



## **Greene County Conservation District**

Fort Jackson Building, Mezzanine – 19 South Washington Street – Waynesburg, PA 15370

Phone 724-852-5278 – Fax 724-852-5341

E-mail: [gccd@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:gccd@co.greene.pa.us) -- Website: <http://www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd>

### **GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES**

**November 18, 2014**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eisiminger at 10:05 a.m. at Thistlethwaite's Vineyards, Jefferson, 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; Bill Wentzel-Director/Environmental Program Associate; J. Robert Rice, Director Emeritus; and Bill Cree, Jr.-Associate Director.

##### **Guests and Cooperating Agencies**

##### **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.

#### **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 October 21, 2014 meeting. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)*

#### **IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS**

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

#### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **a. Project Grass Dues \$200.00**

These dues have been \$200.00 for the past several years. Since this is a budgeted item, board action was not required.

- b. 2015 Southwest Regional PA No Till Conference- January 28<sup>th</sup> 9am - 2:45 pm, Fred Rogers Center, St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA- Registration deadline January 20<sup>th</sup>.**

The early registration fee, prior to January 20<sup>th</sup>, is \$30.00 per person, thereafter, the fee will be \$40.00. Anyone interested in attending should contact the office.

- c. WPCAMR Dues - \$100.00**

These dues also remain the same as last year and were included in the 2015 GCCD budget.

## **VI. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS**

Due to the meeting being held in conjunction with the Annual Awards Luncheon, staff reports were not completed this month. Reports will be prepared for the December GCCD meeting and will include the activities for the last two months.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Farmland Preservation – The next meeting will be December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Thistlethwaite's Vineyard.**

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 - 107acres - Cumberland Township  
This farm is on track to be on the December meeting agenda of the PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation and should meet the year-end encumbering deadline.

- b. Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Program**

*Franklin Township* – Ms. Rush has a meeting scheduled with Corbly Orndorff, Franklin Township Supervisor and Carol Kraft, Franklin Township Secretary, on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., to move forward with the ASA creation. (Richard Patterson and Bruce Rohrer are the property owners who have submitted applications to date).

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

THE EXTENSION REQUEST HAS BEEN GRANTED Until 12/31/14.

Big Sky Land and Cattle LLC (Jeff and Brice Christopher)- Invoices have been submitted for the practices installed. Waiting to see if they will finish the project on the other side of the road.

The County of Greene – The project started October 21, 2014.

**d. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment**

There are no updates for this project at this time.

**e. Greene County Water Monitoring Project**

Mr. Zinn recently submitted a report to the Washington County Conservation District for payment, through the Colcom Foundation Grant, of GCCD's expenses to date. GCCD continues to seek new participants from across Greene County.

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

The project began on October 21st, 2014. Both existing pads have been removed and alternative manure stacking has been established. Sites have been prepped; forms welded, wire mesh and rebar are in place. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel, Suzy Petery and Chuck Shrump and GCCD Agricultural Technician, Laurel Rush have been inspecting the site daily. The anticipated concrete pour is Wednesday November 12, 2014 (weather dependent).

**VIII. New BUSINESS**

**a. Request for Assistance**

Mark Lucey- 250 acres – Richhill Township

*Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve this Request for Assistance. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**b. Dirt & Gravel Roads Program**

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Quality Assurance Board (QAB) members, Eric Davis, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Suzy Petery, NRCS and GCCD representatives, Bill Wentzel and Lisa Snider visited, approximately 15 sites in 4 townships, to consider grant requests of approximately \$500,000. GCCD's total 2014-2015 program allocation is approximately \$400,000.

The QAB is scheduled to meet on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to further discuss these projects and rank the sites.

The need to hold a local Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) training has been discussed at previous GCCD meetings. Ms. Snider spoke to Gary Stokum, District Manager of the Washington County Conservation, and he is interested in partnering with GCCD to host a training; most likely in Washington County. State approval would be necessary.

**c. GCCD Water Quality Mini Grant Program**

The revisions were presented for discussion at the last GCCD meeting held on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014. At the request of Commissioner Trader, the revised document was submitted to Greene County Solicitor Cheryl Cowen for review.

Ms. Cowen, found the document to be satisfactory with one exception; she recommended that a statement be included to indicate that no state or county tax dollars will be used to fund these grants.

Ms. Snider noted that the grants will be funded through the Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 program accounts, which are used to collect permit fees, and would not contain tax dollars. She also said that these revisions should improve the program and ease the advertisement process.

Discussion ensued regarding the re-evaluation of the program on an annual basis and the inclusion of language to allow GCCD to discontinue the program should funding issues arise.

***Following the discussion, a motion was made by Bill Wentzel to accept the revisions to the Mini Grant Program. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**d. Lone Pine Construction Bid for Installation of a 20'X20'X6" Concrete Floor in the GCCD Hoop Structure at the Fairgrounds.**

Lone Pine Construction submitted a proposal to install a concrete floor at the hoop structure at the Greene County Fairgrounds. The proposal included two options; a 4 inch slab at a cost of \$3,633.00 and a 6 inch slab at a cost of \$3,984.00. A phone poll followed and the consensus of the Board was to install a 6 inch slab.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the expenditure of \$3,984.00 to install the 6 inch concrete slab. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**e. Foundation for PA Watersheds Funding Opportunity**

Andy McAllister, the Regional Coordinator for the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) contacted GCCD's Watershed Specialist, Jared Zinn, about a possible funding opportunity with the Foundation for PA Watersheds. This opportunity could provide up to \$30,000 to fund projects in Environmental Justice (EJ) areas. EJ areas are census tracts where 20% or more of the population lives in poverty and/or 30% or more of the population is identified as minority. Large portions of Greene County meet one or both of these criteria.

After discussion with Ms. Snider, it was determined that this funding would be best used to develop a watershed plan for the county's largest watershed, the South Fork Tenmile Creek Watershed. Watershed plans aid in planning and funding future restoration activity. Mr. Zinn prepared and submitted an application requesting funding for this project. Mr. Zinn will update the board as this project progresses.

**f. Project Grass partnering with Keystone Beef Marketing Network to Purchase a Portable Livestock Handling Equipment-Chute, Head Gate, Electronic Scale, and Portable Corral Panels.**

This matter has been discussed at several previous GCCD meetings. A letter was included in the meeting packets from the Southwestern Project Grass Chapter (SPGC) explaining their latest effort, to provide livestock equipment for lease to farm operators in the 14 county area, through a partnership with the Keystone Beef Marketing Network (KBMN).

The SPGC has committed \$5,000, obtained from membership dues, and administrative reimbursements, for the purchase. The KBMN has agreed to provide the remainder of funds needed for the purchase and will coordinate the use of the equipment.

After many discussions and meetings, the SPGC proposal includes the purchase portable livestock handling equipment, a head gate, an electronic scale, and portable corral panels.

Mr. Cowell noted that this project would provide a service to the farming community and serve as outreach tool for Conservation Districts and the SPGC.

To ensure that all Conservation Districts (CD) in the 14 county area have the opportunity to voice their opinion, the SPGC has requested that each Conservation District present this proposal to their Board for

consideration. The SPGC will consider these opinions at their next meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

***Following discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to support the efforts of the Southwestern PA Project Grass to pursue cattle handling equipment rental. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**IX. Conservation District Outreach  
Conservation District Newsletter**

The third quarter issue of the newsletter has been mailed. Mr. Zinn and Shelley Brown of Direct Results were commended for their work on the publication.

**X. The next regular meeting will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**XI. Adjournment**

***With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer

**MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on Dec. 16, 2014.

  
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

  
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District