



---

## 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

October 21, 2014

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eisiminger at 10:10 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; Sandy Theis-Associate Director; and Gay Thistle-Associate Director.

**Guests and Cooperating Agencies**

Kim Moninger-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.

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

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Thistle announced that a meeting of the Southwestern PA Woodlot Owners will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Greene County Fairgrounds, Building Number 10. A guest, from the Nature Conservancy, will be present to discuss carbon credits. And, on the following Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, a demonstration area will be visited to learn how carbon credits can be incorporated on private lands.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2014 regular meeting and the September 29, 2014 special meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

#### V. CORRESPONDENCE

##### a. NACD 2015 Dues

For the past several years, a payment of \$775.00 has been made to NACD. Since this expenditure is included in the budget, no action was required by the Board.

##### b. Izaak Walton League (IWL), Harry Enstrom Chapter – Thank You Letter for our \$200 Donation

A thank you letter was received for our donation to support their annual awards banquet. IWL member, Ray Rutan, wanted to personally thank the GCCD Board.

#### VI. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

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

**Laurel Rush** – Several site visits have been made to provide assistance with general permit applications under the Chapter 105 program. The Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) certification has been received for the Jim Cowell project; located in Greene Township.

The next Project Grass meeting, with the main topic of discussion being the potential purchase of cattle handling equipment; will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Somerset, PA. This year, the Grassland Evaluation Contest was held this fall, resulting in an increase in the attendance, with 9 teams participating. No Greene County teams participated. Donations may be solicited for their scholarship program next year.

She is currently reviewing a nutrient management plan written by the Agricultural Technician of the Washington County Conservation District.

**Jared Zinn** - Mr. Zinn has been working with Shelly Brown of Direct Results to publish the next edition of GCCD's newsletter. Too much content was provided for this issue, making editing necessary. Mr. Zinn distributed copies of GCCD's recently published brochure, printed with the assistance of a Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) Mini Grant, entitled "I Have Water on my Land...Where Can I Get Help? The brochure, also published with the assistance of Direct Results, will be distributed in the Greene Saver. It should

serve as a valuable tool for landowners to seek help from GCCD and hopefully encourage their participation in our programs.

He found his attendance of the Wetlands Identification Workshop to be valuable.

Yesterday, he met with Dave Beale, Watershed Specialist with the Armstrong County Conservation District, to discuss streambank stabilization and restoration projects. For approximately 20 years, Mr. Beale has worked to install several hundred streambank practices and he shared valuable knowledge to undertake such projects. Commissioner Trader requested a visit from Mr. Zinn to discuss options for his property.

**Zack Basinger** – Administrative work, plan reviews and inspection reports, are being completed in the morning with site inspections being conducted in the afternoon. Three final inspections have been scheduled for gas pipeline sites.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** - As reported at previous meetings, numerous complaints have been received. Fortunately, compliance has been met at many of the sites. Several additional plans have been received since her written report was mailed. For the September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to October 9, 2014 period, approximately \$12,200 has been received for review fees. The Submerged Land License Agreement for the kayak launch in Jefferson Township, has been approved by PA DEP's legal department. GCCD can now issue the general permit for that site. The two permit applications for sites in Franklin Township are pending PA DEP's review.

**Warren Dickerson** – He has been conducting site inspections in the morning and completing administrative duties in the afternoon. Ms. Snider, Ms. Kozlowski, Mr. Basinger and he will be attending PA DEP's Annual Chapter 102/105 Training, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 through October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in State College, PA.

**Bill Wentzel** – A site inspection of the Franklin Township Sewage Treatment Plant found it to be satisfactory. Stabilization of the problem areas at the Evergreen Technology Park has been achieved. Work continues to resolve problems at logging sites.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Farmland Preservation – last meeting 10/15 @ 1PM

Charles A. Harry, 164 acres - Morgan Township

The final title insurance policy was received from Hook and Hook.

James F. and Pearl Willis Living Trust Farm #1, 53 acres – Cumberland Twp 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 107 acres - Cumberland Township

The Agreement of Sale has been signed by the county solicitor and approved at the Greene County Commissioners meeting held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.

This farm will be encumbered by the end of the year.

