

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
September 17, 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; Greg Hopkins-Director; Edward Deter-Director; J. Robert Rice-Director Emeritus; Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director; Gay Thistle-Associate Director; Sandy Theis-Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Chuck Kubasik-PA DEP Field Representative; Suzy Petery-NRCS

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Resource Specialist; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Sean Dougherty- Watershed Specialist; Warren Dickerson-Resource 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 August 20, 2013 meeting to include slight rewording of Item "f" under Old Business. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Thank You Letter – Greene County 4-H Scholarship & Rosemary Andrew** – Following our last GCCD meeting on August 20th, 2013, donations for the Greene County 4-H Scholarship were collected from GCCD board members and staff in memory of Robert “Bob” Andrew. Note of thanks were received from Greene County 4-H and Rosemary Andrew.
- b. **Resignation Letter – Sean Dougherty, Watershed Specialist** – Mr. Dougherty has accepted a position with Wallace and Pancher and his last day of employment with GCCD will be September 27th, 2013. The position is currently being advertised.

VI. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

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

Sean Dougherty – As noted above, Mr. Dougherty has accepted another position and will be leaving GCCD. He thanked GCCD for the opportunity to serve as the Watershed Specialist.

The 2014 Envirothon has been tentatively scheduled for April 30th, 2014. A letter, requesting funding for the event, has been drafted to the Community Foundation.

West Nile Virus (WNV) monitoring conducted in the area of the Rices Landing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) revealed WNV in the mosquitoes collected and tested by PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). Traps have been set within a mile radius of the WTP; along the Greene River Trail, the Campbell property located on Goslen Road, and two smaller WTP pump stations near the Borough of Rices Landing. The WTP was treated with *Bacillus Thuringiensis Israelensis* (BTI) by Mr. Ed Farrell, PA DEP West Nile Virus Program. Results from PA DEP are pending on the samples collected after the initial positive was detected.

On August 21st, 2013, Sean attended the monthly meeting of the Greene County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League (GCIWL). Ephraim Zimmerman of the Western PA Conservancy (WPC) discussed a study WPC conducted on Harts Run Road in Greene County, an area currently unaffected by the gas industry. The study focuses on interior woodland bird species and hopes to determine the effect potential, gas well drilling, will have on those particular species.

Other meetings in which he participated were an update on the GCIWL Citizens Monitoring Project and a conference call regarding the Monongahela River Watershed Assessment.

Chairman Eisiminger thanked Mr. Dougherty for his service to GCCD.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Since the last meeting, several municipalities and landowners have been assisted with General Permits under the Chapter 105 program. Review fees collected have increased significantly from last year. Approximately \$69,850.00 was received for the entire year of 2012. Approximately \$139,000.00 has been collected to date for 2013. She attributed much of this increase to PA DEP's mandated permit fee for General Permits under the Chapter 105 program.

Laurel Rush – A Manure Management Workshop will be held on October 2nd, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. To date, approximately 20 landowners have registered, prompting a location change; to the Second Floor Conference Room of the Greene County Office Building. With the amount of interest in the program and since additional funding is available through PACD, another workshop may be planned for February.

Several requests have been made for the rental of the lime spreader.

On September 16th, 2013, Mr. Cowell and she attended the Penn's Corner RC&D meeting. Penn's Corner will act as the fiduciary for the River Alert Information Network (RAIN). Sherene Hess, former Penn's Corner Executive Director, is under contract with RAIN as a project manager.

At the GCCD meeting on August 20, 2013, it was noted that PA DEP will be selecting a small watershed in the Southwest Region to make agricultural compliance visits. At the RC&D meeting, she spoke with Aileen Evan, PA DEP Agricultural Compliance Officer, and she indicated that, although an official selection of a watershed has not been made, PA DEP is leaning toward a watershed located in Washington County.

Also at the RC&D meeting, representatives of the Southwestern PA Commission (SPC) were present to discuss stormwater initiatives. The SPC is assisting counties in the completion of each county's Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan including Greene County's.

