



Greene County Conservation District

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

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES

September 16, 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; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Director; Jim Kenney-Director; Bill Wentzel-Director/Environmental Program Associate; J. Robert Rice-Director Emeritus; Bill Cree, Jr.-Associate Director; Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director; Sandy Theis-Associate Director; and Gay Thistle-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

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

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Laurel Rush-Ag Technician; Lindsay Kozlowski-Resource Specialist; Warren Dickerson-Resource Specialist; Zack Basinger-Resource Specialist; and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

Commissioner Trader departed from the meeting at approximately 10:45 a.m. Ms. Kozlowski, Mr. Basinger, and Mr. Dickerson attended a portion of the meeting.

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 July 15, 2014 meeting. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

V. CORRESPONDENCE

a. PACD Invoice – Invoice of \$1,553.00 for Dues for Fiscal Year 2014/2015

Board action was not required for payment, this item was included in the approved budget for 2014.

b. News Article – Regarding Erosion Control Blanket

This matter was discussed at the last GCCD meeting on July 15th, 2014. Through a complaint, GCCD learned of the death of one animal and the serious injury of another that apparently ingested erosion control blanket placed on a gas pipeline site. A news article regarding this matter was published in the Observer Reporter and an e-mail was sent to all Pennsylvania Conservation Districts. To date, no other reports of this problem have been received.

VI. New BUSINESS

a. Request for Assistance

Joseph Krampy – Cumberland Twp. – 13 acres

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

b. CDFAP -Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance Program 2014-15 and Act 38 Nutrient Management/Manure Management Program Delegation Agreement FY 2014-15

These two items, which provide funding for the Agricultural Technicians' position, were previously approved via telephone poll.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to accept both the ACT and Nutrient Management/Manure Management agreements and budgets. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

c. Annual Awards Luncheon

Since, the October GCCD meeting will include the presentation and adoption of the annual budget and objectives for the upcoming year; plans are to hold this year's luncheon in conjunction with the November meeting, at Thistlethwaite's Vineyard. Suzy Petery of NRCS and Russ Gibbs of the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry have been asked to provide award nominees.

d. Waynesburg University Department of Science – Final Report

At the May 22, 2013 GCCD meeting, the board approved a donation of \$2,491.00 to the University to conduct a study in Greene County using the Ames Assay to detect adverse biological effects resulting from exposure to by-products of the coal and natural gas industries. A contingency of the donation was that the University would provide a quarterly and a final report to GCCD.

The final report was completed and mailed with the meeting packets. GCCD Watershed Specialist, Jared Zinn, has reviewed the report; however, due to his attendance of a wetlands training, he was absent from today's meeting.

It was noted that it may be beneficial to invite the University to review the report at a future GCCD meeting (perhaps at the annual awards luncheon).

e. Waynesburg Sportsmen's Club – Donation Request for the Children's Fish Day

Via phone poll, the GCCD Board approved a donation of \$250 to the Waynesburg Sportmen's Club for the Children's Fish Day scheduled to be held on August 16th, 2014.

A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve a \$250 donation for this event. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

f. Izaak Walton League (IWL), Harry Enstrom Chapter – Donation Request

The IWL is requesting donations and/or a request to purchase tickets, at a cost of \$25 per ticket, for their annual awards banquet scheduled to be held on October 15th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Greg Hopkins to donate \$200 to the IWL for this event. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed with one abstention – Commissioner Trader).

Mr. Dufalla invited the group to the IWL's Kids Fishing Day, scheduled to be held on October 11th, 2014.

g. 2014-2015 Conservation District UGWF Allocation Request

GCCD's total allocation for the 2014-2015 fiscal year is \$162,283.00. A worksheet showing the proposed expenditure of these funds was distributed with the meeting packets and was brought forward for discussion at this time.

Ms. Snider noted that the State Conservation Commission (SCC) has requested that, first and foremost, these funds be used to support the Conservation District. The SCC has expanded how the funding can be spent. For example, with the exception of the District Manager, all staff salaries can now be funded at 100%, using Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) and Unconventional Gas Well Funds.

Approximately, \$156,583.00 of the UGWF is needed to fund staff salaries and for general administrative support. Ms. Snider reviewed the items under the general administrative support and the amount budgeted as follows.

Audit	\$2,000.00
General Administrative	\$25,802.32
Copier Purchase	\$14,210.00
Part-Time Intern (October – May)	\$4,000.00
Desk	\$1,400.00
Computer & Accessories	\$1,700.00
Arc View Software, etc.	\$5,713.00
Maintenance of Arc View	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
Total Administration	\$56,325.32
Farmland Preservation Support	\$750.00
West Nile Virus Special Contract	\$6,000.00
Salaries	<u>\$99,507.68</u>
Total	\$162,583.00

Ms. Snider briefly noted the following regarding the above expenditures.

