

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
June 17, 2014**

**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 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; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Bill Wentzel-Director/Environmental Program Associate; J. Robert Rice-Director Emeritus; Bill Cree, Jr.-Associate Director; and Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director.

**Guests and Cooperating Agencies**

Ken Dufalla-President, Izaak Walton League of America (IWL), Harry Enstrom Chapter; Suzy Petery-NRCS; and Dennis Thorne, NRCS.

**Staff**

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Lindsay Kozlowski-Resource Specialist; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer; and Nathan Ribar-Intern.

Ms. Petery introduced, Soil Conservationist, Dennis Thorne. Mr. Thorne, a Morgantown, WV resident and graduate of West Virginia University (WVU), began with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on April 6th, 2014 at the Lemont Furnace Office.

Ms. Kozlowski, attended a portion of the meeting.

**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 May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting with one correction as noted below. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Under Call to Order and Introduction of Guests; Mr. Martin Hamilton of Howard County, Maryland, was incorrectly referred to as Mr. Howard.

#### IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

#### V. CORRESPONDENCE

##### a. PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference – July 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – Blair County

The agenda for the conference was included with the meeting packets. Ms. Snider plans to attend at least one day of the conference; most likely the day of the State Conservation Commission meeting (July 9<sup>th</sup>). Anyone interested in attending should contact the office.

##### b. Soil Health Field Day – July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – Rich Burd Farm – Fayette County

Ms. Petery distributed information regarding the field day and extended an invitation to the event. Ms. Rush may attend the event.

#### VI. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were mailed with the meeting packets. Additional comments follow in the order they were presented. At the request of Ms. Snider, all staff reports will include goals met regarding the Annual Plan of Operations (APO).

**Laurel Rush** – To address an inquiry by GCCD Director Jim Kenney, at the last GCCD meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Ms. Rush provided the following information regarding the chemical properties of lime from local sources.

Greer Limestone – 80% - tested weekly

Cool Springs – 40-42% - tested annually

It was noted that Jack's Excavation will haul lime from both locations.

At the Penn's Corner RC&D meeting she attended on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, she learned that a contract for services is now in place between Penn's Corner as the fiscal agent for the River Alert Information Network (RAIN) and Sherene Hess, independent contractor. This lays the frame work for Ms. Hess to coordinate and implement the Scope of Work in the project funded by the Clean Water Fund of the PA Department of Environmental Protection entitled: "Protecting Shared Drinking Water Resources in Western Pennsylvania through Early Warning System, Watershed Protection and Development of Source

Water Protection Programs.” The period of performance is April 2014 through June 2015.

The Farm Bureau’s Regional Field Day will be held on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Jared Zinn** – A draft copy of the USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment has cleared one level of USACE review and is currently under review by Greene County. The final assessment should be completed in the near future.

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, GCCD Intern Nathan Ribar and Mr. Zinn gave a presentation regarding watershed management to approximately 40-50 children participating in Greene County’s Summer Day Camp Program. He will participate in 4 additional camps throughout the summer.

**Nathan Ribar** – Under the West Nile Virus Surveillance Monitoring Program, mosquito trapping is underway with traps being placed, on a regular basis, at three county sewage treatment plants as well as the Greene County Fairgrounds. To date, no results have been received from the samples collected in Greene County. It is believed that, statewide, five mosquitos have tested positive for West Nile Virus.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control Plans have been received, and are currently under technical review, for two boat launches; near the Beagle Club Road and Clarksville. Plans for two additional boat launches are expected.

**Lisa Snider** – Over the past several months, numerous complaints have been received, and much of she and Ms. Kozlowski’s time has been devoted to assisting landowners achieve compliance with PA DEP laws. Unfortunately, in one case, compliance could not be reached and PA DEP will be involved.

Mr. Ribar has gone along with GCCD staff on various field visits to gain experience with all aspects of GCCD. Plans are to have Mr. Ribar also assist Mr. Zinn with the Water Monitoring Project.

## **VII. Old Business**

**1. Farmland Preservation** – The next meeting, scheduled to be held on May 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. has been cancelled.

