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**Greene County Conservation District**

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**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
December 16, 2014**

**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 of the Fort Jackson Building, 19 South Washington Street, Waynesburg, PA. Those in attendance were as follows: **Greene County Conservation District Directors and Associate Directors** Bradley Eisiminger-Chairman; Archie Trader-Vice Chairman/Commissioner Representative; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Director; Bill Wentzel-Director/Environmental Program Associate; Bill Cree, Jr.-Associate Director; and Jerry Day-Associate Director; Sandy Theis-Associate Director.

**Guests and Cooperating Agencies**

Ken Dufalla-President, Izaak Walton League of America (IWL), Harry Enstrom Chapter; Crystal Simmons-Greene County Industrial Development Authority;

**Staff**

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Lindsay Kozlowski-Resource Specialist; Warren Dickerson-Resource Specialist; Zack Basinger-Resource Specialist; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

Ms. Kozlowski, Mr. Basinger, and Mr. Dickerson attended a portion of the meeting.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the minutes of the November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS**

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

V. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a. **West Greene FFA Chapter – Thank You Letter and Invitation to the Parent-Member Banquet – May 1, 2015.**

A thank you letter was received for GCCD's donation, in memory of Byron Hughes, to the Greene County FFA Improvement Association. The letter also included an invitation to the Parent-Member Banquet scheduled to be held on May 1, 2015 at West Greene High School. As the time of the banquet approaches, a reminder of the event will be given.

b. **Greene County Tourist Promotion Agency – Membership Dues - \$25.00.**

Since the payment of these dues was included in the GCCD budget, board action was not required.

c. **Laurel Rush, Ag Technician – Resignation.**

GCCD's Agricultural Technician, Laurel Rush, has tendered her resignation to accept a position with the State Conservation Commission, effective January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to accept the resignation of Laurel Rush. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

VI. **Discussion of Staff Reports**

Staff reports were mailed with the meeting packets. Comments follow in the order they were presented.

**Zack Basinger** – Several Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control Plans have been received and have been distributed equally to the review staff.

**Warren Dickerson** – Much of his time has been spent on the review of E&S plans with fewer site inspections for this period.

**Jared Zinn** – With the departure of Ms. Rush, his assistance will be required on additional programs, such as his attendance of Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) meetings.

**Laurel Rush** – To review the lime spreader rental for 2014, approximately \$801 has been deposited into GCCD accounts for the application of approximately 290 tons of lime. An expenditure of approximately \$250 was incurred for maintenance.

The Nutrient Management Plan submitted by the Washington County Conservation District for the Lowden property, is currently under review and should be completed prior to her departure on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

An increase of the annual dues for Penn's Corner RC&D was discussed at a meeting which Mr. Cowell and she attended on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Currently, the dues are \$300.00 with a proposed increase to \$500.00. This increase should allow the administration of the program if other income sources are not available. Addition information regarding the proposal will be forthcoming.

Discussed at a previous GCCD meeting was a donation of \$700.00 to Penn's Corner RC&D to assist with the funding for the salary of a part-time administrator; however, no action was taken by the Board.

***At this time, Mr. Cowell requested that the Board consider a donation of \$700.00 for this effort. A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to donate \$700.00 to the Penn's Corner RC&D. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

A Stormwater Management Workshop, sponsored by Indiana County Conservation District, will be held on March 13, 2015.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – Ms. Snider, Mr. Basinger, Mr. Dickerson and she attended the annual Chapter 102 and 105 training in October.

Numerous complaints have been received and work is being done to reach compliance.

**Lisa Snider** – At the last GCCD meeting held on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program was discussed. The discussion included the number of project applications received, the total amount of project funds requested, and the funding shortfall. In light of the shortfall, Ms. Snider contacted the townships to request that they review their applications and make any necessary adjustments for submittal prior to the GCCD meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The applications will then be presented for Board consideration at the January meeting.

Ms. Kozlowski and she attended a meeting at the Westmoreland County Conservation District to discuss an organizational software program; Practice Keeper. Five Conservation Districts, (including Allegheny County in the Southwest) enlisted the services of World View to develop the program that can track all projects on a Geographic Information System (GIS). This program would provide the ability to develop E&S and Conservation Plans, locate pipeline projects, Best Management Practices (BMP's), etc. While the program is quite costly; with an initial fee of approximately \$30,000, it could be very beneficial. Additional information is needed and a visit may be made Allegheny County

once the program is up and running. Information will be reported as it becomes available.

**Bill Wentzel** – An ongoing problem, which has been discussed at several previous GCCD meetings; a timber harvesting site located in Center Township, is now in the hands of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). Since about May of 2014, attempts have been made to contact the person responsible, but have been unsuccessful. PA DEP has issued a Compliance Order with a deadline of December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The order requires that an E&S and Restoration plan be developed.

## VII. Old Business

### a. Farmland Preservation – The next meeting will be December 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Thistlethwaite's Vineyards.

James F. and Pearl Willis Living Trust Farm #1, 53 acres – Cumberland Township - Farm # 1 the high ranking farm in 2013 is pursuing approved avenues to clear a surface coal issue on this title.

