

**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
May 20, 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, 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; Jim Kenney-Director; Bill Cree, Sr.-Associate Director; Frank O'Leary-Associate Director; Sandy Theis-Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel-Associate Director/Resource Specialist.

**Guests and Cooperating Agencies**

Ken Dufalla, President, Izaak Walton League of America (IWL), Harry Enstrom Chapter; Martin Hamilton, Guest; and Kim Moninger, NRCS

**Staff**

Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Lindsay Kozlowski-Resource Specialist; Warren Dickerson-Resource Specialist; Zack Basinger-Resource Specialist; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer; Nathan Ribar-Intern; and Robbie Matesic-Department of Economic Development.

Chairman Eisiminger acknowledged Associate Directors, Bill Cree, Frank O'Leary and Sandy Theis and introduced his guest, Martin Hamilton of Howard County, Maryland and Nathan Ribar, GCCD Intern.

Mr. Howard is retired from the University of Maryland, Howard County Cooperative Extension, where he served as the Director and the 4-H Leader. Currently, he is employed by the Department of Agriculture and serves as Executive Director of the Howard County Fair Board.

Mr. Ribar will be conducting the West Nile Virus (WNV) Surveillance monitoring program this summer as well as providing assistance for other programs as needed.

Ms. Kozlowski, attended a portion of the meeting.

## II. OATH OF OFFICE

Commissioner Trader administered the Oath of Office to Bill Wentzel. Mr. Wentzel was appointed by the Greene County Commissioners, at their meeting held on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Mr. Wentzel will complete the term of Edward "Butch" Deter, who resigned February 27, 2014. Mr. Wentzel's term will expire on December 31, 2015.

## III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

## IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the minutes of the April 15th, 2014 meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)*

## V. TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

With the expected receipt of additional funding for the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program, and since the balance of the accounts at First Federal Savings and Loan of Greene County exceeds the coverage of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), a meeting of the Financial/Budget Committee will soon be scheduled.

## VI. CORRESPONDENCE

### a. State Ethics Forms for Director Completion April 30, 2014

The April 30, 2014 deadline has passed for the completion of the State Ethics Forms. Any GCCD Director, who has not completed the form and returned it to the office, should do so as soon as possible.

### b. Dirt and Gravel Road Program – Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Allocations

Since this information was received after the meeting agenda was prepared, it was not included on the agenda.

GCCD Directors were sent information via email by Ms. Snider detailing this year's Dirt and Gravel Road Allocation. Mr. Dickerson noted that GCCD will receive a total of \$529,000, of which \$108,000 are to be directed for use on low volume roads. All municipalities will be mailed a request for applications within the next few weeks.

## VII. 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** – Several inquiries regarding the lime spreader have been received, with one actual rental. Upon inquiry from Mr. Kenney, it was noted that most renters purchase their lime from Greer Limestone in Morgantown, WV or Cool Springs. Mr. Kenney noted that it may be beneficial for GCCD staff to have knowledge of the chemical properties of the lime for each source.

Ms. Rush recently met with Denny Strickland of Massey Energy, in an effort to resolve mine subsidence issues on the property of Cindy and Art Main located in Gilmore Township. In this case, the benefits of a Conservation Plan have been proven, by providing documentation to restore the land to its past use. An additional meeting is scheduled to be held on May 23, 2014.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Cowell, Mr. Hopkins, and she attended the Spring Project Grass Field Day and meeting in Cambria County. Two farms were visited where watering techniques, the utilization of runoff from a barn roof, and the use of a reservoir as a backup water supply, were demonstrated. Also, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) demonstrated the “Rainfall Simulator”, that Mr. Hopkins found very effective in showing how erosion occurs. It is hoped that this simulator can be used for GCCD’s fall field day.

The next Penn’s Corner Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) meeting will be held on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Armstrong County.

**Warren Dickerson** – Several new Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) control plans have been received. On April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> he attended the Dirt and Gravel Road Program’s Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) training in Westmoreland County.

**Zack Basinger** – As reported by Mr. Dickerson, several new E&S plans have been received. Inspections were conducted on three sites; two pipelines and a slide repair.

