

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
March 18, 2014**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Trader at 10:05 a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Greene County Office Building, 93 East High St., 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; Greg Hopkins-Director; Jim Kenney-Director; J. Robert Rice-Director Emeritus; Frank O'Leary-Associate Director; Sandy Theis-Associate Director; Gay Thistle-Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Jerry Day-Invited Guest; Bill Cree, Sr.-Invited Guest; Bill Cree, Jr.-Invited Guest; Suzy Petery-NRCS.

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.

Chairman Eisiminger arrived at 10:10 a.m.

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 January 28th, 2014 meeting. Jim Kenney 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. State Ethics Forms for Director Completion April 30, 2014

GCCD Board Members were reminded that the State Ethics Forms must be completed and returned to the office by April 30th, 2014.

b. North American Envirothon

This year's national competition, scheduled to be held in Georgia, has been canceled. Although this year's event will not be held, future events are planned.

c. PennDOT – Adopt-A-Highway Program

Information was mailed in the meeting packets regarding the appointment of Colleen Martin as the new Program Coordinator. Several years ago, GCCD adopted a section of highway along S.R. 2011. A clean-up of this area will be scheduled, to coincide with the Great American Clean-up in April.

d. Building for Tomorrow Leadership & Development Initiatives

Information regarding this matter was also included in the meeting packets. Funding is available for several of PACD's Building for Tomorrow leadership and professional development initiatives (strategic planning grants, training, etc.). Ms. Snider requested that the Board consider utilizing this program for the development of a strategic plan.

e. PennDOT – Keep PA Beautiful/Great PA Cleanup Program

One day, April 26th, 2014, has been designated as Keep PA Beautiful Day. To commemorate the day, volunteers are asked to assist in the clean-up of road side litter.

f. Edward “Butch” Deter Resignation

Effective February 27, 2014, Mr. Deter has resigned as a director of the Greene County Conservation District.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to accept the resignation of Mr. Deter. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)

VI. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were mailed with the meeting packets. Additional comments follow in the order they were given.

Lindsay Kozlowski – To date, 14 plans and approximately \$16,075 has been received for Chapter 102/105 review fees.

Bill Wentzel – GCCD continues to work with contractors on the Morrisville Corridor Project. Additional projects he continues to inspect include the Greene County Airport Project in Franklin Township; which is progressing adequately, and a timber harvesting project located east of Waynesburg near S.R. 21. Little work has been completed at the Lamar Prospect site in Franklin Township since his last inspection.

Laurel Rush – The deadline for the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) is March 31st, 2014. The Project Grass Committee will be hosting a bus tour in Butler County in September. Mr. Cowell, Ms. Snider and she will be attending the PA Farm Bureau's Environmental Coordinators meeting on March 26, 2014.

A donation of \$3,000 was received from Alpha Natural Resources for the Continuing Education Scholarship Program and the Conservation Leadership School. Part of this donation (\$2,500) funds higher education scholarships for this year's winning Envirothon team and \$500 for the sponsorship of a student to the Conservation Leadership School.

At yesterday's meeting of the Penn's Corner RC&D Executive Council, it was announced that work will soon begin to develop a new Area Plan of Work (a five year strategic plan). Each county will be asked to submit their priorities for possible inclusion in the plan. As advancements are made, periodic updates will be given.

Jared Zinn – At the December 17th, 2013 GCCD meeting, approval was granted to participate in the CATTFISH Project, in conjunction with the Washington County Conservation District. News articles, to promote the project, recently appeared in the Observer Reporter and the Herald Standard. As a result, additional interest in the project has occurred, with the current number of participants at 22.

Ms. Snider added that the CATTFISH Project as well as an article highlighting the efforts of GCCD as the "organization of the month" will soon appear in the Greene Saver.

Warren Dickerson – Adverse weather conditions have hindered their inspection duties. Ms. Snider noted that inspection duties have been divided equally between Mr. Basinger and Mr. Dickerson. Mr. Wentzel will continue to visit projects on his current schedule; which for the most part, are located in Franklin Township, as well as most of the timber harvesting sites.

Mr. Basinger and he will be attending the Chapter 102/105 Training at Fort Indiantown Gap the week of March 24th-28th, 2014.

