



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES November 17, 2015

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Trader at 10:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Greene County Office Building, 93 East High Street, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Those in attendance were as follows:

Greene County Conservation District Directors and Associate Directors

Archie Trader-Vice Chairman/Commissioner Representative; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Director; Jim Kenney-Director; Bill Wentzel-Director/Environmental Program Associate; Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director; Gay Thistle-Associate Director; and Jim Willis-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Phil Evans-NRCS

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Resource Specialist; Karlie Wright-Ag Technician; and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the minutes of the October 20th, 2015 meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Snider noted that payments for erosion and sedimentation (E&S) control projects will be made from the Chapter 102 program account and stream/permitted related projects through the Chapter 105 program account.

It was also noted that checks have been prepared and are ready for signatures for the **Byron Hughes and Ralph K. Bell Donations for 2016 scholarship contributions.**

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A letter from Debbie Stephenson, Secretary of the Greene County Fair Board, was included in the meeting packets. The letter outlines the use of the building at the fairgrounds for the storage of the sheep gates and panels and the responsible parties that are authorized to use the gates. In addition, Ms. Snider noted that a new deadbolt and padlock have been installed on the building. Mr. Cowell also added that recently, the Greensboro/Monongahela Fire Department used the building to serve food for the annual Simmental Cattle sale and thanked GCCD for the use of the building.

2016 Southwestern PA No Till & Soil Health Conference – January 27, 2016 – Fred Rogers Center, St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA Information regarding this conference was included in the meeting packets. Anyone interested in attending, can contact Ms. Wright.

Staff Reports

Lindsay Kozlowski – Erosion and sedimentation (E&S) control plans for a new project, EQT's NIMA – D001/S004/S005 pipeline project, a pipeline that will connect to a new compressor station in the area of Braden Run, were received. This large project significantly increased the amount of review fees received this month (a total of \$49,975.00).

Karlie Wright – Farm visits were made to the Dennis Blouir property in Jackson Township and the Gene Saurborn property in Perry Township. Mr. Blouir would like to develop springs and incorporate a rotational grazing system. Mr. Saurborn has worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to install many practices on his farm.

Through GCCD's Mini Grant Program, three spring developments were completed on the David Archer, Morris/Miller, and Corbly Orndorff, properties.

Regarding the Farmland Preservation Program, the closing for the Richard Phillips easement, was recently held. This property brings the total number of preserved Greene County farms to five.

Jared Zinn – On behalf of Mr. Zinn, Ms. Snider noted that he is working to remove all of the in-stream data monitors and retrieve the information.

Lisa Snider – Ms. Snider discussed the status of two complaints. An E&S plan has been submitted for the waste area along State Route 19. A landslide occurred on the site and encroached on a stream. It is expected that the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) will soon issue the permits to allow the restoration of the stream to begin.

The wetland has been reclaimed at the McDonalds waste area, along Sugar Run Road. Another landowner, at the site, is required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. To date, he has failed to do so.

Work continues to organize the 2015 Annual Awards Banquet to be held on December 15th, 2015 at Thistlethwaite Vineyard.

Ms. Snider is hopeful that site visits will soon be scheduled with the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program Quality Assurance Board Members to review and rank projects for the 2015-2016 funding round. At this point in time, the district has still not received the funding due to the budget issues at the state level.

At the July 21st, 2015 GCCD meeting, a mini grant for a streambank stabilization project at the Phyllis Daniels property was approved. At that time, a quote and a commitment from a contractor to do the work was in place; however, that contractor can no longer complete the project and another contractor is needed. Following a meeting with a potential contractor, it was determined, that he most likely could not complete the project. If a contractor is not found, this matter may need to be brought back to the GCCD board.

OLD BUSINESS

Mini Grants

2015 Unfunded Projects Remaining

- a. James H. Cole – 3 Spring Developments & 3 Spring Repairs
- b. Jessica Vukmanic – Streambank Stabilization
- c. Jeanne Williams – Stormwater Management
- d. Larry Wise – Spring Development
- e. Bob Wolfe – Spring Development

At a previous GCCD meeting on July 21st, 2015, it was determined that the above projects, could be considered at a future meeting, and were contingent upon the passage of a state budget. To date, the state budget has not been passed.

Act 13 Funding

Ms. Snider distributed a spreadsheet that includes an estimate of all of the staff salaries and benefits for 2016 and the funding source for each position. It also includes the estimate of the Unconventional Gas Well Funding (UGWF) summary for 2015-2016 that she reviewed as follows.

