complaints were received, one of which was referred to PA DEP.
- Plans were received for three additional projects including a Columbia Gas pipeline, a borrow area at Evergreen Industrial Park, and modifications of a permit for Mark West.

Lisa Snider – PA DEP Secretary, Mike Krancer has stepped down from his position effective, April 15th, 2013. E. Christopher Abruzzo, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Corbett, will serve as acting Secretary. Announced at PA DEP's Regional Roundtable Meeting was the appointment of Deb Sentilo as a Compliance Specialist. She will begin her tenure on April 8th, 2013 at the Regional Office and will be available to assist Conservation Districts with complaints.

Aleppo, Center, Dunkard, and Greene Townships will be submitting applications for funding under the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program. Last week, the Glade Run Road site in Dunkard Township was visited. Work on the lower portion of this road was previously done under the program. This application will be for work on the upper portion of the road that contains very little road base.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Budget Update** – As part of the quarterly practice, a copy of the 2013 budget and the year-to-date income and expenditures for comparison was included in the meeting packets.
- b. **State Ethics Forms** – The Board was reminded that the deadline for submission of these forms is April 30th, 2013.
- c. **Farmland Preservation (FLP)** – The GCFLP Board is currently pursuing two tracts of land owned by Charles Harry, Morgan Township and Harley and Janet Gapen, Greene Township.

A corrective deed has been filed by the Gopen's attorney, Kirk King. This farm has tentatively been placed on the April board meeting of the State FLP board.

The Charles Harry easement, Morgan Township. The GCFLP attorney, Greg Hook, continues to work on the title search.

\$3,172.89 was the balance of the \$5000 that was transferred. The GCFLP program will be accepting applications from April 15 – June 15, 2013.

b. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment

The bi-weekly conference calls have been beneficial in moving the project forward. The notes from the Conference Calls written by Watershed Specialist, Sean Dougherty, were included with the meeting packets. Outreach for the project is currently the main topic of discussion.

Ms. Matesic gave a summary of the project, for the newly appointed Associate Directors, as follows. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) is conducting the assessment in an 18 county area (6 in Pennsylvania, 11 in West Virginia and 1 in Maryland). Work on the project began nearly two years ago. Greene County is the non-federal sponsor and is conducting much of the outreach. The goal is to evaluate water quality and quantity, infrastructure, flood control, and navigation. USACE is interested in defining a Monongahela River Basin Commission an Upper Ohio Basin Commission, with authority commensurate to the Delaware and Susquehanna Commissions.

c. Agricultural Security Area Program

Jefferson Township approved the ASA creation at their March meeting. They intend to record their resolution before the end of the month.

An additional ASA application was received from Corbly Orndorff, Franklin Township. With this application, Franklin Township will now have the required acres to create their ASA.

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 deadline for the completion of this grant is June 30, 2013. A meeting is planned to be

held in the weeks to come to review the project plans and set a date to begin the construction.

A spreadsheet showing the projects completed, a pending project, and an estimate of the remaining funds (approximately \$26,000) was distributed. A landowner recently expressed an interest in installing streambank fencing in the Ruff Creek Watershed. Ms. Rush contacted Rita Coleman, PA DEP's Grant Advisor, to request that the grant be extended, at least through December 31, 2013. Ms. Coleman advised GCCD to speak to the landowner to ensure that he is willing to complete the work and if so, submit a revised Scope of Work for consideration.

e. Act 13, the Natural Gas Impact Fee

This subject has been discussed at several previous GCCD meetings.

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) is working with its government liaisons to speak with state government officials concerning the Governor's budget proposal to zero out the line item for Conservation Districts. Currently, it is seen that about half of the governing body views this concern as a detriment to conservation districts.

On March 15th, 2013 Chairman Eisiminger, Greene County Commissioner and Vice Chairman Trader, Ms. Matesic, and Ms. Snider met with Senator Solobay and Representative Snyder on the matter. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was their understanding that they were in favor of restoring the line item for conservation districts, even if it is only partial restoration.

Ms. Snider noted that GCCD is fortunate to have the assistance of the Greene County Commissioners for salaries, rent, etc., but many conservation districts do not.

GCCD directors were encouraged to write to their legislators regarding this matter. A sample letter, prepared by PACD, will be forwarded via e-mail to everyone.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request for Assistance

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

b. West Nile Virus Program

The 2012 West Nile Virus Program costs were \$3,724.92. Intern, Zack Basinger, conducted the monitoring last year and is willing to serve in this capacity this summer. He can begin work approximately mid-May. PA DEP has agreed to assist GCCD in the program. Following the departure of the intern, the Watershed Specialist, usually picks up the monitoring until the end of the season.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the hiring of Zack Basinger. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

Ms. Snider will consult with Greene County's Human Resource Director, Tracy Zivkovich regarding the hiring process.

c. District Management Summit

The meeting is scheduled to be held, June 4th and 5th, 2013 in State College, PA. Ms. Snider is requesting to attend the meeting with expenditure for hotel accommodations for a one or possibly two nights stay, fuel, and meals, etc.

A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve Ms. Snider's attendance of this meeting. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

d. 2013-2014 Trout in the Classroom Start-up Grant

Amber Burkett, Mapletown High School Teacher, has submitted an application for the grant and contacted GCCD. A \$400 cash contribution, as match from a local source, is needed by May 17, 2013.