VII. Old Business

a. Farmland Preservation

1. Charles A. Harry, 164 acres-Morgan Township - The GCFLP Board presented this parcel of land at the State Agricultural Land Preservation (ALP) Board meeting on Dec, 12, 2013. It was accepted into the easement program. The closing will be set once the checks are received from the PA Department of Treasury. GCFLP expects to receive the checks from the state office soon, possibly later this month, or in April. Ms. Rush has been in contact with Mr. Harry to coordinate a time when the closing can take place.
2. 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.

The boundary issue regarding the James F. and Pearl Willis Living Trust farm, 53 acre parcel in Cumberland Township, has been resolved. The next step will be the resolution of the surface coal issue.

3. Richard A. Phillips 127 acres - Cumberland Township - The GCFLP board received information at the February 19, 2014 meeting from their attorney, Greg Hook in regards to the surface coal ownership of the 19 acre parcel which is part of his 2013 application. Mr. Phillips has been notified and has been given 30 days to decide his course of action.

Following several meetings with Mr. Phillips, indications are that he will mostly likely exclude the 19 acres from the Easement. This matter will be discussed at the Greene County Farmland Preservation (GCFLP) Board meeting tomorrow, March 19th, 2014.

4. Ms. Rush reviewed the funding for the Greene County Farmland Preservation Program as follows.

2014 GCFLP Funding – County Funds: \$7,911.00 PABFLP: \$116,491.00
2014 Total: \$124,402.00 GCFLP total available for easement:
\$180,241.31 (\$40,490.31 to be encumbered by the end of 2014)

b. Agricultural Security Area Program

Franklin Township – Laurel met with 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). *Greene Township*- the Supervisors are reviewing the status of the Wilber Colvin property being added to their ASA.

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

Big Sky Land and Cattle LLC- The designs are under review by NRCS and the permitting is being prepared.

d. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment

The West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI) is finalizing their TDS Low Flow Study and is developing an Excel based flow management tool based on this research that may be utilized by those with discharges along the Mon River.

The Nature Conservancy requested input from USACE on developing management guidelines based on their Ecological Flow Study.

A conference call regarding the assessment is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 20th, 2014.

e. CATTFISH Project – WCCD

GCCD is continuing to recruit participants for this study by reaching out to township supervisors. As Mr. Zinn noted in his above staff report, 22 participants have committed to the project.

GCCD continues to work with WCCD on securing project funding through the Colcom Foundation.

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

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has denied our engineering request for this project due to Farm Bill workload. An engineering request was then sent to Eric Robertson, the TAG Engineer, with the PA Association of Conservation Districts (PACD). He will be completing this design with an estimated delivery date of April.

The nutrient management plan for the site is under development and should be ready for presentation at the April meeting of the GCCD.

Ms. Petery noted that although NRCS was unable to provide engineering work for the project, they will be consulting with the TAG Engineer.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request for Assistance

There were no Requests for Assistance to bring before the Board.

b. Associate Directors

In addition to the Associate Directors appointed at the GCCD meeting held on January 28th, 2014, Mr. William Cree, Sr. and Jerry Day were presented for consideration.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to appoint Mr. Cree and Mr. Day as Associate Directors of GCCD. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

Chairman Eisiminger thanked both gentlemen for their interest and welcomed them as Associate Directors.

c. 2014 Committee Appointments

Committees require a reappointment by the Chairman annually.

This matter was tabled at the last meeting held on January 28th, 2014. Ms. Snider noted that the recent resignation of Edward Deter as a GCCD Director and the appointment of two additional Associate Directors may require minor changes. Those changes can be made following the appointment of Mr. Deter's replacement.

d. PA DEP Environmental Quality Board

The proposed regulation to strengthen environmental protection standards associated with oil and gas activities.

This matter was discussed at the last GCCD meeting on January 28th, 2014. Following that meeting, Ms. Snider worked with Ms. Thistle, Associate Director, to draft comments on behalf of the GCCD Board. Those comments were submitted to the Board with a telephone poll to follow. As a result, no objections were heard. In order to meet the March 14th deadline, the letter was submitted to the PA DEP Environmental Quality Board.

A motion was made by Jim Kenney to accept the letter as mailed to the PA DEP Environmental Quality Board. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

e. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GCCD, NRCS and the State Conservation Commission (SCC)

Annually, Ms. Petery reviews the current MOU, signed in 1997. She noted the following.

NRCS takes great pride in relying on local Conservation Districts to guide them concerning the local resource issues and to convene local work groups to set guidance and priorities for Farm Bill Programs.

