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## Greene County Conservation District

19 South Washington Street – Suite 150 – Waynesburg, PA 15370-2053

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

#### REGULAR MEETING

#### MINUTES

June 16, 2015

#### 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, 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; Jim Kenney-Director; Bill Wentzel-Director/Environmental Program Associate; Mike Belding-Associate Director; Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director; Rick Patton-Associate Director; Gay Thistle-Associate Director; and Jim Willis-Associate Director.

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

Ken Dufalla-President, Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), Harry Enstrom Chapter; Phil Evans-SDC, NRCS; Chuck Hunnell-Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), Harry Enstrom Chapter;

##### **Staff**

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

Mr. Basinger, Mr. Dickerson, Mr. Rush, Ms. Wright, and Mr. Zinn attended a portion of the meeting.

Chairman Eisiminger welcomed comments regarding the revised meeting agenda.

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Dufalla - In 2011, GCCD donated \$8,500 to the Izaak Walton League to assist with the funding of their Citizens Monitoring Project. Since that time, Mr. Dufalla has attended a number of GCCD's meetings to discuss the project.

At today's meeting, he distributed a number of analytical reports from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) as well as a summary, which he prepared, of those results.

PA DEP is expected to begin a study of Ten Mile Creek on or around June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to investigate radiological contaminants in the stream. The IWLA plans to encourage a study of Smith Creek and Whiteley Creek for the same contaminants. In addition, students from two universities will conduct a study of all three of these streams (Ten Mile, Smith Creek, and Whiteley Creek) with the results of this study expected in November.

A community meeting, to discuss water test results, was recently held in Jefferson. A video of the meeting is available for viewing on You Tube. A future meeting is planned to be held in the Carmichaels area.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve the minutes of the May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 special meeting. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)*

### IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

### V. CORRESPONDENCE

#### a. 2015-2016 Dirt & Gravel D&G Road Allocation Notice from the State Conservation Commission (SCC)

A copy of the notice, for the program effective July 1, 2015, was included in the meeting packets. The Greene County allocations for the 2015-2016 fiscal year are as follows.

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Low Volume Roads Program | \$108,893        |
| D&G Roads Program        | <u>\$417,444</u> |
| <b>Total Allocation</b>  | <b>\$526,337</b> |

### VI. Staff Reports – Report on Items Below as Needed

Staff reports were included in the meeting packets. Ms. Snider noted that the structure of the agenda has changed to eliminate the repetition of the items under Old Business. The staff will now verbally report on these items if the item had not been included in the written staff report or needs to be reviewed further.

#### a. 102/105 Staff

##### Lindsay Kozlowski – 102/105 Complaints - Monthly Fees - Special Projects

Ms. Kozlowski was not in attendance of today's meeting.

##### Zack Basinger – Administration – Inspections

Numerous Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans have been received.

**Warren Dickerson – Inspections – GCPC**

Additional inspections have been completed since his report was prepared. He continues to assist the Greene County Planning Commission with their projects.

**Bill Wentzel – Inspections**

Work, to reach compliance with a logger, continues at a site in the West Greene area. Construction on the Morrisville Corridor Project has temporarily ceased.

Last week, he attended a meeting regarding the Gypsy Moth. Although some areas of the state continue to have problems with the insect, for the most part, a fungus has controlled the insect in this area.

The Emerald Ash Borer has affected ash trees in part of Pennsylvania. In Greene County, a small number of trees have been affected thus far, but most likely, the disease will spread in the next year or two.

**b. Agricultural Staff**

**Karlie Wright – Farmland Preservation – ASA**

The Bureau of Farmland Preservation, at their meeting held on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, approved the agricultural easement on the Richard Phillips property.

At the next Greene County Farmland Preservation meeting, scheduled to be held on June 17, 2015, four applications from three landowners will be presented for consideration. Cumberland Township recently approved an Agricultural Security Area (ASA) for the Celesta Hegedis property. Currently, it is currently under public review. Franklin Township adopted their ASA at a recent meeting.

Approximately nine applications, with a few more expected, have been received for GCCD's mini grant.

She recently completed her final training for the Nutrient Management Program and will take the test on June 23<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Upon passing the test, provisional certification will be received. Final certification will be obtained once she writes, reviews, and receives state approval of two plans.

**c. Watershed Specialist**

**Jared Zinn - Monongahela River Watershed – Greene County Water Monitoring Project**

Per phone poll, all GCCD Directors were in favor of sending all three applicants, Hunter Davis, Brady Watters, and Kaleb Wilson, for a total cost of \$1,485, to this year's Conservation Leadership School. Funding from Alpha Natural Resources will sponsor one student. Funding for the other two students will be through a surplus of funds from our annual grant we receive from the Community Foundation for our annual Envirothon. These funds are available due to a reduction in transportation costs to the state Envirothon.

