

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
November 19, 2013**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eisiminger at 10:10 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; Sandy Theis-Associate Director; Gay Thistle-Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Suzy Petery-NRCS

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Warren Dickerson-Resource Specialist; Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist; Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer; and Robbie Matesic-Department of Economic Development.

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 September 17th and September 25th, 2013 meetings. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. 2014 NACD Annual Meeting, Feb. 2-5, 2014, Anaheim CA
- b. Greene County Izaak Walton League – Mine Discharge Water

A copy of a letter from the Izaak Walton League (IWL) to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), regarding mine water discharges, was received. The letter signed by, Ken Dufalla, President, of the Harry Enstrom Chapter of the Izaak Walton League and Kenneth Gayman, President of the Shawnee Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, states that high levels of radiation were found at a treatment facility in Indiana County and that salt, bromides, strontium, osmotic pressures and sodium have been found in mine discharges in Greene and Washington Counties. The IWL is requesting a copy of the results of the testing for radiation and requests that this matter be given a high priority by the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

VI. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

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

Laurel Rush – The lime spreader has been rented several times this fall.

As part of the “Buy Local Campaign”, a Holiday Open House will be held on December 6th, 2013 in Waynesburg.

The Project Grass Committee is planning a field day/tour, possibly in September of 2014, in the Beaver or Butler area. In conjunction with the Project Grass Committee, the Keystone Beef Co-op is planning a series of meetings, one of which; will be held in Fayette County, in February of 2014. The Co-op would like to enlist farmers to background cattle. The Appalachian Grazing Conference, with a theme of the “Dollars and Cents” of Grazing will be held March 13th and 14th, 2014 at the Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown, WV.

As part of her written staff report, a spreadsheet was included that listed the number of individuals (69) she directly assisted this year.

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a conference, “Shale Drilling and Public Health, A Day of Discovery”, on November 23rd, 2013 at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA.

Warren Dickerson – He has accompanied Ms. Snider and Mr. Wentzel on several site inspections and has begun to review Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control plans. Also, he attended, along with Ms. Snider and Mr. Jeremy Kelly, Planner and Business Development Manager of the Department of Economic Development, the Chapter 102/105 annual training where he learned additional information concerning both programs.

Jared Zinn – Jared began with GCCD on November 12th, 2013 as the Watershed Specialist.

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

E&S Review Fees - \$81,337.50
Chapter 105 Clean Water Fund Permits - \$60,675.00
NPDES/Clean Water Fund Permits - \$11,500.00

Ms. Snider has been working closely with Mr. Dickerson and recently hired program specialist, Zack Basinger. Currently, Mr. Basinger is working one day per week, every Thursday, until he completes his education at California University in December. Mr. Basinger's main objective will be completing the administrative portion of the program along with review and inspections; with Mr. Dickerson focusing on inspections and plan review.

In reference to the staff reports, Mr. Hopkins inquired about the status of the U.S. Coast Guard's proposed policy regarding the hauling of oil and gas waste water on the Monongahela River. Ms. Snider said that the deadline for public comments is November 30, 2013 and information regarding this matter is available via the internet. To date, approximately 139 comments (most in opposition) have been made. Questions posed by the Coast Guard include the amount of radiation in these fluids, the makeup of the water, and the method of transportation. U.S. Coast Guard Commander, Lindsay Weaver, indicated that if the water is transported on barges, they will double contained. And she said that the biggest concern of the Coast Guard is in the exchange of the water from a facility to the barges and the degree of exposure to radiation the workers will have. This matter will be discussed later in this meeting. Another concern is the location of the water intakes and how notification would be made in the event of an emergency.

Robbie Matesic – She commended GCCD for working closely with the Greene County Planning Commission (GCPC) to advance county projects. Those projects include, the Greene County Airport in Franklin Township, the Sheetz Store in Cumberland Township, the additions and alterations by the Carmichaels Area School District and several compressor stations. Plans have also been received for the Texas Eastern Pipeline Litigation Project involving Emerald Mine.

Ms. Matesic noted that Mr. Jeremy Kelly attended the recent Chapter 102/105 annual training with Ms. Snider and Mr. Dickerson. His attendance was necessary to ensure that adequate staff is available to review E&S plans in Ms. Kozlowski's absence for maternity leave.

Ms. Matesic noted that all PA DEP permit notifications are included on the Greene County Commissioners meeting agendas. Future information will be distributed to GCCD Board members.

At the last GCCD meeting on September 17th, 2013, it was announced that the Southwestern PA Planning Commission (SPC) has initiated a local food distribution chain project to identify ways to work with farmers in the region to supply products for distribution to a food outlet store. The first meeting, regarding this matter, has been tentatively scheduled for January, 2014, with the location, most likely, at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Ms. Rush has been working with Ms. Crystal Simmons, Grant Coordinator with the Greene County Department of Economic Development on this matter. GCCD will be notified when a definitive date is set. Anyone who is interested, should contact either GCCD or GCPC.