**b. Agricultural Security Area Program**

*Franklin Township* – Laurel 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* - On October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Greene Township recorded the addition of the Wilber Colvin property to their ASA.

**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 & Brice Christopher) - Two stream crossings, two spring developments, and streambank fencing have been completed and were certified by Suzy Petery of NRCS and Laurel Rush of GCCD. Weather permitting, additional work; fencing and spring repairs, may be completed.

The County of Greene – At their October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 meeting, the Greene County Commissioners accepted a bid of \$95,737.00 from Lone Pine Construction. A preconstruction meeting was held October 6th at 1:00 p.m. Following today's meeting; Ms. Rush will be meeting with the contractor onsite.

**d. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment**

It is believed that the assessment is in the final review stage of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and should be published very soon.

**e. Greene County Water Monitoring Project**

We are continuing to seek new participants from across Greene County, particularly in the Southwest portion. Currently, we have approximately 23 participants and 6 potential participants. Mr. Zinn requested that anyone who knows of someone willing to participate, to have them contact the GCCD office.

Intern Nathan Ribar, has been assisting Mr. Zinn to prepare the water monitoring devices that will soon be placed in streams throughout the county.

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

A bid was awarded to Lone Pine Construction. A pre-construction meeting was held on October 6. The engineer, local NRCS field staff, County and conservation district representatives and Lone Pine Construction were all present. Inspectors of the project will be Chuck Shrump, NRCS, Laurel Rush, GCCD Agricultural Technician, with Suzy Petery, NRCS serving as an alternate inspector. The start date is still pending.

**g. Dirt & Gravel (D&G) Roads Program**

Due to the lack of applications, at the GCCD meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, it was noted that the application period would be extended until the middle of October. Since that time, additional applications have been received. To date, applications have been received from 4 townships.

To further promote the program, Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski attended the Annual Convention of the Greene County Association of Township Officials held on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and additional townships expressed an interest. Soon, Ms. Snider will be visiting Aleppo Township to assist in the application process.

The D&G Quality Assurance Board, will be visiting sites on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Chairman Eisiminger may wish to participate in these visits.

**VIII. New BUSINESS**

**a. Request for Assistance – None**

**c. Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control Policy**

At the September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 GCCD meeting, action was taken regarding refunds for accelerated review fees. This prompted the need for a review of the policy; and revisions were made.

The proposed changes were included in the meeting packets which Ms. Kozlowski reviewed as follows.

Page 2

Revisions – The word revision was changed to modifications. The number of modifications allowed before an additional fee (\$100) is charged; from 5 to 3.

Page 4

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index (PNDI) Policy – The Commonwealth changed the agreement with PNDI and does not require

clearance to begin the review process.  
Approval – This section was moved to the end of the policy.

#### Page 7

Accelerated Plan Review Procedure – In accordance with the Commonwealth's Standard Operating Procedure, the 10 days for administrative completeness and the 15 days for technical review was changed to 30 days or less.

#### Page 7 & Page 8

Accelerated Plan Review Procedure – A large portion of this was changed to include the following. Accelerated review fees will not be refunded if a complaint is received during the review process, PNDI clearances have not been acquired, etc. GCCD reserves the right to deny accelerated reviews. Accelerated review fees can only be refunded if GCCD is solely responsible for the delay. Applicants in non-compliance or with a history of non-compliance with GCCD may not submit for accelerated review unless otherwise approved by GCCD staff.

Individual NPDES Permits – Added – Plan approval or permit issuance is dependent on many factors that are not controlled by GCCD.

#### Page 10

The word revision was changed to modification and the number of modifications received was changed from 5 to 3.

#### Page 11

Approval – Since these policy changes require a 30 day notice, the effective date will reflect that time.

***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to accept these changes and adopt the the E&S Plan Review Resolution, Fee Schedule and Policy. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **d. Mini Grant Agreement**

At the Special GCCD meeting held on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014, it was noted that the Mini Grant Agreement was under review. Since that time, the review was completed by Ms. Snider and Mr. Zinn and revisions were made. It was noted that the maximum number of grants awarded each year will remain at 5. Funding of the Mini Grant Program will be through both the Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 accounts. Ms. Snider presented the revisions as follows.