To assist Envirothon advisors prepare their students, a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) guide: Helping People Understand Soils - Tools for Educators has been ordered and will be distributed to all Greene County advisors.

Data from the CATTfish devices has been received and reports are currently be prepared for participates and GCCD. For the most part, the data received appears to be positive. Participants for the program are still needed, especially in the southern and eastern portions of Greene County.

Interns, Travis Basinger and Alex Rush, have installed eleven of the fifteen instream data loggers available. They will also be collecting the data from those devices. Thus far, laboratory testing, for the most part, has shown good results; with one or two, showing slightly elevated levels of metals, methane, and several with e-coli. Additional monitoring of these locations will be completed.

Additionally, Mr. Basinger and Mr. Rush have been conducting visual habitat assessments, for fish and macro invertebrates, for the South Fork of Ten Mile Watershed Assessment. Water quality testing will also be completed.

**d. Interns**

**Travis Basinger & Alex Rush-Greene County Water Monitoring Project & West Nile Virus**

Ms. Snider introduced Mr. Basinger and Mr. Rush. Each student noted the following.

Mr. Rush, a resident of Jefferson, attends California University, studying environmental science. He has been conducting the West Nile Program which includes setting and collecting traps and sending mosquito samples to PA DEP for testing. Along with Mr. Basinger, he has installed instream data monitors and conducted visual stream assessments.

Mr. Basinger, also attends California University, studying geology. His duties have included assisting Mr. Rush in the installation of the instream data monitors and conducting visual stream assessments. He is completing the data entry of the test results in Excel.

**e. District Manager**

**Lisa Snider - Dirt & Gravel Roads – Signage – 102/105 Complaints**

The Dirt and Gravel Roads Program's Quality Assurance Board (QAB) met earlier today, to discuss the revision of the program's policy, to incorporate the Low Volume Roads Program. At the beginning of June, letters and applications for the program were mailed to all township supervisors. To date, she has visited Aleppo, Dunkard, Gilmore, Greene and Monongahela Townships to view potential project sites. David Creamer, of the Dirt and Gravel Roads Center, recently visited some Greene County sites. Over half of all Greene County townships are certified through the Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Training and are eligible to apply for funding.

The workload of other programs has prevented her from working with the signage program. She hopes to have a report at the next GCCD meeting.

Recently, a number of compliance issues regarding the Chapter 102/105 Program have occurred at various county sites and have led to the involvement of PA DEP. A legal opinion has been requested regarding the discussion of complaints at GCCD public meetings. Although, some information can be reported, the complaints name must be kept confidential.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Unconventional Gas Well Funding (UGWF)**

A GCCD special meeting was held on May 13th, 2015 to discuss the 2015-2016 fiscal year funds. Past PUC/UGWF allocations were set aside in a Capital Improvements/Building Fund for the construction or purchase of a building to house GCCD.

At the Special Meeting, discussion ensued regarding enlisting the services of a consultant to determine if it would be financially feasible for GCCD to undertake a project of this magnitude. Ms. Snider contacted other Conservation Districts (CD) (one near Altoona, PA and another in the Eastern part of the state), that have constructed buildings and found that they did no analysis to determine the fiscal feasibility prior to moving forward. Many of the CD's received some of their funding for the construction through private donations and other financial support. Ms. Snider has begun to draft a Request for Proposals, if the Board chooses to follow move forward with looking for a consultant to conduct a feasibility study.

After consulting with the State Conservation Commission (SCC), Ms. Snider found that the PUC portion of the UGWF could potentially be used to hire a consultant. And upon completion of a study, and provided that a number of stipulations are met (location, mortgage terms, etc.), a request can be made to the SCC to allow GCCD to set aside a portion of the annual CDFAP portion of the UGWF funds.

Following the GCCD Special Meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Mr. Hopkins contacted Jack Golding, Executive Director, of the Southwestern PA Water Authority, to discuss the possibility of developing an area near the Wisecarver Reservoir to house GCCD. The original plans for the site, of approximately 400 acres, included the development of a recreational area; initially a boat dock and recreational trails on the property owned and operated by both the Authority and the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Along with the Authority, the County of Greene and Franklin Township joined a partnership and were awarded a grant of \$100,000, with an in-kind match of \$100,000. Issues, such as the maintenance of the area of this size, and the liability, etc. were in question and the grant was forfeited.

Discussion continued regarding the amount of maintenance needed and the possibility of entering a partnership with other agencies to help maintain the property.

## **I. New Business**

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

Larry D. Wilson – Morgan Township - <1 acre

***A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to accept this request for assistance. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**b. Nutrient Management Funding Request for 2015-16**

A copy of the Nutrient Management and Manure Management Program Delegation Agreement Proposal and Budget Worksheet, requesting \$14,000, was included in the meeting packets for review.