1. Charles A. Harry, 164 acres - Morgan Township

The closing was completed on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014. GCFLP awaits the title insurance policy and any final invoicing from Hook and Hook.

2. James F. and Pearl Willis Living Trust Farm #1, 53 acres – Cumberland Township - The high ranking farm in 2013 is pursuing approved avenues to clear a surface coal issue on this title.
3. 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.
4. Richard A. Phillips 107 acres - Cumberland Township – The GCFLP Board received the title search on the 107 acres. There is a mortgage to subordinate; otherwise Attorney Hook is willing to certify title. The GCFLP program is moving forward with an appraisal and a survey plot of the parcel.

**2. Agricultural Security Area Program**

*Franklin Township* – Ms. Rush has discussed the status of the ASA creation with Corbly Orndorff, he is working on getting the paper work in order. (Richard Patterson and Bruce Rohrer are the property owners who have submitted applications to date).  
*Greene Township*- the Supervisors are reviewing the status of the Wilber Colvin property being added to their ASA.

**3. Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run/Whiteley Creek Stream Rehabilitation GG Grant**

Big Sky Land and Cattle LLC (Brice and Jeffrey Christopher) - The permitting is complete.

The Scope of Work change, to add the County of Greene and associated budget adjustments have been approved by the grant center. A decision has not been made in regards to the extension request.

Since a decision on an extension, may not be rendered until July, PA DEP Grant Advisor, Rita Coleman, recommended that GCCD continue to work on the grant; assuming the deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. And, Ms. Coleman indicated that if GCCD cannot complete the grant, future grant applications should not be affected.

**4. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment**

1. The USACE reports that the plan is in one of the last stages of review and has submitted a current draft to Greene County.
2. GCCD has submitted our work in-kind information to USACE for our contribution to this project.
3. We have submitted a paragraph detailing stormwater management issues in Greene County. This will be included in the Stormwater/Sanitary Sewer section of the plan.

**e. Greene County Water Monitoring Project**

1. GCCD's first participant meeting was held on June 5, 2014 (rescheduled from May 29, 2014). Twelve participant landowners were in attendance and received their CATTFish device.
2. Additional participants have scheduled times for one-on-one meetings to get their CATTFish device.
3. Approximately 6 participants have reported their data with, no issues to date.
4. It was noted that the stream monitors will be installed later this summer.

- f. Act 13 UGWF Funds – Special Project - Manure Storage Facility – Greene County Fairgrounds** - The Nutrient Management Plan has been approved. An invitation to bid for the trusses, the metal roof, the structural lumber, the gutters and downspouts and associated hardware has been advertised. Approximately five bid packages were mailed to local lumber companies and various truss companies. The bid opening will be held on June 18, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at the Greene County Controller's Office.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Request for Assistance**

Josh Brozik – Perry Township – 10 acres (Action)

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

**b. Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan Review – John Liggett, Washington County – Review for Certification**

As part of the reciprocal agreement between GCCD and the Washington County Conservation District (WCCD), both parties can provide assistance with matters regarding the Nutrient Management Program.

Recently, WCCD hired two new Agricultural Technicians; Steve Gilkinson and Tom Ulrich. A requirement of their certification process is to write a nutrient management plan and since the plan is written for a farm in the county which he works none of the WCCD ag staff can review the plan. Laurel Rush, GCCD's Certified Nutrient Management Specialist, will complete the review of this plan, written by Tom Ulrich. It will then be presented to the WCCD Board for approval.

**c. Ralph K. Bell Bird Club of Greene County Scholarship Donation**

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, former and longtime GCCD Director, Ralph Bell, passed away at the age of 99. In his memory, contributions are being accepted for Greene County scholarships.

After speaking to, Marjorie Howard, Club President, Ms. Snider learned that, each year, a scholarship in the amount of \$500, is awarded to a Greene County student, selected through the submission an essay. In the past, Alpha Natural Resources made a donation to the club for the scholarship; however, this contribution is no longer given and the club uses their membership dues to fund the scholarship.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to make an annual contribution, as long as GCCD's budget permits, of \$500 to be included in the annual GCCD budget, to the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club Greene County Scholarship. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**d. Penn's Corner Conservancy Charitable Trust Donation Request**

On behalf of Penn's Corner, a request was received from the District Manager of the Allegheny County Conservation District for a one-time donation of \$700 to assist in the funding of a part-time coordinator.