Commissioner Trader noted that he and Ms. Matesic recently met with Chris Abruzzo, Acting Secretary of PA DEP, regarding the restoration of Duke Lake at Ryerson Station State Park. A large quantity of sediment will be removed from the lake bed, approximately 400 to 500 thousand cubic yards. Following the procurement of permitting, an announcement will be made regarding the placement of this sediment. Work is expected to begin in the fall of 2014 with a projected completion date of 2016.

Bill Wentzel – He has been working with Mr. Dickerson to complete several inspections, including the Columbia Gas Modernization Project in Morgan and Washington Townships. Following a complaint, an inspection was made to a site in Greene Township and that site is currently being restored. Inspections were also made at the Greene County Airport and the Southwestern PA Water Authority Water Treatment Facility located on Tin Can Hollow Road in Cumberland Township.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Izaak Walton League** – At the September 17th, 2013 GCCD meeting, Ms. Matesic disclosed that she was elected to serve as an officer on the Board of the Greene County Izaak Walton League (GCIWL). Since that time, she has decided to resign from the GCIWL Board. The status of the audit, which has been discussed at previous GCCD meetings, is not known. Ms. Matesic will check on this matter.

- b. Farmland Preservation** - The Greene County Farmland Preservation (GCFLP) Board is working to encumber a parcel of land owned by Charles Harry, Morgan Township. The title commitment has been received. This farm will be on the agenda for the December 12, 2013 State Farmland Preservation (FLP) board meeting. As required by the program, a letter will be mailed to the adjacent landowners regarding this action.

The GCFLP program is pursuing the high ranking farm owned by the James F. Willis and Pearl Willis Living Trust. Farm number three 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).

A donation of \$1,000 was received from EQT to support the general administration of the GCFLP program. Greene County Commissioners Chuck Morris and Archie Trader were on-hand for the check presentation.

- c. Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Program** - *Franklin Township* – Ms. Rush met with Corbly Orndorff, Franklin Township Supervisor, 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). *Cumberland Township* - A 19 acre parcel owned by Richard Phillips has been added to the ASA. This parcel has not yet been recorded. *Greene Township* - The Township has begun the process of adding the Wilbert Colvin property to their ASA.

- d. Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run Stream Rehabilitation GG Grant** – Ms. Rush met on-site with Jeff Christopher, landowner of the additional proposed project. The scope of work was reviewed and the stream crossing sites were surveyed. The project can proceed as necessary with design, permitting etc. The new deadline to complete this grant is June 30, 2014. A review of the grant budget, revealed a budget surplus that can be used on an additional project. Ms. Rush will begin to work with newly hired Watershed Specialist, Jared Zinn on this project.

- d. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment** – A draft copy of the Water Budget Section will soon be sent to GCCD staff for review.

Mr. Zinn noted that the Nature Conservancy recently presented information regarding the ecological flow study at a recent meeting at the USACE. All research has been completed and the final document should be submitted to the USACE in December. The study will be used to determine how much water can be taken from the river without impacting the ecology of the river species.

Ms. Snider noted that Paul Ziemkiewicz of the West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI) is also conducting a study on the Monongahela River. A tentative date of January 23rd, 2014 has been scheduled to discuss this study. The WVWRI hopes to determine how much flow is needed to safely handle the Total Dissolved Solids in the river.

- e. **Act 13 Funding** - According to calculations and correspondence with the State Conservation Commission (SCC) concerning the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) portion of the Unconventional Gas Well Funds (UGWF) and newly hired E&S technician salary and benefits, approximately \$20,000 will need to be used as a special project to ensure that all funds are expended by June 30, 2013.

At the special GCCD meeting on September 25th, 2013, approval was granted for the expenditure of \$2,744.11 for engineer design work for a proposed manure storage unit at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Ms. Rush contacted the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Mike Salai, Wind Ridge Engineering, concerning the engineered drawings for the structures at the fairgrounds. Mr. Salai provided the engineering, architectural design, materials list, and certification costs as follows.

Site 1 (Near Route 188) – 20' X 25' structure - \$3,500
Site 1 & 2 – Site 2 – 20' X 40' structure - \$6,000

NRCS will be scheduling a date to complete an Inventory and Evaluation of the proposed sites. Ms. Rush asked if NRCS could certify these structures. Ms. Petery said that NRCS could, however, usually the trusses require an engineer's stamp.