***Following discussion regarding how the allocations are determined, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to submit the proposal to the SCC. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**c. Continuing Education Scholarship**

All five students of the winning Envirothon team are awarded a scholarship of \$500 for each year of participation. This year, Alpha Natural Resources contributed \$1,000 for the scholarship program, leaving a shortfall of approximately \$200. Approximately \$600 is available due to a forfeiture and interest earned.

***Commissioner Trader made a motion to transfer the funds necessary, approximately \$200, from GCCD's General Fund to the Continuing Education Savings Account to ensure a sufficient amount of funding is available when these students graduate and apply for their scholarships. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Donors may be sought to secure future funding.

**d. Conservation Leadership School (CLS)**

As part of his staff report, Mr. Zinn discussed this matter earlier in the meeting. Included in the meeting packets, were the essays of the three students interested in attending this year's CLS. A phone poll was conducted and all GCCD Directors were in favor of sponsoring all three students, for a total cost of \$1,485.

***A motion was made by Jim Kenney to send Hunter Davis, Brady Watters, and Kaleb Wilson to this year's CLS. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**e. CDFAP Application for Funding for FY 2015-2016**

This application will provide funding for a portion of the salaries of the District Manager, the First Technician, and the Second Technician.

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve this application for remittance to the SCC. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**f. Penn's Corner Conservancy Charitable Trust – Annual Dues**

The dues have increased from \$300 to \$500 per year. The increase may help fund a part-time staff position.

*Following a brief discussion regarding their duties and Greene County members serving on their board, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to pay \$500 for the Penn's Corner Annual Dues. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**g. Center for Coalfield Justice – Donation Request**

A copy of the letter from the Center for Coalfield Justice requesting donations to fund the DRYerson Festival, scheduled to be held on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015, was included in the meeting packets.

*Following a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Greg Hopkins to donate \$200 to the Center for Coalfield Justice. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**h. New Vehicle Through Piggy Back System**

The following base price quotes, through the piggyback system, was received from Jeff Novak, Greene County Maintenance Department.

Ford Explorer 4WD - \$27,514

Chevy Traverse AWD - \$24,388

Dodge Durango AWD - \$30,455

Jeep Cherokee 4WD - \$24,340

*Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the purchase of the Ford Explorer. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**VIII. CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

Mr. Zinn is currently working on the next edition of GCCD's newsletter; which will most likely be published in July. Ms. Snider noted that after a lot of encouragement, cooperating agencies are beginning to provide articles for the newsletter. To accommodate those articles, an additional page may be needed, which may increase the cost.

The Greene County Fair will be held in August.

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

Phil Evans – Work on Farm Bill Program contracts continues. He attended the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program's Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance training and found it be very worthwhile. Prior to their competition in the state Envirothon, he visited the Carmichaels High School team to review soils information.

NRCS staff has been working with GCCD's Agricultural Technician, Karlie Wright, to register her for a Link Pass that will allow her to access the NRCS computer system.

Kevin Paul of NRCS has increased his outreach efforts to convey information regarding NRCS programs.

Mr. Cowell noted that at the last Project Grass (PG) meeting, the Board voted to give a donation to Keystone Beef for the purchase of a squeeze chute for cattle. In recognition of their donation, PG's name will appear on a sign. PG will not be responsible for the scheduling or maintenance, etc. A request was made to notify GCCD when a Greene County landowner rents the equipment, so we may offer our assistance regarding agricultural matters.

Also at that meeting, they agreed to hold the Grassland Evaluation contest in the fall rather than the spring. At the next PG meeting, a Penn State official will make a presentation regarding agricultural lime.

Ms. Snider noted that two long time PA DEP employees, Hadi Emdad and Darl Rosenquest will be retiring this week. They provided assistance to GCCD regarding the Chapter 102 and 105 programs and will be missed.

**Ken Dufalla** – Mr. Dufalla invited the group to attend the next meeting of the Izaak Walton League, Harry Enstrom Chapter, on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Stoney Point Restaurant.

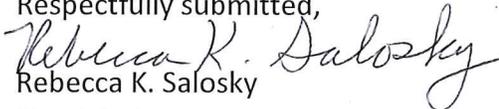
Also, he encouraged everyone to watch the video of the discussion regarding the possible radiation in the water on You Tube.

**XIII. The next regular meeting will be July 21, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

*With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)*

Respectfully submitted,

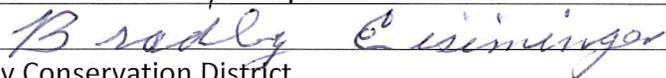


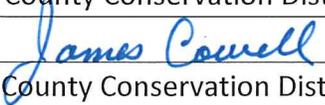
Rebecca K. Salosky

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 July 21, 2015.

  
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

  
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District