Mr. Cowell noted that an invitation was extended to Ms. Evan to attend the Greene County Farm Bureau (GCFB) banquet on October 9th, 2013 at the First Baptist Church in Waynesburg. Ms. Rush will be speaking at the GCFB meeting.

Warren Dickerson – He has accompanied Ms. Snider, Ms. Kozlowski, and Mr. Wentzel on several field visits.

Bill Wentzel – He has conducted final inspections of three sites.

Lisa Snider – She commended GCCD staff for the control of the WNV positive test during her absence.

On September 16th, 2013, a complaint was received regarding the pollution of Craig Run. A site visit found that a dust suppressant, used on the roads by the gas industry, entered the stream, causing the stream to be black. PA DEP was contacted and visited the site that evening. Dust suppressants, in smaller quantities, are approved for use by the gas industry. PA DEP will keep GCCD apprised of the situation.

Robbie Matesic – Funding is available from the SPC for the development of an Act 167, a Stormwater Management Plan. A meeting will be held in the near future to discuss Greene County's development of a Phase I plan. About five years ago, she and Ms. Snider began initial steps, meeting with some of the municipalities; however, funding for the program was eliminated from the PA State budget.

Also, the 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. A commitment would be made, one year in advance, to farmers interested in becoming a supplier. Laura Mundell is the SPC contact. Future meetings are planned in Greene County to discuss this project. Anyone interested, should contact her.

She thanked Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski for their assistance with expediting the permitting for the Greene County Airport.

At the August 21st, 2013 meeting of the GCIWL, she was elected to serve as an officer on their board and felt that she needed to disclose this because of the outstanding demand for an GCIWL audit of funds that were granted to GCIWL in February, 2011.

Discussed at the last GCCD meeting on August 20th, 2013, was the closing of the Allegheny Power Hatfield Ferry Power Station and action was taken to write a letter opposing its closure.

Ms. Snider began drafting a letter on behalf of GCCD, but since Senator Solobay and Representative Snyder had scheduled hearings to discuss this matter further, she delayed finishing the letter until after the hearings.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Izaak Walton League** – Information regarding the Citizens Water Monitoring program was included in the meeting packets. GCIWL members met with GCCD staff to review the progress of the study on September 9th, 2013. Results are not yet included on the website of the West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI), but they are expected to be available soon. The partial audit of the funding GCCD provided for the study should also be available soon to the Board.
- b. **Farmland Preservation** – The GCFLP Board is currently pursuing one tract of land owned by Charles Harry, Morgan Township. Mr. Harry accepted the offer. The Agreement of Sale has been reviewed by the county solicitor and was approved by the Greene County Commissioners at their September 5th, 2013 meeting. It is hoped that the property will be encumbered by the PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation at their next meeting on October 10th, 2013.

The GCFLP program received five applications for the 2013 sign-up period. The rankings are complete and the high ranking farm has been notified. The James F. Willis and Pearl Willis Living Trust Farm #3 is the second ranking farm and a title search is being pursued. (The high ranking farm cannot provide clear title at this time.) Mr. Willis has indicated that he wishes to move forward with the second ranked farm.

- c. **Agricultural Security Area Program**

Franklin Township – Ms. Rush met with Franklin Township Supervisor, Corbly Orndorff, 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- The Township received an application for an additional parcel of 19 acres for Richard Phillips. This additional acreage was added to his 2013 farmland preservation application.

Greene and Monongahela Twps. – A landowner with contiguous property in both townships has completed an application. They are proposing that Greene Township accept their acreage since they have an approved ASA. Monongahela Township does not.

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

The extension request has been granted. Jeff Christopher, landowner of the additional proposed project (spring repairs, streambank fencing, and agricultural crossings), has been contacted. A meeting will be set to review

the scope of the project and proceed as necessary with design, permitting etc. The new deadline is June 30, 2014.

f. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment

The Regional Management Section of the Executive Summary is under final review in house at USACE, and will soon be sent to Greene County for review.

The Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership is seeking project proposals to benefit fish habitat within the Ohio River Basin. This is federal money available for groups or individuals.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2013.

