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**Greene County Conservation District**

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**GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**February 24, 2015**

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eisiminger at 10:05 a.m. in the Mezzanine Conference Room, 19 South Washington Street, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. 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; Mike Belding-Associate Director; Rick Patton-Associate Director; Dave Shipman-Associate Director; Sandy Theis-Associate Director; Gay Thistle-Associate Director; and Jim Willis-Associate Director.

**Guests and Cooperating Agencies**

Chuck Kubasik-Field Representative, PA DEP

**Staff**

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Resource Specialist; Warren Dickerson-Resource Specialist; Zack Basinger-Resource Specialist; Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist; Karlie Wright-Ag Technician; and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

Karlie Wright was introduced as GCCD's new Agricultural Technician. Ms. Wright replaced Laurel Rush who recently resigned to accept a position with the State Conservation Commission.

**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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**IV. TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

**a. State Ethics Forms**

GCCD Directors were reminded to complete the State Ethic Forms and return them to the office by April 30, 2015.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Farmland Preservation – The last meeting was held on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.**

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 108 acres - Cumberland Township  
This farm is on track to be considered at the next state board meeting. Doug Wolfgang will be working with Karlie Wright to finish this easement.

**b. Agricultural Security Area Program**

*Franklin Township* – Ms. Snider met with the Franklin Township Planning Commission on January 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the ASA program and to answer any questions about the program. The Planning Commission voted to recommend the ASA to the Franklin Township Supervisors.

Following the 45 day comment period, that is nearly complete, the ASA can be recorded at the Greene County Register and Records Office, the final step in establishing the ASA.

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

Both facilities have been constructed and a final inspection has taken place with the PACD Engineer and NRCS staff. The underground outlets and a final grading of the site needs to be completed and all indication was that the work would be completed by February 13<sup>th</sup>. Chuck Shrump of NRCS will

inspect the site one final time and give a copy of the as-built drawings for the county's records.

The use of these facilities, as an educational tool, was discussed at the last GCCD meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Discussion following that meeting determined that the best option for outreach may be to create a kiosk highlighting the facilities and the funding sources and house that at the District fair display area at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

It is hoped that the kiosk can be completed prior to this year's Greene County Fair. An article regarding these facilities will also be included in a future GCCD newsletter.

**e. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Monongahela River Watershed Assessment**

The USACE continues their review process.

**f. Greene County Water Monitoring Project**

- We have had two devices fail and have provided replacements for the landowners.
- We have had two landowners that are no longer interested in participating in the program.
- Jared Zinn is collecting data through the CATTFish devices that are already dispersed and continue to seek new participants from across Greene County.
- As a result of the latest GCCD newsletter, six additional landowners have expressed an interest in participating in the program.

A brief discussion ensued, regarding the analysis of the data collected through the CATTFish devices. Preliminary analysis of the data, collected thus far, has been promising regarding water quality. Written reports will be prepared and distributed in the near future.

The next step in the project will be spatial analysis of the CATTFish data to identify potential impacts on water quality related to land use and development. Additionally, in-stream monitors will be placed in streams throughout Greene County to provide more complete data.

All data collected will be given to Paul Ziemkiewicz of the West Virginia Water Research Institute.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### a. **Community Foundation for the Alleghenies – Grant Award - \$13,000**

At the November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 GCCD meeting, it was noted that an application had been submitted to the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds to develop a watershed plan for the South Fork of Tenmile (SFT) Creek Watershed. The Foundation was looking for projects located in Environmental Justice Areas and the SFT meets that criteria.

Since that time, our grant application was approved and the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies awarded a grant in the amount of \$13,000 to begin this project.

Mr. Zinn has been in contact with California and Waynesburg Universities to enlist the help of their students to assist with the project. This work may include visual assessments to identify erosion and sedimentation problems and water quality testing.

The purpose of this project is to identify areas of the SFT where restoration activity can be undertaken to improve or protect water quality throughout the watershed. This project is the first step to initiating projects and obtaining funding to carry them out.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to accept the \$13,000 grant. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### b. **Dirt & Gravel (D&G) Roads Program – Applications**

An updated application was received from Morgan Township for a project on Beagle Club Road. Originally, the Township had estimated the cost of the project to be approximately \$50,000; however, the D&G Roads Program Quality Assurance Board (QAB) requested that the township prepare the application with costs associated with hiring a contractor to complete the Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA), increasing the estimated cost to approximately \$130,000. Greene Township has also submitted updated information as requested by the QAB.

Additional information is needed from Aleppo Township based on the initial QAB meeting. Upon receipt of this information, all project proposals will be presented to the QAB for consideration.

Once a decision is made by the QAB, these projects can be presented to the GCCD Board for consideration.

Recently, Ms. Snider mailed information to all municipal officials, regarding upcoming Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Training on May

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the Meadowlands, Washington, PA. In order to qualify for program funding, Townships are required to attend ESM training. Also included in the mailing, was a schedule of all of the ESM trainings in 2015 and a list of those Townships, which are few, who are currently eligible to apply for this funding.

Mr. Kubasik noted that Armstrong County will also be hosting ESM training on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**c. Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators – Annual Conference**

GCCD's Watershed Specialist, Jared Zinn, is requesting approval to attend the PA Association of Environmental Educators Conference on March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Raystown Resort and Conference Center in Entriken, PA.

His attendance of this conference should help him fulfill the increasing number of requests he receives to speak to students and civic groups regarding the environment.

A scholarship was received from PACD to fund the registration fee of the conference which includes meals. Expenses will be incurred for the hotel accommodations and fuel.