Ms. Petery stressed the importance of developing a written Nutrient Management Plan for the site. Since further discussion regarding this matter was needed, a meeting was scheduled with the Greene County Commissioners on Wednesday, November 27th, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request for Assistance

1. Harley Jo Gapen – Greene Township - 112 acres

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

2. Philip Galing (Lippencott Alpacas) – Morgan Township – 180 acres

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to accept this Request for Assistance. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

3. Archie Trader – Washington Township- 7 acres

A motion was made by Jim Kenney to accept this Request for Assistance. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed with one abstention – Commissioner Trader).

b. 2014 Budget Proposal

A copy of the proposal was mailed with the meeting packets. Budget Committee members, Tom Headlee and Jim Kenney met with Ms. Snider and Ms. Salosky on November 18th, 2013. Ms. Snider noted that the budget was structured different this year, with all GCCD accounts having their own budget instead of one large spreadsheet. The staff salaries are paid by various grants and programs. The following changes were noted.

Omitted from the NPDES/CWF budget was the approved 2012/2013 Mini Grant contracts, an expenditure of \$3,200. This would change the net income to \$33,511.87.

The income and expenditures for the Watershed Specialist Program should each be changed from \$32,000 to \$30,000.

Ms. Matesic noted that, if approved by the state legislature, the proposed Transportation Bill would provide additional funding for the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program. Ms. Snider said that the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program Budget does not reflect this. Any increase will be brought before the Board.

Mr. Kenney requested a summary of the staff salaries and how each position is funded. Ms. Snider will compile this information and revise the proposed budget for distribution to GCCD Board Members.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the proposed budget as presented. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

c. PA Envirothon Donation Request

Annually, the PA Envirothon requests donations from PA County Conservation Districts for the Envirothon. This year's donation will go toward the PA Environmental Educational Scholarship Awards Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to donate \$500 to the PA Envirothon. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

d. Community Foundation of Greene County – Grant Award

A grant of \$1,684 was awarded to GCCD for this year's County Envirothon. A portion of last year's grant was unspent, so rather than returning the funds to the Community Foundation, that amount was deducted from this year's grant.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to enter this grant agreement with the Community Foundation. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

e. NACD Dues - \$775.00

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to pay \$500 for the 2014 National Association of Conservation District (NACD) dues. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

IX. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Ms. Rush is working with Liz Menhart, Greene County's Communication Director, to publish a series of articles regarding manure management. Through a grant from PACD, a mailing is planned to all Greene County Farm Bureau members regarding manure management.

X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Suzy Petery – Several construction projects are winding down, while others are getting underway. The deadline for application acceptance for the first round of funding for NRCS Conservation Programs was November 15th. Those applications, including eleven from Greene County landowners, will now be ranked. Approximately one-half of the Greene County applications are for forestry and wildlife practices. With an initial allocation of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars for the three county area (Greene, Fayette, and Washington), she hopes to generate more interest and applications for these programs. She stressed the importance of the

agricultural community and helping it remain viable through the protection of the soil and water resources.

Ms. Petery made a presentation at the recent meeting of the Woodlot Owners Association. The group, comprised of mostly producers from Greene and Washington Counties, also participated in a tour of a farm of a past GCCD Forestry Award recipient, Arlen Perky.

A request was made by GCCD staff for technical assistance to complete an Inventory and Evaluation (I&E) for the possible design of a proposed manure storage or staging area at the Greene County Fairgrounds, a project that was first discussed at the September 25th, 2013 GCCD special meeting. Ms. Petery said that it is imperative that a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) be developed for the area. NRCS staff may not be able to complete the I&E until January, 2014.

Ms. Snider asked if it was necessary to have a NMP completed prior to receiving NRCS assistance. Ms. Petery said that it was not, however, she recommended that the process at least be started. She also said that it's important that someone who can provide information regarding the type of manure and the number of animals, etc., be present for the I&E. Ms. Rush said that it would be necessary to hire a consultant to complete the Nutrient Management Plan and the time frame and cost were discussed. Mr. Cowell noted that Bruce Smith of Gro Mark, located in Washington County, recently completed an update of his NMP. It was estimated that \$2,000 would be needed for the completion of a new plan.

At the last GCCD meeting on September 17th, 2013, Ms. Petery announced that NRCS would be hosting a meeting in October regarding the PL 566 flood control dams. Due to the government shutdown, this meeting was cancelled and has been rescheduled for December 18th, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss safety at 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.

Since Ms. Petery was unable to accompany the agricultural committee to the farm of the nominee she submitted for the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year Award, she inquired about the status. Ms. Rush said that the nominees will be presented to the GCCD Board at the December 17th, 2013 meeting. Ms. Petery noted that she is working to provide nominees for a Special Conservation Award.

XI. The next regular meeting will be December 17th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 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