Project partnership can involve assisting the classroom with aquarium set-up, in class and out-of-class programs/projects, connection with the community through local watershed projects, community environmental projects/actions and contacts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to partner with Mapletown High School and contribute \$400 as a match for the grant. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

e. Ryerson Station State Park

Commissioner Trader, Edward Deter, Ms. Matesic, and Ms. Snider attended an informational meeting regarding the status of the Duke Lake Dam at Ryerson Station State Park hosted by PA Department of

Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) Secretary Richard Allan on February 27th, 2013.

PA DCNR Secretary Allan is requesting support letters from agencies and local municipalities voicing our support for the recommendations of the Interim Mediator's Report. At the informational meeting, Secretary Allan explained how important it is to receive letters from those who support a settlement along the lines of the information presented in the Interim Mediator's report. These letters of support are critical for the success of restoring Duke Lake.

As part of the proposed settlement, it was learned that Consol will be granted the right to extract natural gas from portions of the park. After which, these parcels (approximately 500 acres) will be donated to Ryerson Station State Park. In turn, Consol will provide the funding to build a new dam and restore Duke Lake. The dredging of the lake is still planned. The rebuilding of the dam would most likely not begin until late 2014.

At the last GCCD meeting on February 19th, 2013, it was noted that the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has a new grant program funded through Act 13, the Natural Gas Impact Fee. This information, specifically, the Watershed Restoration/Protection Grant, was offered at the meeting with PA DCNR Secretary Allan. It was thought that perhaps this grant could be sought to install Best Management Practices (BMP's) upstream to prevent future sedimentation. Also, Ms. Snider spoke to a group that purchases conservation easements as part of mitigation through PA DEP.

A draft letter was included in the meeting packets and at this time, Board comments and/or approval was requested.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to submit the letter of support for the recommendations of the Interim Mediators Report. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to pursue the Watershed Restoration/Protection Grant for the area upstream of Ryerson Station State Park. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

f. **Conservation District Building Fund**

Discussion consisted of developing committees that would research the possibility of constructing a building that would service the agriculture, business development, construction and environmental organizations throughout Greene County. It was thought that funding for the project could be through Act 13, however, since the proposed state budget, does

not include an allocation for Conservation Districts that Act 13 funding will most likely need to be directed to salaries, etc.

It was noted that our present location, presents a problem with parking for individuals seeking our assistance with permits, etc. As a resolution, Commissioner Trader previously offered GCCD the space at the bottom level of the Greene County Airport and reiterated that the offer still stands. Discussion continued regarding a move to the airport, the amount of space available, the time frame, the expenditures, etc.

Commissioner Trader was asked if GCCD could count on the support for funding from the Greene County Commissioners if a new building was constructed. Commissioner Trader responded that, at that time, the matter would have to be taken under the consideration.

g. Board Development

Information was included in the meeting packet to discuss the possibility of either working with other conservation districts in the region or working directly with an organization that can assist the board with development.

Michael Kumer, spoke at a recent meeting of the PA Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) regarding proper conduct of CD Board Meetings, etc.

Ms. Snider will continue to work with the other Conservation Districts regarding this matter.

h. Whiteley Creek Streambank Stabilization Project Protection – GG Grant Amendment

The District received copies of the Amendment No. 1 to the Grant Agreement for the Whiteley Creek Streambank Stabilization Growing Greener Grant. All rights, duties and obligations under the grant are assumed by the Western PA Conservancy (WPC). The GCCD is assisting WPC with the project as needed.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to execute the amendment. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

i. Tri County Oil and Gas Conference and Expo – May 16th-18th

Prior to the expo, a conference regarding gas utilization will be held at the Double Tree Hilton at Meadowlands, PA. This conference, with a registration fee of \$199.00, will expand upon the previous conference held at Waynesburg University that primarily focused on natural gas use in

transportation. This conference will encompass gas utilization in manufacturing. Ms. Matesic, serves on the Planning Committee, noted the speakers invited to participate.

Mr. Hopkins noted that on W.A.N.B. Radio he heard that legislation was introduced to allow access of natural gas to residential customers and with the abundance of gas in Pennsylvania, only about one half of the residents have access to it. Ms. Matesic noted that this matter will be researched by the staff and any information found, will be forwarded to the Board.

A motion was made by Edward Deter to approve the attendance of Ms. Snider and any GCCD Board interested. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).

j. Associate Director – Sandy Theis

Ms. Theis has requested to serve as an Associate Director with GCCD.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve Ms. Theis as an Associate Director with GCCD. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

IX. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Ms. Snider noted that the GCCD newsletter was recently published and mailed.

X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Kim Moninger - The Farm Bill Program rankings have been completed and two contracts have been obligated (one in Greene County and one in Washington County). Applications have been received for Forestry Management and Implementation Plans and Grazing Plans.

Commissioner Zimmerman - The Commissioner commented briefly on the inaccessibility of natural gas to residents.

XI. The next regular meeting will be April 16th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Ms. Snider noted that a total of ten applications were received for the vacant Environmental Resource Specialist Position. Three of those applicants meet the Delegation Requirements of the Chapter 102 Program. Interviews will soon be scheduled.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.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