***After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to donate \$700 to Penn's Corner RC&D. Jim Cowell seconded.***

***Since other funding is not yet in place for the position, at this time, a letter of commitment will be sent to Penn's Corner.***

**e. Letter to the SCC Regarding the Distribution of Unconventional Gas Well Funds (UGWF)**

A copy of this letter was included in the meeting packets for board review. As discussed at the GCCD meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) was considering, and has since adopted, a proposal to distribute the 2014/2015 as follows.

- 60% of the UGWF will be divided evenly between all 66 Conservation Districts (CD's).
- The remaining 40% would be distributed to County Conservation Districts that have unconventional gas well drilling occurring.

The proposal will now be brought before the State Conservation Commission at the PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference, July 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Altoona, PA.

Conservation District Managers in the Southwest Region did not agree with the proposal and drafted their own proposal to include a 60%-40% split (60% to impacted counties and 44% to be divided equally between all 66 CD's). At the PACD Southwest Regional Meeting, which Mr. Jim Kenney and Ms. Lisa Snider attended on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014, this proposal was adopted.

The letter to the SCC presented today for consideration, basically requests that these UGWF be used; as intended, for counties impacted by the drilling and not to replace funding through the Conservation Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP).

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the remittance of this letter to the SCC. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**f. Bill Iams – Greene County Fairgrounds – Permanent Structure Fair Display**

At the GCCD meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Mr. Jim Cowell noted that Mr. Iams, the owner of the tent building, offered GCCD the use of the building during the fair at no cost. Since that time, in a conversation with Mr. Cowell, Mr. Iams offered to donate the building to GCCD and would confirm this in writing, if needed.

It was the understanding of Commissioner Trader that Mr. Iams also offered to donate the building to the Greene County Fairboard; but he did not foresee a problem with GCCD using the building.

Security at the building could be improved by enclosing the sides and the installation of a garage door. An estimate of \$4,500 for this work was obtained from Contractor, Mr. Jim Morris, and was presented for consideration.

The estimate included the enclosure of three sides, the placement of lumber at the base to level the building, the installation of an overhead garage door, the placement of dark green metal with white trim.

While Mr. Morris could not guarantee that he could complete the work by the week of the fair (August 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>); he would try to have the work finished by that time. The installation of a rain barrel for demonstration purposes was also discussed.

Commissioner Trader advised GCCD to write a letter to the Greene County Commissioners to include our plans for the building for consideration.

***A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the proposal for the work to enclose the building, contingent upon the approval of the Greene County Commissioners. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**g. Call to Action Request – Protect Funding in the 2014-2015 State Budget for Conservation, Recreation and Preservation Programs**

In an effort to protect funding for the Keystone Recreation, the Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund, farmland preservation, Heritage Areas Program, and historical preservation from budget cuts, endorsement of the letter is being obtained to be forwarded to state legislators.

Ms. Snider noted that these funding cuts would affect GCCD; as the salary of our Watershed Specialist is funded through the Growing Greener Program and the Farmland Preservation Program is administered by GCCD.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to endorse the letter. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**h. Jim Cowell – Frosty Springs Farm – Letter of Support**

The PA Cattleman's Association and the PA Livestock Association nominated the farm of Jim and Billie Cowell, Frosty Springs, located in Greene Township, owned by Billie and Jim Cowell, to receive the state's 2014 Beef Quality Assurance Farm Award for 2014.

The farm will now be eligible to receive the national award and letters of support are needed.

***A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to draft a letter of support for Frosty Springs Farm. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed with one abstention, Jim Cowell)***

**i. GCCD Financial Account Committee**

At the last GCCD meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, it was noted that a Financial/Budget Committee meeting would be scheduled. Since that time, the meeting was held with Commissioner Trader, Mr. Headlee, Mr.

Kenney, Ms. Snider, and Ms. Salosky in attendance. At the request of the Committee, a list of the annual operating expenses and a list of the bank accounts, currently held, was compiled and presented for review. We wait for information from the local banks.