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve Mr. Zinn's attendance of this conference. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**d. 2014-2015 UGWF Funding Review**

At the last GCCD meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Board was informed that, due to a personal change, funds will most likely be remaining in the UGWF salaries portion of the Act 13 funding for the Ag Technician position. Since that time, Karlie Wright was hired as the Ag Technician to replace Laurel Rush, who recently resigned.

Two spreadsheets were included in the meeting packets to assist with review. The first showing the amount of funding needed for Ms. Wright's salary and benefits, for a six month period. Since she is a new employee, her health care costs will be much less than her predecessors, approximately \$13,168.39 will remain from UGWF funds and approximately \$1,019.98 in Nutrient Management Funding. The surplus of Nutrient Management Funds could potentially be used for administrative costs of the program.

Ms. Snider consulted with the State Conservation Commission on this matter and was advised to prepare a special project request to utilize these funds as a special project.

Ms. Snider noted that an adequate amount of Act 13 funds, approximately \$50,000.00, has been allocated for administrative expenses.

The other spreadsheet includes funding information regarding the Manure Stacking Facility at the Greene County Fairgrounds and the amount paid for the project to date. Previously, GCCD agreed to provide approximately \$12,355.66, from the General Fund, for this project and the Greene County Commissioners agreed to provide \$10,000.00.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to allow Ms. Snider to write a Special Contract and request an amount of \$14,000.00 be allocated from the UGWF monies for the Manure Storage Structure Project at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**e. ACT/NM Upcoming Trainings**

Included in the meeting packets was a list of all the trainings, newly hired Agricultural Technician, Karlie Wright, should attend. Her attendance of most of these trainings is required to receive her certification for the Nutrient Management Program.

Expenditures for the training can be made through the surplus of Nutrient Management funds, approximately \$1,000, and through UGWF.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve Ms. Wright's attendance of these trainings. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**f. District Signage Program**

This matter was discussed at the last GCCD meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Since that time, numerous discussions occurred between Ms. Snider and Ms. Thistle to accomplish this goal of installing signs at county borders to identify the areas of the Greene County Conservation District.

Permits through the PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT) must be obtained to install these signs on their right-of-ways. Ms. Snider has received the name of a contact person with PennDOT to assist with this matter.

Following discussion, Chairman Eisiminger appointed a committee comprised of the following individuals to assist with this endeavor.

Dave Shipman  
Gay Thistle  
Bill Wentzel  
Lisa Snider

## VIII. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

The fourth quarter edition of GCCD's newsletter has been published and mailed. Mr. Cowell commended GCCD staff for their work on the newsletter.

Recently, Ms. Snider visited the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Washington Office to invite them to submit information regarding their programs for our newsletter.

Ms. Snider and Ms. Wright plan to work with FSA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Cooperative Extension to coordinate Greene County farm programs, so that information regarding all programs can be passed on to Greene County landowners.

Currently, Ms. Snider is working on GCCD's Annual Report.

## IX. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

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

**Jared Zinn** – Mr. Zinn recently spoke to students at Carmichaels Junior and Senior High School. He received favorable feedback from the teachers.

**Warren Dickerson** – Mr. Dickerson has been assisting Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Basinger in the review of an increasing number of Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control Plans. The number of site inspections should increase, once the weather breaks. Also, he has been assisting Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski with the planning of the 102/105 Training Workshop; scheduled to be held April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

**Zack Basinger** – Additional E&S Control Plans have been received since his report was mailed with the meeting packets. He continues to archive older files to make room for newer ones. As, Mr. Dickerson stated, once the weather breaks, more site inspections will be made.

Ms. Snider noted that Mr. Basinger has been assisting with the preparation of a poster, to be distributed to all municipalities, outlining the requirements of the Chapter 102 and 105 programs.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – Several registrations, have been received for the Chapter 102 and 105 Workshop, mentioned earlier by Mr. Dickerson. Representatives from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) will assist with the workshop, and in part, will address items suggested by consultants. Professional Development Hours (PDH) Credits can be issued to those attending, which may increase the number of registrations.

**Karlie Wright** – Her first day with GCCD, on February 9th, included registering for several trainings. Additionally, she worked to review and organize information regarding the Farmland Preservation Program. On February 19<sup>th</sup>, she attended her first Project Grass Meeting held in Somerset, PA. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Snider and she visited Washington County Conservation District (WCCD), NRCS, and FSA offices. Agricultural Technician's with WCCD invited her to join them when they prepare a Manure Management Plan and conduct site visits. She will be attending a Manure Management Workshop at the WCCD on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015. With the assistance of WCCD, Ms. Wright will be conducting her own Manure Management Workshop prior to the end of May, 2015.

**Bill Wentzel** – Currently, he has been working with loggers, on sites located in Western Greene County, to reach compliance under the Chapter 102 Program. Ms. Snider and he have discussed holding two workshops for landowners; one regarding tree and shrubbery pruning and one for timber harvesting and sales.

## **XII. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS**

**Chuck Kubasik** – The state is seeking volunteers to assist with the State Envirothon scheduled to be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown Campus, located in Cambria County. The deadline to apply for the Resource Enhancement Protection Program (REAP), that offers tax credits for agricultural operations, is March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

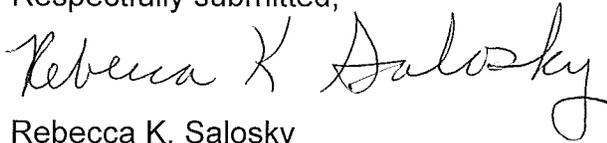
Mr. Cowell noted that the Appalachian Grazing Conference will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Morgantown, WV.

## **XIII. The next regular meeting will be March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

***With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Bill Wentzel to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer

| <b><u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u></b>   |
|---|
| We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on <u>April 21</u> , 2015. |
| <br>Chairman, Greene County Conservation District                           |
| Secretary, Greene County Conservation District  |