- The maximum grant award was increased from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

- The applicant will be required to submit receipts for the payment of a contractor, for materials purchased, etc. A landowner's man hours will not be eligible for reimbursement. Mr. Cowell feels that landowners should be reimbursed for machine hours.
- These funds can be used as a match for a larger project being completed through another program such as an NRCS, Growing Greener, etc.
- Applications will be accepted at any time, but action will be taken twice a year, in January and June.
- These changes were made to improve the program, by enabling GCCD to advertise the program and by funding larger projects; installing more practices on the ground.
- At the request of Commissioner Trader, the revised document will be submitted to Greene County Solicitor Cheryl Cowen for review.

**e. 2015 Budget**

A copy of the proposal was mailed with the meeting packets. Budget Committee members, Tom Headlee and Jim Kenney met with Ms. Snider and Ms. Salosky on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. A separate budget was prepared for each program.

Deposits of Unconventional Gas Well Funds (UGWF) are made in the General Fund accounts at First Federal, First National, and Community Banks. In the First Federal General Fund, additional funding was allocated under administrative, in case changes are made under the UGWF program.

Regarding the Dirt and Gravel Roads the program, 10% of the funding can be used to administer the program. Approximately \$50,000 would be available, should the board choose, to hire an individual to administer the program. Funding was also allotted for education expenses that would include the payment of expenditures for township supervisors to attend program training and for GCCD to host training. Approximately \$30,000 was budgeted for the purchase of equipment, such as leaf blowers for ditch cleaning, injection sprayers for dust suppressant, etc. This winter, township supervisors will be contacted to determine what type of equipment would be most beneficial.

***After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the budget as presented. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**f. 2015 Annual Plan of Operations (APO)**

A copy of the proposed APO, with the changes appearing in red and blue, was submitted with the meeting packets for Board review. GCCD staff were provided the opportunity to review and change or add information pertaining to the program they administer. Items that were under an inappropriate subject were moved.

***A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to accept the 2015 APO as presented. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**g. Envirothon Donation for 2015**

In 2014, GCCD donated \$500 for this effort to provide scholarships to the top 3 winning Envirothon teams of the state competition.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to donate \$500 to the Envirothon. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**h. Annual Awards**

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Agricultural Committee members, Jim Cowell and Greg Hopkins, NRCS representatives, and Ms. Rush visited 2 sites of award nominees. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Hopkins presented William Milesky, Sky Mile Farm, in Center Township, to receive this year's Cooperator of the Year Award.

Russ Gibbs, DCNR Service Forester, recommended Ryan Egidi, 50 acres in Jefferson Township to receive this year's Forest Conservationist Award.

This year's Conservation Speaker Award will be presented to MaKayla Henary of the Waynesburg Chapter of the FFA and Carmichaels High School will be recognized for winning this year's Greene County Envirothon.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve all of the above awards. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Two contractors were presented as nominees for the newly established Contractor Award.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to present the Contractor Award to Nello Construction. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**IX. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

The third quarter issue of the newsletter has been approved for printing and should be mailed by mid-October.

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

**Kim Moninger-NRCS-** Construction work is being completed on farms under conservation programs.

The application deadline for the first round of funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), for Fiscal Year 2015, was October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**XI. Executive Session**

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to enter into Executive Session. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**XII. RECONVENMENT**

***Following the Executive Session, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to reconvene the meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded.***

**XIII. The Next Regular Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be **November 18, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at Thistlethwaite's Vineyard.**

**XIV. Adjournment**

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Cowell asked the Board to consider the expenditure to install a concrete floor with a drain at the fairgrounds in the building which Bill Iams of Log Cabin Fence Co., donated to GCCD to use during the Greene County Fair. Since, Lone Pine Construction is currently working on the manure storage facilities at the fairgrounds, it was noted that a cost estimate could be obtained from him. Ms. Rush was instructed to obtain an estimate from Lone Pine Construction and poll the GCCD Board with the costs.

Since the lock on the garage door at the building is very difficult to operate, Chairman Eisiminger suggested that we have it repaired or replaced. Mr. Cowell offered to contact Ralph's Garage Doors.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca K. Salosky*

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

*Brady Eiseninger*

Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

*James Camille*

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District