## **IX. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

Mr. Zinn, working with Shelly Brown, of Direct Results, published the latest edition of the GCCD newsletter. Ms. Petery requested that NRCS be notified several days prior to the publication of a newsletter.

Also, work is underway with Ms. Brown to produce a poster with funds from the Growing Greener grant. The posters, to be distributed to all municipalities, will include information regarding the Chapter 102 and 105 programs to clarify when a permit may be needed.

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

**Susan Funka-Petery-NRCS-**Ms. Petery explained that this has been a slow year for NRCS with the contracting for the Farm Bill Program and nothing has been obligated to date. NRCS staff is in full fledge construction mode at this point and time and are in the field working with landowners.

Ms. Petery noted that while the Greene County fairgrounds project I&E was completed by NRCS initially, the organization took a back seat to the design and now are trying to schedule the Quality assurance construction oversight. Laurel, Chuck Shrump and Ms. Petery will be the lead inspectors during construction of the facilities.

Ms. Petery mentioned that NRCS is currently working with Fayette County Conservation, and the PA No-till Alliance to host a field day that will be promoted in the 4 county region (Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmorland County). The field day will be July 10<sup>th</sup> at the Richard Burd Farm in Fayette County. Details were passed out earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Petery also discussed the scheduling of the rainfall simulator that is being requested by district staff for use at the PA Farm Bureau Field Day and Greene County Fair. The request needs to be formally submitted to NRCS staff so that it can be scheduled for the events.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> a scheduled Civil Rights Equal Employment Opportunity review will be conducted in the Washington and Fayette Field Offices, this is conducted every 3 to 5 years. Some contact may be made with the Greene County Conservation District during this review.

**Ken Dufalla, Izaak Walton League** – Mr. Dufalla distributed an article posted on [www.truth-out.org](http://www.truth-out.org) entitled “Dead Babies and Utah’s Carbon Bomb” for the boards review. Mr. Dufalla went on to explain that in light of the recent Federal Ruling determining that conductivity should now be considered a pollutant, the IKES were ahead of the curve with their monitoring.

Mr. Dufalla also explained that they now have another location that is considered a “hot spot’ by their organization. The site discharges into Ten Mile Creek and originates in the headwaters located on the Chitister Farm and Maley Farm near Rep. Pam Snyder’s home and heads downstream to Ten Mile Creek. The IWLA is closely watching this stream and will be sending correspondence to PA DEP Harrisburg requesting further testing.

Mr. Dufalla wrote a letter to PA DEP to express his concern of untreated mine water, from the former Pitt Gas Mine, entering into Ten Mile Creek. A letter was received by the IKES from PA DEP, Greg Prentice, Compliance Manager of the District Mining Operations that the letter was received and the matter would be investigated.

It was also reported that Frank Jernejcic, WV DNR has reported good results on Dunkard Creek. It has been noted that the mussel reproduction is going well and inoculation has taken place of drums and bluegills. The stream has begun an amazing recovery after the removal of the Blackville No. 2 discharge. The stream is recovering nicely.

The Izaak Walton League has recently honored Mr. Ralph Bell for his 50 years of service and Terry Greenwood who also has recently passed away.

Wednesday night at 6:30 PM, a reporter from Russia will be in attendance at the IWLA meeting at the Greene County Country Club. A video salute of Terry Greenwood will be shown as well as two other videos discussing radiation in water supplies.

At the April 15<sup>th</sup> GCCD meeting Mr. Dufalla discussed the letter he sent to PA DEP requesting that additional testing be conducted to detect the presence of Radium 226 and Radium 228. To date, no word has been received regarding this testing. Testing needs to take place according to Mr. Dufalla and if PA DEP does not act then funding will be obtained by the group to perform the tests.

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the IKES will train 7 more volunteers in West Virginia on the citizens monitoring program.

**XI. Executive Session - None**

**XII. The Next Regular Meeting will be June 17, 2014**

**XIII. Adjournment**

***With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Archie Trader to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. Tom Headlee 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 _____, 2014.
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District