- The SCC may soon require an audit separate from the County.
- The purchase of the copier was more cost effective vs leasing.
- The assistance of a part-time intern is needed to help with file organization.

- The purchase and maintenance of Arc View Software, and furniture for the work station, will allow employees to produce maps, etc.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to accept the 2014-15 Conservation District UGWF Allocation Worksheet as presented. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

h. Greene County FFA Improvement Association – Donation in memory of Byron Hughes

On September 1st, 2014 former and long-term GCCD Board Member, Byron Hughes, passed away at the age of 91. Over the past several years, GCCD has donated \$1,000 to the Association and the Board was asked to consider making a contribution in honor of Mr. Hughes.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to make an annual donation, as long as GCCD's budget permits, of \$1,500 to the Greene County FFA Improvement Association, in honor of Byron Hughes. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

i. Accelerated Review Fee Refund

Accelerated review fees under the Chapter 102 Program were submitted for two projects in which complaints were received and/or with unresolved compliance issues. Permits cannot be issued on sites with ongoing complaints.

In light of these issues, the review time will most likely extend beyond the Chapter 102 time allowance.

After discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to not refund the accelerated fees for these two projects. In the event a refund is requested, the matter will be discussed further at that time. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed).

j. Dirt & Gravel Roads Program

An approximate allocation of \$420,000 is expected for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 program.

A request for program applications was mailed to all township supervisors, resulting in the receipt of one application for a project with an estimated cost of \$50,000.

With so few applications, the deadline has been extended until the middle of October and additional contact has been made. Following today's

meeting; Ms. Snider will be meeting with Gilmore Township, to visit 3 or 4 potential project sites. Applications may be submitted for projects in Aleppo, Dunkard, and Greene Townships. Township Supervisors will be encouraged to apply for the program at the annual Greene County Association of Township Officials Convention scheduled to be held on October 16, 2014.

Approximately 12 townships have completed the required Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Training and are eligible to apply for these funds. Ms. Snider would like to sponsor training in this area to give supervisors, the opportunity to attend locally. In the last year, most of the trainings have been held quarterly in central locations throughout the state and the program administrators have not decided if they will approve local trainings.

In meeting with the townships, Ms. Snider found that many of them do not have the manpower to complete large projects. Under the program, contractors can complete the work and she suggested that be considered.

Chairman Eisiminger encouraged members of the Board to spread the word about this program as well as all GCCD programs.

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).

Zack Basinger – Field inspections continue, with the next five days scheduled to visit pipeline sites. Several new Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control Plans have been received and the administrative review is in progress.

Warren Dickerson – He has also been conducting site inspections, but with the numerous complaints received, his presence in the office is needed.

Lindsay Kozlowski – As noted earlier, numerous complaints have been received. Additionally, she has contacted engineers and consultants to determine the topics of discussion for the planned workshop regarding the Chapter 102 and 105 programs.

Year-to-date, approximately \$85,468 has been received for fees related to the Chapter 102 and 105 programs.

Laurel Rush – The Project Grass Bus Tour, held on September 10th, 2014, was very successful, with approximately 75 people in attendance. The Project Grass Committee is considering the purchase of agricultural equipment to rent.

Following the tour, a survey was distributed to determine what type of equipment people may wish to rent.

The River Alert Information Network (RAIN) has completed their website and can be accessed at www.rainmatters.org.

Another edition of the PA Conservation Planner calendar will be published for the 2014-2015 period.

Ms. Rush distributed a draft copy of Penn's Corner RC&D strategic plan that was discussed at their meeting on September 15th, 2014. Comments are being accepted for the 5 year plan, with an emphasis on source water protection. Also, Penn's Corner is requesting from each county, their top 5 completed RC&D projects.

Mr. Cowell suggested that the \$700 that each county was asked to contribute to Penn's Corner be mailed as soon as possible.

The Economic Restructuring Committee's (ERC) Downtown Dialogue meeting will be held on October 17th, 2014 at 7:30 at Waynesburg University. Fay-Penn's Local Food Summit will be held on October 31st, 2014 at Penn State, Fayette Campus.

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) recently announced that grants in the amount of \$1,500 are available to conduct manure management workshops. Plans are to apply for these funds.

At this time, Mr. Cowell thanked GCCD, Ms. Rush, and NRCS for their assistance to make the Farm Bureau's Field Day, held on September 4th, 2014, a great success.

Bill Wentzel – He recently met with Mike Beck, Project Manager, of the Morrisville Corridor Project. Work on the site is progressing. Problems have occurred on a logging site near Hargus Creek. Numerous calls to the logger have been unsuccessful in resolving these issues. PA DEP was contacted and a Consent Order has been issued.