District Manager	\$22,399.00
First Technician	\$15,650.00
ACT Cost Share	\$16,219.00
PUC Funding	\$56,818.00 (Approximately \$27,000 spent)
CDFAP General Distribution	\$24,508.00

Per Well 2010-2014	<u>\$119,003.00</u>
Total UGWF Funds	\$254,597.00

She also reviewed the 2015-2016 funding expected and the estimated amount needed for salaries as follows. She noted that the salary and benefits need has increased significantly, since most GCCD employees are now under the county's health care plan.

CDFAP/UGWF General Allocation	\$24,508.00
UGWF Well Allocation	\$119,003.00
Salary/Benefit Needs	\$119,359.37
Remaining CDFAP/UGWF for Admin.	\$24,151.63
 WNV/Interns Salaries for 2015/2016	 \$6,326.74

Ms. Snider noted that a large portion of these funds will be needed for salaries and benefits. She estimates an excess of \$24,151.63 in UGWF would remain after salaries and benefits are expended. The \$56,818.00 PUC portion of funding remaining is approximately \$27,000, which was already received, and a portion of it was deposited in to an existing Certificate of Deposit (CD) at Community Bank.

2015-16 State Budget Approval – To date, the state budget has not been passed.

No-Till Drill – Ms. Snider and Ms. Wright have contacted numerous Conservation Districts (CD's), who own and rent no-till drill(s) throughout Pennsylvania, to discuss their policy on renting the equipment.

As a result, they have found that the CD's in our area, Fayette and Washington Counties, allow the renter to transport the equipment while CD's in other areas deliver the equipment to the site. Some of the advantages of the CD delivering the equipment include; the assurance that the equipment has arrived safely, the opportunity to provide the renter instruction on its use, and the one-on-one contact with the landowner. A determination as to whether our current truck is equipped to haul the equipment will be needed.

A meeting of the committee, appointed by Chairman Eisiminger at our last GCCD meeting on October 20th, 2015, will be scheduled in the near future to further discuss this matter and possibly present their findings to the GCCD Board at the next meeting on December 15th, 2015.

Wisecarver Reservoir and Building Search There were no updates since the last GCCD meeting.

Browns Creek Stream Re-designation—This matter was discussed at the last GCCD meeting held on October 20th, 2015. At that time, it was noted that additional information should be ascertained prior to the submission of GCCD's comments. To date, the deadline for the comment period has not been set.

New Business

Request for Assistance--Elliot C. Culp III – 3 acres, Mr. Culp, an absentee landowner in the Clarksville area, submitted this request for assistance for streambank fencing. The contact information that was provided is incorrect and the correct information is being requested

Terry Broadwater Property – Reclamation of a Well Pad Site--Mr. Broadwater contacted GCCD regarding a well pad, of approximately five acres that includes stormwater controls, on his property along Route 21 in Cumberland Township. He is requesting, from GCCD, a letter for his attorney stating that the 20-acre area can no longer be farmed due to the well pad and access road.

After checking with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), it was found that Mr. Broadwater does not have a conservation plan. Also, he is not included on GCCD's newsletter mailing list, so it is unlikely he is a cooperator with GCCD. The cooperator files are now located at the NRCS, so his status cannot be checked. Ms. Snider directed Mr. Broadwater to contact the PA DEP regarding the implementation of the reclamation plan. During his visit, she contacted PA DEP regarding a time frame for the reclamation of the area and found that the well pad would most likely remain on the property as long as it was producing gas.

In response to this request and after a brief discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to inform Mr. Broadwater that GCCD does not authorize letters regarding oil and gas issues based on farming operations and that GCCD cannot make these determinations. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).

Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) Statement of Policy—This information was mailed with the meeting packets for board review. If approved by PACD and the State Conservation Commission, this action could greatly affect the CDFAP and UGWF allocations to all CD's.

At the request of the PA Governor's Office, a meeting to discuss this program, including directing a greater portion of these funds toward agricultural best management practices (BMP's) especially in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, was recently held with PA DEP, the State Conservation Commission (SCC), and the PA Department of Agricultural (PDA).

Following this meeting, agency staff agreed to develop and evaluate a number of options for how a portion of CDFAP could be used for BMP implementation by CD's. The first option, that may have been approved, was to allocate approximately \$500,000 in uncommitted fiscal year 2014-2015 funds to eight Chesapeake Bay CD's.

