



Greene County Conservation District

Fort Jackson Building, Mezzanine – 19 South Washington Street – Waynesburg, PA 15370-2053

Phone 724-852-5278 – Fax 724-852-5341

E-Mail: gccd@co.greene.pa.us -- Website: <http://www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd>

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES April 26th, 2016

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Eisiminger called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Second Floor Conference Room, Greene County Office Building, 93 East High St., Waynesburg, PA. Those in attendance were as follows:

Greene County Conservation District Directors and Associate Directors

Bradley Eisiminger-Chairman; Archie Trader-Vice Chairman; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Director; Bill Wentzel-Director/Environmental Program Associate; Bill Cree, Jr.-Associate Director; Jeff Rode-Associate Director; and Gay Thistle-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Shirley Eisiminger-Guest; Phil Evans-NRCS

Staff

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

Chairman Eisiminger introduced his wife, Shirley.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the minutes of the March 15th, 2016 meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was approved as read.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance – There were no requests for assistance to bring before the board.

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Search Charge & Updated Policy

Ms. Snider distributed a draft copy of the Policy for the Imposition of Fees for PNDI Receipts generated through the PA Conservation Explorer that she prepared, and was reviewed by Ms. Kozlowski.

The PNDI tool is an online database managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) that provides locational and biological information on threatened, endangered, and special concern species and resources in Pennsylvania. A PNDI search is usually required for state permitting, and obtaining state and federal grants, etc.

Until recently, PA DCNR provided this service free of charge, however; increase in their cost to maintain the system and funding shortfalls have made it necessary for the agency to impose a \$40 fee for each PNDI generated through the PA Conservation Explorer. The only entities exempt from the fee are federal, state, and local governments.

PNDI receipts are needed for the submission and approval of Chapter 102 and 105 permitting. Landowners that would be required to pay the \$40 fee are usually assisted by GCCD in obtaining those permits. PNDI's for these projects are usually completed by GCCD. To clarify GCCD's role in this process, Ms. Snider, drafted the policy for board consideration and outlined some of policy requirements as follows.

- Applicants that are considered Greene County residents can allow GCCD staff to complete the PNDI search for the \$40 fee imposed by DCNR.
- Project reviews, or reviews being submitted on behalf of companies, consultants, authorities, organization, etc. will not be run by GCCD.
- Government projects that are waived shall be run by the governmental body requiring permitting, only if the project has requested GCCD technical assistance (i.e. GP-7 or GP-3 assistance).
- Billing information is required prior to generation of PNDI receipt.
- Project information must be obtained prior to submission and generation of receipt.
- Payment is due prior to issuance of any permit being requested event if the permit/project is not followed through with.
- Fee is payable to "Greene County Conservation District".
- An applicant is responsible for obtaining the necessary clearances required by the PNDI receipt generated.
- PNDI receipts that show potential impacts, avoidance measures or conservation measures will not be issued permits until a clearance letter is obtained.
- Only one PNDI will be run for the project area.
- GCCD reserves the right to determine when and if clearances can be obtained with the assistance of the staff and tools available. Studies will not be performed by district staff. GCCD staff reserves the right to charge for additional services at a rate not less than staff's hourly wages and overhead.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the policy as submitted. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Poster Contest

At the GCCD meeting on February 16th, 2016, the board granted approval to re-establish the poster contest with the following prizes: 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75 and 3rd place - \$50. GCCD board members judged the posters, prior to the meeting. The winners of the poster contest are as follows.

- 1st Place – Landon Matthews - West Greene Elementary School
- 2nd Place – Karissa Thompson - West Greene Elementary School
- 3rd Place – Pieper Whipkey - West Greene Elementary School

Coloring Contest

Via phone poll, the GCCD board granted approval, to conduct a coloring contest with the winning entries to receive bicycles and helmets. The GCCD board chose the following four winners, prior to today's meeting.

- Elaina Beazell – Christian Sandbox
- Abigail Kalka – Christian Sandbox
- Aria Finley – St. Ann's Pre-School
- Nora Christner – St. Ann's Pre-School

Conservation Leadership School

The student's essays were distributed to the GCCD board with the meeting packets for review and ranking. Following, in ranking order, are the students who will receive scholarships to attend the CLS.

- Ryan Swartz – Carmichaels High School
- Stephen Zaco – Carmichaels High School
- Gabrielle Muilenburg – Mapletown High School

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to sponsor the students, at an approximate cost of \$500 per student, for a total of \$1,500, to this year's CLS. GCCD funds, and a donation received from Columbia Gas Pipeline Group, will be used to cover the cost. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

PACD Non-Point Source (NPS) Mini-Grant

On behalf of GCCD, Watershed Specialist, Jared Zinn, received a mini grant, of \$2,000, to partner with Waynesburg Borough to conduct stormwater workshops. Stormwater controls that homeowners can incorporate will be discussed; including the use of rain barrels. Participates will receive materials to assemble a rain barrel which they can install at their home. They will be required to complete the installation within 60 days, or return the barrel to GCCD.

The DeLallo Company of Westmoreland County was noted as a source for the rain barrels at a cost of \$15 per barrel. Two other possible sources noted, that may provide the barrels free,

were Mylan Pharmaceutical and the Block Plant, located S.R. 2011. Both will be contacted for additional information.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to accept the PACD NPS Mini Grant. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

The Greene County Commissioner's, at their meeting held on April 20th, 2016, proclaimed the week of April 24th thru May 1, 2016 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week. Radio spots, advertising the no-till drill, are now airing. A field day, to demonstrate the drill, is planned during the month of May.

On Thursday, April 28th, 2016, a workshop will be held in Nineveh to review a grant application, to be submitted to PA DEP, to install agricultural best management practices, streambank protection, etc., in the Brown's Creek Watershed.

Newspaper articles regarding the coloring and poster contests should soon be published in the newspaper. Following today's meeting, photographs of the GCCD board and staff will be taken at the Greene County Museum. The museum is the site where a tree was planted to honor J. Robert Rice's many years of service to GCCD. A dedication ceremony will be held on site following this meeting.

The Greene County Envirothon will be held on May 4th, 2016 at Wana B. Park near Carmichaels, PA. Ms. Kozlowski noted that the following donations were received to help with the Envirothon, the Continuing Education Scholarship, and/or the sponsorship of students to the Conservation Leadership School.

Consol - \$1,000
Spectra Energy - \$500
Greene Team - \$100
Columbia Pipeline Group - \$1,500
EQT - \$1,500
Community Foundation \$1,106.50

On May 3rd, 2016, a contractor will be completing a roadbank stabilization project in Perry Township with a method that places nails in the roadbank to hold it in place. Anyone interested in visiting this site, should contact the office.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Phil Evans, NRCS – Mr. Evans noted that NRCS and GCCD continue to work under the Memorandum of Understanding/Cooperative Working Agreement. NRCS will be conducting a Civil Rights Review to ensure all offices and partners are in compliance. The majority of the contracts for Farm Bill programs have been completed.

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

GCCD directors, associate directors and staff are requested to travel to the Greene County Museum for the presentation and dedication of Mr. J. Robert Rice 50th service award. Photos will be taken on site.

Respectfully submitted,

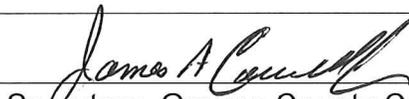


Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer

MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on June 22, 2016.


Chairman, Greene County Conservation District


Secretary, Greene County Conservation District