VIII. Old Business

a. Farmland Preservation – Next meeting 9/17 @ 1PM

Charles A. Harry, 164 ac-Morgan Township

The closing was completed on April 21st. The final title insurance policy was received.

James F. and Pearl Willis Living Trust Farm #1, 53 ac – 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 ac-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 107ac- Cumberland Township
The appraisal and deed description plot have been completed. An offer was extended to Mr. Phillips and he accepted. The Agreement of Sale is being drafted. This farm will be encumbered by the end of the year.

b. Agricultural Security Area (ASA) 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 solicitor for Greene Township is preparing documents to record the addition of the Wilber Colvin property to their ASA.

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

The extension request has been granted until 12/31/14.

Big Sky Land and Cattle LLC project (Brice and Jeff Christopher) is currently under construction. Approximately half of their project is complete and an invoice was submitted for that work. The next step is to certify these practices for payment.

The County of Greene – A second invitation to bid has been published. Several inquiries have been made. The bid opening is scheduled for September 19th, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at the Greene County Controllers office.

d. USACE Monongahela River Watershed Assessment

USACE has accepted the submittal of our in-kind credits for the Monongahela River Watershed Assessment.

e. Greene County Water Monitoring Project

We now have 21 participants using their CATTFish devices. Data from each home is being compiled for analysis. Six additional participants have been identified and will receive their CATTFish device this month. We are continuing to seek new participants from across Greene County. We have identified locations and are making preparations to install 15 Solinst in-stream data loggers in streams across Greene County.

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

A second invitation to bid for the full project has been published. Three different bid options were offered; a full bid, materials only, and the concrete structure. Bids will be opened September 19, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in the Greene County Controllers Office. When a bid is awarded, a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled with NRCS, GCCD, and the contractor for the County. If the project bid exceeds \$25,000, the prevailing wage scale must be paid.

IX. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Mr. Zinn, who was absent due to his attendance of Wetlands Training, has been working on GCCD's next newsletter that should soon be published.

The new display space at this year's Greene County Fair worked pretty well. Some changes to keep in mind for next year include; improvements to the floor (leveling or concrete), improved ventilation, improved lighting, and the placement of a permanent sign on the exterior.

X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Suzy Petery-NRCS – All contracts have been completed for Farm Bill Programs. In the three county area (Fayette, Greene, and Washington), two contracts for forestry practices, were not funded.

Construction is underway on work 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, is October 17th, 2014.

A campaign to increase the applications for agricultural, wildlife, and non-agricultural forest practices is underway. As noted at previous meetings, applications from Greene County landowners have declined over the past several years and an effort to increase them is ongoing. She encouraged the group to inform landowners of these programs. Other assistance, such as conservation plan writing, help with the establishment of water sources, etc., is also available.

Included in the Farm Bill, is a new program, the Regional Conservation Partnership. Under the program, regions can partner and apply for funding for conservation efforts. In our area, a proposal was submitted to protect the Cerulian Warbler that has established an important breeding ground at Butler Creek in Washington County.

NRCS, participated in the recent field day held September 4th, 2014 at the farm of Billie and Jim Cowell. NRCS employees, Kevin Paul and Dennis Thorn, demonstrated the Rain Fall Simulator.

The Greene County Future Farmers of America's (FFA) Land Judging Contest will be held on October 3rd, 2014 at the Shipman Farm.

Ken Dufalla, Izaak Walton League (IWL) – Mr. Dufalla commended Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski for their assistance in obtaining Chapter 105 General Permits for the waterways trail being developed by the Greene County Council of Governments.

Additionally, he distributed, instructions he obtained from Three Rivers Quest, detailing the proper method of collecting water samples.

A matter that has been discussed at several previous meetings is the mine drainage discharge in the Pitt Gas area. Results of recent water testing shows that the Total Dissolve Solids (TDS) levels were above average, however, they were not as high as expected. Bromide levels were on the high side at this site as well as at other mine drainage discharge sites. Further testing, including testing for Radiation 226 and 228, is planned to be completed by PA DEP's Water Pollution Biologist early next year. Other testing may also be conducted to determine if hydraulic fracking is affecting our water quality.

The IWL will be stocking Trout in Ten Mile Creek for their Kids Day on October 11th, 2014. Two meetings, at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., will be held September 17th, 2014, at Ryerson Station State Park Office to discuss the proposed longwall mining above the dam at Ryerson.

Before closing, Mr. Dufalla briefly discussed gas leases and the ownership.

XI. Executive Session - None

XII. The Next Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting will **October 21st, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.**

XIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. Bill Wentzel 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 Oct. 21, 2014.

Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

Bradley Cisiminger

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District

James Ceuell