Through the agreement, technician assistance, training, computer access of their system (with the proper training and clearance) and the use of their vehicles are some of the provisions provided by NRCS.

NRCS has instituted Section 1619 to ensure that landowners personal information (state identification and county number, farm and tract numbers, crop codes, and the landowner's name, address and phone numbers) are protected.

Ms. Petery and her staff, look forward to a continued working relationship with GCCD.

f. Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run/Whiteley Creek Stream Rehabilitation GG Grant

At the last GCCD meeting on January 28th, 2014, approval was granted for the expenditure of Unconventional Gas Well Funds (UGWF) available to GCCD to construct two manure storage facilities at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

However, since funds remain under the Ruff Creek/Pumpkin Run/Whiteley Creek Stream Rehabilitation Growing Greener (GG) Grant; that will expire on June 30, 2014, the project at the Greene County Fairgrounds was presented for consideration. Upon GCCD approval, the project could be added to the grant and GG funds could offset the UGWF and allow for the construction of both manure storage facilities, possibly by the end of this summer.

The County of Greene has signed the Landowner/Grantee Agreement for the fairgrounds manure stacking project. At this time, the project agreement was presented to the GCCD Board for consideration. Upon GCCD approval, a revision of the Scope of Work will be submitted to the Growing Greener Grants Center for approval.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to add the County of Greene as a landowner and revise the Scope of Work to include this addition to the GG Grant. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

g. Appalachian Grazing Conference – Donation Request

The conference with a theme of “The Dollars and \$ense of Grazing” will be held March 13th-15, 2015 in Morgantown, WV. To keep the registration costs for the conference to a minimum, donations are currently being accepted. In the past, GCCD has not provided a donation, but has provided a Greene County resident with a scholarship to attend the event. The winner of the scholarship was selected from sign-ups received from visitors of our fair display at the Greene County Fair.

A discussion ensued and the following suggestions were made regarding the selection of the scholarship recipient.

- Offer a scholarship to the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year.
- Contact the attendees of the Manure Management Workshops to determine their interest.

Since the event will not be held until next year, this matter will be placed on future GCCD Meeting Agendas for further discussion.

h. Penn’s Corner RC&D – Grassland Evaluation Contest – Sponsor Request

Donations and/or sponsorships are being accepted for the twelfth annual contest to be held on May 6, 2014 at the Ag Progress Days site in Center County, PA. Sponsorships help provide college scholarships to the winners of the contest.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to make a donation of \$250 for the Grassland Evaluation Contest. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

Once a determination is made regarding the participation of a Greene County Team, an additional donation may be considered.

IX. Conservation District Outreach

To achieve a professional result, Ms. Snider is working with Direct Results to publish GCCD’s 2013 Annual Report. Their service may also be enlisted for the publication of future newsletters as well. Mr. Zinn will be given the task of publishing the newsletters.

Further outreach includes articles in the next Greene Saver regarding the CATTFISH project as well as an article outlining the services of GCCD. Also, information regarding GCCD will appear in a publication of the Greene County Tourism Office.

X. Reports from Cooperating Agencies and Guests

Suzy Petery – Since the passage of the new Farm Bill, field evaluations have begun for Conservation Programs. Ag Progress Days will be held this weekend, March 21st and 22nd, 2014, at Washington Crown Center. NRCS’s display will focus on soil health and soil quality. GIS Arc Map/Tool Kit training will be held on March 21st, 2013. Unofficially, a Soil Conservationist is scheduled to begin with NRCS on April 7th, 2014. Their duty station will be the office at Lemont Furnace, PA.

Robbie Matesic – In Ms. Matesic’s absence, due to medical leave, Ms. Snider noted that the Department of Economic Development which includes the Conservation District staff has been working with Executive Coach, Chris Posti.

Mr. Cowell noted that Bill Iams, the owner of the tent building at the fairgrounds, offered GCCD the use of the building for display space, free of charge, during this year’s Greene County Fair. The building, located next to the barn, may be a more suitable location in our effort to provide outreach to the agricultural community. Ms. Snider will contact Greene County Fair Board Director, Larry Marshall regarding the use of this building and written permission from Mr. Iams will be obtained. A sign recognizing Mr. Iams’ generosity will be posted on or near the building.

XI. Executive Session - None

XII. The Next Regular Meeting will be **April 15, 2014**

XIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 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 _____, 2014.
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District