Additional data monitors are planned along the Monongahela River.

f. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request for Assistance

1. Carmine Peluso – Cumberland & Monongahela Twps. 118 acres

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve this Request for Assistance. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

2. Jim Cowell - Mini Grant – Greene Township

Through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Mr. Cowell is installing a Heavy Use Area. He is requesting a Mini Grant of \$1,000 to offset the costs for the installation of diversions at the facility.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the Mini Grant for \$1,000. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed with One Abstention - Jim Cowell).

b. PA Department of Agriculture - Clean and Green Program Revisions

The changes will affect properties under the Clean and Green Program, eliminating the tax breaks on the disturbed acreage associated with the gas wells. It may also affect properties containing pipelines, pipe yards, etc. The comment period for the proposal is September 30, 2013. Comments should be forwarded to Ms. Snider prior to the deadline.

c. Nutrient Management Plan – Frosty Springs Farm

At the last GCCD meeting on August 20th, 2013, the Nutrient Management Plan for Frosty Springs Farm, owners Jim and Billie Cowell, was determined to be administratively complete and accepted for technical review. The technical review and site visit have been completed with only minor revisions requested. Those revisions were made by the Nutrient Management Planner and the plan now meets the requirements of Act 38 criteria. Ms. Rush recommended its approval.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the Nutrient Management Plan. Edward Deter seconded. (Motion Passed with One Abstention – Jim Cowell).

d. Penn’s Corner RC&D Council – Appointment of a GCCD Delegate

This matter was tabled from the last GCCD meeting on August 20th, 2013. Greg Hopkins volunteered to serve as GCCD’s delegate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to appoint Greg Hopkins to serve as a delegate on the Penn’s Corner RC&D Council. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

e. Allegheny Power - Hatfield Ferry Power Station Correspondence

As noted above, additional information regarding this matter was received at two recent public meetings and the submission of the GCCD’s letter opposing the power station’s closure was delayed. A public hearing, sponsored by Senator Tim Solobay on September 13th, 2013, was held at Waynesburg University. Testimony was given by First Energy, union officials, the Public Utility Commission (PUC), and PJM, regulator of the power grid. This meeting was recorded by the Pennsylvania Cable Network Company (PCNC). The airing times will be shared, when they become available.

Ms. Matesic noted that the PUC has requested an independent electrical analysis of the power grid and the effect the closure of the Hatfield Ferry Power Station may have. She suggested that GCCD’s letter include our support of the PUC’s request for the analysis.

The number of power plants in the area, environmental regulations, the investment in the scrubbers that were installed to ensure that the plant met the standards, the deregulated power market, and the effect the shutdown will have on Greene County coal mines, etc. were also discussed.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to include in the letter GCCD's support of the PUC's request for an analysis. Edward Deter seconded. (Motion Passed).

Ms. Snider will complete the letter and submit to all Board members for their review.

f. 2013 Annual Awards Banquet

Past, annual awards ceremonies have been held near the end of the year. With the loss of two staff members, the resignation of Watershed Specialist, Sean Dougherty, and the impending maternity leave of Resource Specialist, Lindsay Kozlowski, it would be difficult for the remaining staff to organize an event this year.

Following a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to hold the awards luncheon in the first quarter of 2014. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed).

g. Appointment of a Hiring Committee

Currently, Mr. Headlee and Mr. Kenney assist in the interview process. Chairman Eisiminger requested that those two gentlemen be retained with Commissioner Trader and Mr. Cowell serving as alternates.

h. Act 13, the Natural Gas Impact Fee

The State Conservation Commission (SCC) and the PA Department of Environmental (PA DEP) have been meeting with County Conservation Districts to discuss the use of the Unconventional Gas Well Fund (UGWF) monies for fiscal year 2013-2014. GCCD is to receive \$37,879.00 for the Public Utility Commission (PUC) portion of the fund and \$89,126.00 for the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) portion. Next year, and for the subsequent years of the Act, Greene County will receive \$56,000 for PUC funding per year.