He will assist with the training of GCCD’s Summer Intern, Nathan Ribar, for the WNV Program. PA DEP’s WNV Coordinator, Mr. Ed Farrell, will try to provide additional mosquito traps.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – Since April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, 25 additional E&S Control Plans have been received and 19 permits have been issued. Year-to-date, a total of \$59,288 has been received in review fees. Numerous complaint investigations have been made and assistance was provided to reach compliance.

**Jared Zinn** – This year’s Envirothon, the first of which he participated, was successful; with approximately 70 students participating. Essays from students interested in attending the Conservation Leadership School, were included in the meeting packets for review and will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Bill Wentzel** – Inspections continue on various construction and timber harvesting sites; including the Franklin Township Sewer Authority upgrade, the improvements at the Greene County Airport, Evergreene Technology Park, and the Morrisville Corridor project. Rain has delayed many of these projects.

## VIII. Old Business

a. **Farmland Preservation** – The next meeting will be held on May 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

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 meeting agenda incorrectly had the acreage at 127 acres. The GCFLP Board is pursuing an easement on this parcel, even though Mr. Phillips ranking would change by modifying his application. They did not want to waste the time and money already invested in this potential easement. Mr. Phillips was notified of this decision. Attorney Greg Hook has provided the title search report on the 107 acres. This report will be presented to the GCFLP Board at their meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

b. **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.

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

Big Sky Land and Cattle LLC (Brice and Jeffrey Christopher) - The designs have been approved and the permitting is being prepared. The Christopher's requested a change of the fencing materials. Instead of high tensile wire, they wish to install barbed wire.

The Scope of Work change to add the County of Greene and associated budget adjustments have been reviewed with the grant advisor and will be submitted as soon as possible.

**d. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment**

1. USACE has provided GCCD with guidance on documenting work in-kind. GCCD has drafted a work in-kind submission based on these guidelines. We are awaiting data from Greene County Economic Development (GCED) to finalize and submit this document.
2. USACE has completed a draft narrative detailing stormwater management issues in Greene County. This will be included in the Stormwater/Sanitary Sewer section of the plan once it is approved by GCED.

**e. Greene County Water Monitoring Project**

1. The Greene County Conservation District (GCCD), the Washington County Conservation District (WCCD) and the Washington County Watershed Alliance (WCWA) submitted a grant application, requesting approximately \$198,000 for a two year period, to the Colcom Foundation. The grant was reviewed, and one year of funding (\$100,000) approved, at the meeting of the Colcom Foundation Board of Directors on Tuesday, May 6, 2014. Although the grant was less than requested, it should be sufficient to purchase all of the necessary materials. The shortfall will be made up mainly by reducing the travel costs.
2. GCCD's Water Resources Committee met on April 15, 2014 and selected participants for inclusion in the project. Those participants will be notified and an orientation meeting is being scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 7 p.m. to kick off the project.

- f. Act 13 UGWF Funds – Special Project - Manure Storage Facility – Greene County Fairgrounds** - The Nutrient Management Plan has been reviewed and is ready for approval. Eric Robertson, PACD TAG Engineer, is working on the design. Once the design is received, a building permit can be obtained from Franklin Township and materials can be purchased. Originally, the building was to have a mono sloped roof; however as the plan designed progressed, it was determined that a gabled roof would achieve the same goals and reduce the costs as well.

At the request of Chairman Eisiminger, Ms. Rush gave a summary of the project for those who recently joined GCCD.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Request for Assistance**

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

### **b. County of Greene Fairgrounds – Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)**

At the last GCCD meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the plan was found to be administratively complete and was accepted for technical review. Since then, the technical review was completed and the plan was found to meet the requirements of an Act 38 NMP.

***Upon the recommendation of Ms. Rush, a motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve this NMP. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **c. USACE Wetland Identification Workshop – June 17 and 18, 2014 – Howard, PA**

***A motion was made by Jim Kenney to allow Zack Basinger and Warren Dickerson to attend this workshop that will require lodging for 3 nights, fuel and meals. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **d. Conservation Leadership School**

Essays, from 3 students interested in attending this year's Conservation Leadership School (CLS), were received and were included in the meeting packets for Board review and ranking. Mr. Zinn noted that two years ago, due to unforeseen circumstances, the student selected to attend was unable to do so and those funds would be available for another student to attend this year, if the Board so desires. The approximate cost for each student to attend the school is \$500.