James F. Willis and Pearl Willis Living Trust farm #3, 30 acres - Cumberland Township - Farm #3 is the second ranking farm in the 2013 round. Mr. Willis is pursuing the approved avenues to clear the surface coal issue on this parcel.

Richard A. Phillips 108 acres - Cumberland Township  
Although this farm has met the encumbering deadline, it was not presented for consideration at the December meeting of the PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation. Action will most likely be taken at their next meeting scheduled to be in February.

### b. Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Program

*Franklin Township* – Ms. Rush met with Franklin Township Supervisor, Corby Orndorff and Franklin Township Secretary, Carol Kraft on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014, to move forward with the ASA creation.

The Township is pursuing the ASA and a public notice recently appeared in the newspaper announcing their intention.

Three additional landowners have requested soils inventories for their farms to be included in the ASA. (Richard Patterson and Bruce Rohrer are the property owners who had previously submitted applications).

### c. Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run/Whiteley Creek Stream Rehabilitation GG Grant

THE EXTENSION REQUEST HAS BEEN GRANTED Until 12/31/14. A meeting will be held with PA DEP Grant Advisor, Rita Coleman, on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to visit the project sites and prepare a final report.

Big Sky Land and Cattle LLC- Working on reimbursement and BMP certification. They have decided to not complete the project on the east side of the road.

The County of Greene – Construction of the project began on October 21, 2014. Lone Pine Construction, contractor for the project, has submitted an invoice for their work thus far. Ms. Rush has discussed with Jeff Marshall, Greene County Chief Clerk, how the project needs to be billed to meet the year-end deadline on these funds. She will continue to work with Mr. Marshall to ensure the deadline is met.

**d. Act 13 UGWF Funds – Special Project -Manure Storage Facility – Greene County Fairgrounds**

The project began on October 21st, 2014. Extra crew members were added on December 2, 2014. Both pads have been poured and the walls have been formed. The walls of site # 2 were scheduled to be poured on December 8, 2014. The roof materials are on site and construction of the roof of the small structure began on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Suzy Petery and Chuck Shrum, of NRCS, and Ms. Rush, GCCD Ag Technician, have been inspecting the site on a daily basis.

At the last GCCD meeting on November 18, 2014, the Board approved the expenditure to install a 6” concrete floor at the GCCD Hoop Structure at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Work is progressing; with the chairs, mesh, fabric, and drain installed. Mr. Cowell requested that he be notified once the concrete is completed, so that he can contact Ralph Garage Doors to adjust the door to ease access.

**e. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment**

The assessment is under review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with an expected completion date of 2015.

**f. Greene County Water Monitoring Project**

The first activity and expense report has been submitted to the Washington County Conservation District for the COLCOM Foundation Grant. Data is being collected from the CATTFish devices that were distributed. Additional Greene County participants are being sought.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Request for Assistance – None**

**b. Greene County Industrial Development Authority-Support Letter Concerning Brownfields**

Ms. Snider introduced Crystal Simmons, Manager, Greene County Industrial Development Authority (GCIDA), who was present to discuss this matter and to request GCCD's support of this project.

Recently, the County of Greene and the GCIDA enlisted the services of a consultant to assist with the application for a Brownfield Assessment Grant. Up to \$400,000 can be requested through this and another grant to inventory and assess Brownfields in Greene County.

As part of the application process, the Greene County Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee (GC-BRAC) was formed. The committee, formed to receive public input, is to hold monthly meetings to receive and assess site information. If GCCD chooses to show their support, they would commit to participating in these monthly meetings and share their knowledge of Brownfield sites (vacated hazardous materials and petroleum sites).

In response to a question by Mr. Hopkins regarding priority sites, Ms. Simmons noted that this is done after the completion of the assessment. GC-BRAC has; however, outlined the current coal refuse disposal areas in Greene County (Mather, Crucible, Nemaquin and petroleum based sites in the Waynesburg area). Generally, though, the application includes five hazardous sites and five petroleum sites in Greene County.

Commissioner Trader noted that U.S. Senator Pat Toomey offered his support of this project. Ms. Simmons noted that consultants on the project are working with other legislators to obtain their support as well.

If this grant is awarded, Greene County would be eligible to apply for other grants to clean up the sites, etc.

Mr. Dufalla and Ms. Simmons had discussion regarding the Mather Dump. Ms. Simmons will look into a matter regarding a discharge area on the dump.

***After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Greg Hopkins to send a letter to the GCIDA in support of this project. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**c. 2015 Meeting Dates**

A list of the 2015 meeting dates was included in the meeting packets. In accordance with the Sunshine Law, a note regarding the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program Quality Assurance Board (QAB) meetings will be held prior to each monthly GCCD business meeting, at 9:00 a.m., was also included in this document.

***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to advertise the GCCD meeting dates in the Observer Reporter and on Greene County's Website. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**d. 2015 GCCD Delegates**

Also included in the meeting packets was a list of the delegates for various committees and/or boards for which GCCD Board Member and/or staff currently serve. Ms. Snider noted the changes needed, due to staff changes, as follows.