The mid-term option for fiscal year 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 calls for all parties to work together to develop a consensus to direct a portion of these funds for targeted agricultural BMP's.

A committee will be formed with members from each region of the state to discuss this proposal with the Governor's office and Ms. Snider noted that it may be best to send our comments to our regional committee. She also said that most likely, a meeting of the district manager's in our area may be called.

Discussion ensued regarding UGWF and the impact fee that was intended for counties affected the most by gas well drilling and that the use of these funds in the Chesapeake Bay, defeats that purpose.

Ms. Snider strongly encouraged director attendance at the upcoming PACD winter meeting to voice their opinions.

Job Description Approval for New Technician--At the GCCD meeting held on October 20th, 2015, the board took action to allow Ms. Snider to revise the job description for the position, formerly held by Warren Dickerson, to include assistance with agricultural or other programs as needed.

Since that time, the revisions were made by Ms. Snider and the draft was included in the meeting packets. She noted that the revision includes assistance in the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program as well.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the Environmental Program Specialist Job Description as presented. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

The approved job description will be forwarded to Rebecca Harris, Director, Greene County Human Resources.

PACD – Mini Grant – CREP--GCCD was recently awarded a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) mini grant in the amount of \$2,500. Ms. Wright, who prepared the grant application, noted that this grant will be used to provide outreach for the program; including a farm tour, workshops, etc.

PACD – PA Envirothon Annual Donation Request--This request was received following the mailing of the meeting agenda, and was not included on the agenda. Donations received from CD's will be used for the PA Envirothon Educational Scholarship Award Program, which provides scholarships to the winning state Envirothon teams. In 2014, GCCD donated \$500.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Greg Hopkins to donate \$500 to the PA Envirothon. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH--The planning of the 2015 annual awards banquet continues. Ms. Snider has been assisting Waynesburg Borough with stormwater issues. Waynesburg University students will be assisting with the project by locating and mapping the storm drains, etc.

Direct Results continues to work on the posters regarding the Chapter 102 program.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Phil Evans – Mr. Evans briefly discussed the CREP program. He noted that the NRCS office also has been asked to determine whether a field can be farmed following gas well activities.

One ranking period for Farm Bill programs has ended. The shortage of NRCS staff in the Fayette, Greene and Washington area has been discussed at previous GCCD meetings. The technician position, formerly held by Chuck Shrump, has been filled; however, Jared Taracido, who holds the other technician position at the Washington office, recently submitted his resignation to continue with the military service on a full time basis. He offered his assistance to GCCD.

EXECUTIVE SESSION--There was no need for an Executive Session.

The next regular meeting will be December 17th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Thistlethwaite Vineyard.

ADJOURNMENT--Prior to adjournment, Mr. Cowell noted the following information discussed at the last Project Grass meeting he attended. A committee was appointed to raise funds to provide scholarships for the Grassland Evaluation Contest. In addition, they hope to increase the number of counties participating in the contest. Soon, information will be mailed to CD's to encourage participation of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the 4-H Clubs. Perhaps it can be used in Greene County to encourage participation in the contest.

Ms. Thistle noted that she was recently appointed to a newly formed Governor's Commission; the Blue Ribbon Commission on Economic Development with Forestry. The commission will join individuals in industry, foresters, etc. to develop a plan to make forestry an economically viable industry in Penn's Woods. The first meeting, of the six meetings planned, will be held on January 7th, 2016. She welcomed comments from the GCCD board.

In another matter, Ms. Thistle voiced her concern with the recent closing of Alpha's Emerald Mine and the plans for the facilities (preparation plant, refuse areas, etc.) left with the closing. It was thought that a few employees would remain working to load the remaining coal and

cleanup the area. Ms. Snider noted that the bonds issued by PA DEP for the site may ensure its reclamation.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Bill Wentzel to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)

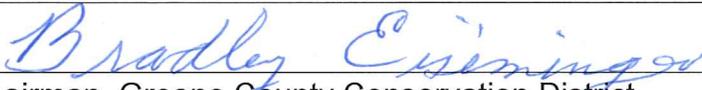
Respectfully submitted,



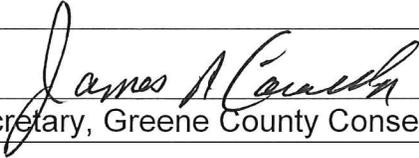
Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer

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. 15, 2015.



Chairman, Greene County Conservation District



Secretary, Greene County Conservation District