



## Greene County Conservation District

22 West High Street – Suite 204 – Waynesburg, PA 15370

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 22, 2016

#### CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Eisiminger called the meeting to order at 8:35 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; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Director; Mike Belding-Director; and Dave Shipman-Associate Director.

#### Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Resource Specialist; Karlie Wright-Ag Technician; April Brummage-Resource Specialist and Jenna Henry-Intern.

Ms. Snider introduced April Brummage and Jenna Henry. Ms. Brummage was recently hired to assist with the erosion and sedimentation control (E&S) and the agricultural programs. Ms. Henry hired as a summer intern, will complete various tasks, including West Nile Virus (WNV) mosquito monitoring. Michaela Hildreth is also working as a part-time summer intern with GCCD.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2016 meeting. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)*

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

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

#### NEW BUSINESS

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

**Act 38 and Chapter 91 Delegation Allocation Request – Nutrient Management Program** Information, regarding this matter, was included in the meeting packets. The proposal request, for a total of \$14,000, is one source of funding used for Karlie Wright's position as the Agricultural Technician. Ms. Brummage was also included in the proposal (approximately .25

percent of her time); however, at this time, there is no additional funding available for her position.

***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve the submission of this proposal to the State Conservation Commission (SCC) for fiscal year 2016-2017. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed).***

#### **No-Till Drill & Lime Spreader Rental**

Following the purchase of the no-till drill, Ms. Wright reviewed the rental agreements and made minor changes. She restructured the document to clarify the rental requirements.

She also noted the following for board consideration.

The rental fee for the no-till drill was revised. Under the current agreement, the charge was based on the acreage on the drill and its use (cover crops, pasture renovation). A change was made to include a flat fee of \$10 per acre planted, as recorded on the machine's meter.

Should restrictions be placed on renting of the equipment? In an effort to maintain the equipment and prevent it from be used by contractors on unsuitable sites (pipelines, right-of-ways, etc.) should the equipment be rented to farmers only?

What should be required for proof of insurance? Currently, the renter is required to have a farm policy or a rider for the rental term to cover the cost of damages to the equipment/replacement costs. Following the review of our rental agreements, Betty Foreman of Bailey Insurance, feels that a renter's automobile insurance should be sufficient to cover the equipment.

***A motion by Mike Belding to change the no-till drill rental fee to a flat fee of \$10.00 per acre, based on the machine's meter. Additionally, no rentals will be made to "for profit companies", but to landowners, lessors of farm properties, or individuals wishing to plant food plots, and to ensure that the individuals' automobile insurance is adequate for GCCD's policy. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) for FY 2016-2017**

The proposed application, that provides funding for the District Manager and First Technician, was included in the meeting packets. In the event that extra funding is available, the Second Technician's position was also included on the application.

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the submission of this application with Chairman Eisiminger's signature. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

## **Watershed Specialist Grant Extension**

In order to review and revise the watershed specialist grant, PA DEP has extended the current grant through January 31, 2017. Their goal is to ensure that measurable improvements are made in the watersheds and how the position can be used to meet that goal.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mike Belding to request the extension of the watershed specialist grant. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

## **GCCD Water Quality Mini Grant Program**

The mini grant program was brought before the board for discussion. At the January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 GCCD meeting, the following five mini grants, of \$5,000 each, were awarded. With the exception of Jim Cole, who withdrew his application, all of these individuals plan to complete their projects.

- Jim Cole – spring development
- Jessica Vukmanic – streambank stabilization
- Jeanne Williams – stormwater management swale
- Larry Wise – spring development
- Bob Wolfe – spring development

Ms. Wright briefly reviewed the proposed projects of the following individuals who have applied for the 2016 round of funding.