**Dirt & Gravel Roads**

Rennie Stoy - NRCS representative to replace Suzy Petery.

**Penn's Corner RC&D**

Jared Zinn, GCCD Watershed Specialist to replace Laurel Rush.

***A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to accept the above delegate changes. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**e. Associate Board Members**

Also included with the meeting packets was a list of the current GCCD Board of Directors and Associate Directors.

At their meeting on November 13, 2014, the Greene County Commissioners, re-appointed Commissioner Archie Trader as the Commissioner Representative and Jim Cowell to serve an additional four year term that will expire on December 31, 2018.

The following names were presented for consideration for the potential appointment as Associate Directors.

Ralph Adamson  
Lynn Hoover  
Rick Patton  
Dave Shipman  
Jim Willis

Ms. Snider will contact these individuals to determine if they would be interested in serving and present this information at the January GCCD meeting.

***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to invite these individuals to serve as Associate Directors. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**f. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update – Nutrient Management Program (GCCD & WCCD)**

The MOU, valid for a 10 year period, between GCCD and the Washington County Conservation District was adopted in January of 2006. Although the MOU is still valid, staff changes warrant an update. The MOU serves as a tool for the preparation and review of nutrient management plans.

Ms. Rush noted that very few changes have been made; mostly in the time frame of the notifications, etc. These deadlines were revised to coincide with Act 38, Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management regulations.

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to revise the MOU with the Washington County Conservation District. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**g. Community Foundation of Greene County – Grant Award**

The Community Foundation of Greene County has awarded GCCD a grant in the amount of \$4,625.00 to fund the Greene County Envirothon. Due to an increase in transportation costs, this year's grant request was increased.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Bill Wentzel to sign the grant agreement. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**h. Agricultural Technician Position**

As discussed earlier in this meeting under Correspondence, Ms. Rush has accepted another position and will be leaving GCCD on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Ms. Snider and Ms. Rush revised the position's job description to ensure the duties of the job are accurately detailed and to include the requirement that the new person received their certification through the Nutrient Management Program.

Rebecca Harris, Greene County Human Resources Director, will soon be advertising the position and the interview process can begin. At this time, Chairman Eisiminger requested that GCCD Directors, Tom Headlee and Jim Kenney participate in the interview process.

#### **IX. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

GCCD calendars were distributed to directors, staff and individuals who worked with GCCD over the past year.

Mr. Cowell commended and thanked the staff for their outreach efforts.

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

**Suzy Petery-NRCS-** Ms. Snider read an e-mail she received from Ms. Petery, who was absent from the meeting.

Dear GCCD Directors, Associate Directors, Staff and Cooperating Agencies,

“I regret missing my last meeting as Supervisory District Conservationist of West Field Team 6. Yes my last, as I have accepted a position with West Virginia NRCS as the Assistant State Conservationist Field Operations, Northern Area, which I begin on January 12, 2015. My office will be in Morgantown.

I have worked in Greene County since my moving here in 1984, and we have shared many positive impacts on soil and water conservation here and beyond our borders. I have enjoyed working with all of you in that capacity and will have the memories and experiences to assist me in my new endeavors.

Albeit bittersweet, I’m looking forward to new experiences and having a positive impact on conservation in West Virginia. I don’t have any insight on when my position will permanently be filled, but I am sure someone will be assigned temporary duties. Although I’m leaving my work capacity here, my family and I remain residents of Greene County and part of the agricultural community here.”

**Ken Dufalla, Izaak Walton League (IWL)** – Mr. Dufalla distributed a copy of a news article that recently appeared in the Observer Reporter regarding the building of handicapped facilities for wounded warriors by the Marianna Outdoor Association.

At a meeting of the IWL, the application to PA DEP for a residual holding impoundment for oil and gas waste in Center Township, Greene County was discussed. The IWL endorsed a letter to Representative Pam Snyder opposing this project.

Mr. Dufalla presented a report regarding a study conducted for the period of 2007-2013 by the PA Fish and Boat Commission on the South Fork of Ten Mile Creek.

During a visit with PA DEP's Water Pollution Biologist, he learned that a complete aquatic assessment of Dunkard Creek is being completed. In January, a 10 month study (including testing for the presence of endocrine disruptors) will begin on Ten Mile Creek.

Mr. Dufalla also noted that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may be reviewing test results of mine discharges for chemicals usually not associated with mining.

Mr. Dufalla reported that nationally the IWL has proposed a resolution to mandate water quality testing, prior to drilling, during drilling, and following drilling of gas wells.

Mr. Dufalla also discussed the mine water discharges at various sites in Greene County.

**XI. Executive Session - None**

**XII. The Next Regular Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be January 20, 2015.

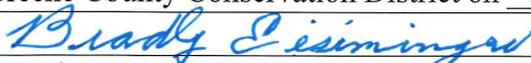
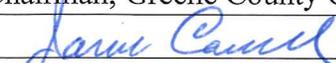
**XIII. Adjournment**

***With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer

<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 <u>Jan. 20</u> , 2015.	
	
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District	
	
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District	