***After a brief discussion, a motion was made Jim Cowell to pay for 4 students, at an approximate cost of \$2,000, to attend this year's CLS. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed).***

While Mr. Hopkins is in favor of sponsoring all 4 students to the CLS, he feels that the student with the winning essay should be recognized. It was noted that this essay stood out from the rest.

***After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Greg Hopkins to send a letter of congratulations to the winner of the essay contest, Christopher Thomas of Waynesburg, and recognize him at GCCD's Annual Award Luncheon. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***  
The method of recognition will be determined.

**e. Mini Grant – Jim Cowell – HUA Project**

The purpose of this mini grant was incorrectly included on the meeting agenda as a Heavy Use Area (HUA). Ms. Rush noted that the mini grant will be used toward the construction of a diversion at the HUA, and has not been completed. Upon completion, it will be brought before the Board for payment consideration.

**X. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

At the request of Ms. Snider, Ms. Rush has written a news article, regarding the services GCCD can provide to landowners. The article, to be published in GCCD's newsletter and the "Conservation Corner" of the Observer Reporter, will invite anyone interested in these services, to contact GCCD to arrange for a visit with Ms. Rush.

Mr. Zinn is working with Shelly Brown of Direct Results to publish GCCD's next newsletter, which is expected to be finished in early June.

**XI. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS**

**Kim Moninger** – Suzy Petery, Supervisory District Conservationist, planned to attend today's meeting to introduce recently hired, Soil Conservationist, Dennis Thorn; however; due to scheduling conflicts, she was unable to attend. A field day to discuss soil health will be held on July 10, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the farm of Rich Bird in Fayette County, PA. Events planned include a demonstration of the Rainfall Simulator, the installation of a soil pit, and the attendance of a Soil Scientist to discuss the soil health of this property.

**Robbie Matesic** – Greene County continues to improve infrastructure, by applying for grants for sewer and water projects. Other grant opportunities being pursued include PA DEP's Growing Greener II Grants and Brownfields Redevelopment grants. Following a short absence, Greene County now has a Grants Coordinator, Crystal Simmons.

A new coal facility, that will require a zoning change, is proposed in Whiteley Township by Cumberland Coal. The tentative date for the zoning hearing is July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Work, that has been very beneficial, continues between the Greene County Planning Commission (GCPC), GCCD, and municipalities regarding land development projects. She commended GCCD staff for this effort.

The GCPC, at their next meeting, will consider minor revisions of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. All approved changes will be submitted to the Greene County Commissioners and a public hearing on those changes would be scheduled. Workshops, to discuss these changes, will be held for municipal officials, planning and zoning hearing boards, etc.

Work on the Jackson Run Flood Control Project, with funding from Greene County and Waynesburg Borough, is expected to begin this fall. Frequent flooding has occurred in the area that has affected several businesses.

**Ken Dufalla** – 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 copy of this letter was sent to Ms. Snider and the matter was discussed with Dr. Joe Donovan and Dr. Paul Ziemkiewicz of West Virginia University. When no response was received from PA DEP, Mr. Dufalla contacted their hotline and was informed that the situation was under evaluation.

Mr. Dufalla feels his concern is justified, as the discharge is in close proximity to the water intake facilities of Tri-County Water Authority and with the bromide problem that occurred in Dunkard Creek a few years ago.

Another concern is the longwall mining and the potential loss of stream water that may occur above Ryerson Station State Park. And with erosion already occurring, he feels that mining may exacerbate the situation.

At the last GCCD meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 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.

Also, at last GCCD meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Ms. Snider discussed Dana Mining and Mepco's proposed Steel Shaft Project. Since that time, Mr. Dufalla has been in contact with those officials and he suggested that a meeting be held with GCCD, GCED, and the IWL for further discussion.

Mr. Zinn noted that the Western PA Coalition of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR), at their meeting held on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, endorsed the Steel Shaft Project.

**Jim Cowell** – Mr. Cowell briefly discussed the enforcement of the Clean Water Act (CWA) by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Many agricultural organizations fear that changes in the way the law is enforced could result in many restrictions regarding water resources.

Mr. Zinn noted that the CWA has always included this language and defines navigable streams in a very broad manner.

**XII. Executive Session - None**

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

**XIV. Adjournment**

***With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Greg Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

<u><b>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</b></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