The PUC portion may be used according to Conservation District Law and the CDFAP portion may be used according to CDFAP Statement of Policy. Last year, we were unable to fulfill the spending under the constraints of the Statement of Policy and were eligible to use the funds for certain special projects approved by the SCC and PA DEP.

Special projects are to be brought before the SCC and PA DEP for approval prior to spending. The deadline to complete these projects would be June 30th, 2014.

Ms. Snider reviewed the spreadsheet, prepared by the SCC, which shows how the money will be distributed to Conservation Districts.

The CDFAP portion will be used to cost share 50% of Conservation District staff salaries with a maximum rate as follows.

District Manager Salary - \$27,000
First Technician's Salary - \$18,575
Ag Technician's Salary - \$22,425

Additionally, GCCD must determine how they wish to spend \$6,068 of these funds, for the Agricultural Easement Program (Farmland Preservation) or for administrative support. Since \$9,753.10 of the Agricultural Technician's salary is not covered by a grant, (ACT or Nutrient Management) GCCD may want to earmark the \$6,068 to cover those costs.

Ms. Snider distributed a spreadsheet she prepared with a breakdown of the funds needed, approximately \$54,000, for each salary as well as the projected costs for general administrative fees (including the purchase of new desks, etc.). That would leave a balance of approximately \$28,359.17 which could be spent on a special project approved by the Board and the SCC.

After discussion, the Board agreed to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mezzanine Conference Room of the Fort Jackson Building to further discuss this matter. The meeting will be advertised as a public meeting notice.

i. **Wetland Identification Workshop, Bald Eagle State Park, Oct 7-9**

A request for approval for Warren Dickerson to attend this three day training, requiring travel and hotel expenses. This training will assist with the Chapter 105 program and can be funded through 105 fees collected.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve Mr. Dickerson's attendance of this workshop. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed).

VIII. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Ms. Rush noted that she has scheduled a meeting with Liz Menhart, Greene County Communications Director, to begin writing a series of articles regarding PA DEP's agricultural compliance visits.

IX. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Suzy Petery – She recently returned from Colorado where she served as an Area Conservationist in the Southeast portion of the state. She found the temporary assignment to be challenging and interesting. She briefly discussed the drought the area is experiencing as well as the laws governing the use of water.

Regarding the awards luncheon, she suggested that the Board call for award nominees and said that she would submit the names of candidates.

A campaign is underway to encourage landowners to apply for financial assistance programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). News articles will soon be published and she welcomed any outreach GCCD could provide. Her goal is to have at least 100 applications in the three county area (Fayette, Greene, Washington).

NRCS will be hosting a meeting on October 18th, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the Washington County Conservation District. 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, Parman and Cross Creek, in Pennsylvania.

Chuck Kubasik – Approximately \$89,230 of PA Department of Agriculture funds and approximately \$29,700 of PA DEP funds, carried over from the last fiscal year, will be evenly distributed to all 66 County Conservation Districts in Pennsylvania. Each Conservation District will receive approximately \$1,340 from the PDA which can be used for the administration of the Farmland Preservation Program or for general administrative assistance. PA DEP's portion, approximately \$450, can be used for general administrative assistance. Conservation Districts can expect to receive these funds sometime in October.

A PACD Regional Directors meeting will be held on October 23rd, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Westmoreland Conservation District. DEP's Regional Roundtable meeting will be held on November 22, 2013 at the same location.

Mr. Kubasik wished Mr. Dougherty well in his new job with Wallace and Panther. He noted the high turnover rate of the E&S Technician and the

Watershed Specialist positions in GCCD and he offered to provide the salaries of other Conservation Districts as a comparison.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to enter in to Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

XI. RECONVENMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to reconvene the meeting at 12:20 p.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

A motion was made by Edward Deter to recommend the hiring of an additional field technician to assist with the Chapter 102/105 program. Tom Headlee seconded (Motion Passed).

XII. The next regular meeting will be October 15th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to adjourn the meeting at 12:22 p.m. Jim Kenney 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	