- Jim Cowell – spring development
- Stephen Earnest – streambank stabilization
- Mark Eckleberry – spring developments
- Ken Headlee – spring development
- Walt Simatic – spring development
- John & Kay Wasieleski – streambank fencing, crossings, springs
- Veronica Stevens – goat fencing

Ms. Snider noted that since GCCD uses gas well funding for administrative expenses, extra funding should be available to fund all of the above projects; if the board decides to do so.

She also mentioned the Unconventional Gas Well Funds received through the Public Utility Commission (UGWF-PUC). These funds, were placed in a Certificate of Deposit (CD) at Community Bank, and were designated to be used for the construction of an office building for GCCD, but this designation can be changed.

This matter may be placed on the July meeting agenda for discussion and possibly action.

## **Dirt, Gravel, Low Volume Roads Program Evaluation, and 2016-2017 Allocations**

A copy of the notice was included in the meeting packets. The Greene County allocations for the 2016-2017 fiscal year are as follows.

Low Volume Roads Program	\$108,893
D&G Roads Program	<u>\$410,859</u>
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>\$519,752</b>

Officials from the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads performed an evaluation of GCCD's program, June 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and a draft copy of those findings has been received. The evaluation went well, with GCCD mostly exceeding expectations.

A project, that included the placement of driving surface aggregate (DSA), was recently completed in Morgan Township on Beagle Club Road.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Jim and Billie Cowell – 2016 Clean Water Farm Award**

The board congratulated Mr. Cowell as the recipient of this award. Mr. Cowell thanked GCCD.

**Jake Blaker, Director, Greene County Parks & Recreation**

A thank you note was received for our donation to repair the grill at Steve McCann Pavilion at Wana B. Park.

**Drew, Lauren & Aria Finley**

A thank you note was received for the bicycle and helmet Aria received as a prize for the coloring contest.

**CREP Workshop**

Due to limited interest, the workshop scheduled to be held on Saturday, June 25, 2016 has been cancelled.

**Pasture Walk at the Allen Dixon Farm**

The event will be held on July 7, 2016 at Tyrone, PA

**Grazing Field Day**

The field day will be held on Friday, July 8, 2016 in Mayport, PA.

**In depth exploration of strategies to build perennial agroecosystems through cover crops, forage and crop diversity**

This event will be held in Centre Hall, PA, Thursday, July 28 & Friday, July 29, 2016.

**Adaptive Grazing/Soil Health Field Day**

Southwest Project Grass will be sponsoring this event on Saturday, July 30, 2016, Beaver County, PA.

**Adaptive Cover Crops Field Day**

This field day will be held on August 12, 2016 in Beaver County, PA.

## **PA Farm Bureau**

Mr. Cowell noted that the Greene County Chapter will be hosting a picnic and hog roast in July at Wana B. Park, near Carmichaels, PA.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – A complaint regarding a Franklin Township landowner, who is stockpiling fill along the stream and who failed to obtain the proper permits, has been referred to PA DEP. Additionally, a complaint was received regarding a property in Cumberland Township. This landowner also neglected to apply for the proper permits and stabilize the site.

**Karlie Wright** – She continues to work with landowners in the Browns Creek Watershed to have potential projects ready to be submitted for funding for a Growing Greener Grant. The landowner in Jefferson Township, who was keeping a large amount of chickens, has removed them from the residence.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Nutrient Management & Manure Management Program Delegation Performance Evaluation**

Laurel Rush, Nutrient Management Specialist, State Conservation Commission (SCC), conducted a program review in March. The results of the review were favorable with GCCD meeting their goals.

The manure storage facility at the Greene County Fairgrounds was briefly discussed.

## **CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

An extra newsletter was published recently to include GCCD's events. Mr. Joe Conklin, District Director of Cooperative Extension appreciated the space he was given in our newsletter.

The rain barrel workshops, recently conducted in conjunction with Waynesburg Borough, were well attended.

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

There were no cooperating agencies or guests present.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 a.m. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca K. Salosky*

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 19th, 2016.

*Bradley Eisiminger*

Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

*James A. Powell*

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District