



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

October 18th, 2016

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Eisiminger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Greene County Conservation District Conference Room, 22 West 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/Greene County Commissioner; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Mike Belding-Director; Greg Hopkins-Director; Bill Wentzel-Director-Environmental Program Associate; Bill Cree, Jr.-Associate Director; Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director; Jim Jones-Associate Director; Dave Shipman-Associate Director; and Gay Thistle-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Chuck Kubasik-Field Representative, PA DEP; Phil Evans-NRCS

Staff

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Trader noted that the PA Secretary of Agriculture, Russell C. Redding, will be visiting Greene County on October 19th, 2016. His visit will provide an opportunity for Greene County's agricultural producers to learn the Governor's and the Secretary's agenda items and discuss how the Greene County community can become a bigger part of those plans. The Secretary's first stop will be at the farm of Keith Martin, a sheep producer in Washington Township, and then he will proceed to private, invitation-only gathering at Commissioner Trader's, and his wife Jeanette's farm, for discussion and lunch. Mrs. Trader, will be serving lunch; that will include of a variety of items raised on their farm. One initiative that the Secretary supports is the production of vegetables through hydroponics that could be used in school cafeterias. He thanked Ms. Snider and Ms. Wright for their assistance with the event.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the minutes of the September 20th, 2016 meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

There was no correspondence or upcoming events to bring before the board.

STAFF REPORTS

Lindsay Kozlowski – Construction is underway on Greene County Memorial Hospital Foundation’s fitness center located at Evergreene Technology Park. Several Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control plans have been received within the past two weeks. She, and other staff members, will be attending PA DEP’s annual Chapter 102 and 105 training next week in State College, PA.

The Timber Harvest Workshop, held on October 12th, was successful with about 25 people, including staff, in attendance.

Zack Basinger – He continues to review E&S plans, hoping to be caught up prior to his attendance of annual training next week.

Bill Wentzel - He assisted in the organization of the Timber Harvest Workshop held on October 12th, 2016 at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Additionally, he has been conducting site inspections and working with several loggers.

Karlie Wright – She has been working with Mario Barchiesi, Greene County’s Recreation Facilities Manager and their consultant, to develop a nutrient management plan for the fairgrounds. A nutrient management plan is also being developed for the Gene Saurborn/Bobbi Bailey property in Whiteley Township.

Work continues to preserve two Greene County farms, a parcel on the Ralph K. Bell property in Morgan Township and a parcel on the William Cree property in Cumberland Township, through the farmland preservation program. One appraisal has been completed and the other is expected to be completed in the next week. The appraisal will then be presented to the Greene County Farmland Preservation Board for consideration.

Two projects are nearly complete under the mini grant program with another scheduled to begin soon.

April Brummage – Ms. Brummage is on maternity leave. On October 11th, 2016, she gave birth to a 9 lb. 6 oz. baby boy, Kash Michael.

Jared Zinn – On behalf of Mr. Zinn, who was attending another meeting, Ms. Snider noted that a draft copy of the South Fork of Tenmile Creek Watershed Assessment final report was included in the meeting packets. A grant was received from the Foundation for PA Watersheds (the John Dawes Foundation) to fund the assessment. It is hoped that the completion of the assessment will result in the acquisition of additional grants to correct the problems identified in the watershed. The board was asked to review the report and submit their comments to the office. Mr. Shipman noted that Washington Township was omitted from the report.

Lisa Snider – Also included in the meeting packets was a list of cooperators that the board was asked to review and submit changes as needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road

No additional information has been received regarding the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

Curt Hughes – Center & Richhill Townships – 174 acres

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to accept this Request for Assistance. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

No-Till Drill

This matter was not included on the agenda and was brought forward for discussion by Chairman Eisiminger. Mr. Cowell noted that the rental of the no-till drill has gone very well. He did note that there may be a need to adjust the rental fee and perhaps charge a flat fee for use on 10 acres or less.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mike Belding to revise the fees charged for the rental of the no-till drill to a flat fee of \$100 for use in an area under 10 acres and charge by the acre after 10 acres. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Annual Awards

On October 11th, 2016, the Education, Outreach and Awards Committee held a conference call to discuss and select nominees for the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year award. They selected a candidate for the award, but because the nominee felt that additional work is needed on the property, he respectfully declined the nomination. Additionally, there are no nominees for the Outstanding Forester award and no service awards for directors or staff.

Mr. Kubasik suggested that we consider presenting other awards perhaps to a watershed group or to an outstanding educator.

It was noted that Mr. Curt Hughes has provided exemplary service for many years as the vocational agricultural teacher and FFA advisor at West Greene High School. It was also noted that Waynesburg Borough has done an excellent job managing the trees at Waynesburg Commons near Waynesburg University.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mike Belding to present the following awards. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

Conservation Educator – Curt Hughes, West Greene High School
Dirt & Gravel Roads Program – Morgan Township
Outstanding Conservation Speaker -Michaela Henry, Waynesburg FFA
Urban Forestry Award – Waynesburg Borough

Following discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to present a new award this year, the Agribusiness award, to Thistlethwaite's Vineyard. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

Changes at Thistlethwaite's Vineyard will allow the GCCD board and the Greene County Farmland Preservation (GCFLP) board to hold their December meetings together. The GCCD meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., the GCFLP meeting at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.

Envirothon Donations, Grant Application and Resource Boxes

Next year's Envirothon is scheduled to be held on May 3rd, 2017 at Wana B. Park near Carmichaels, PA. As a result of a recent request for donations, Dominion has committed a donation of \$500 for next year's Envirothon. A donation request was also sent to grocery stores, restaurants, etc. for food items. It was noted that a locally owned gas company, Lola, of which Glenn Toothman is associated, is doing work in the county and that a donation request could be sent to him.

The Community Foundation of Greene County does not have funding for next year's event; however, a one-time request can be made for funding through their education component. Ms. Snider has applied for \$2,000 of these funds to help purchase items for the resource boxes. A surplus of approximately \$1,900 remains from donations received in 2016 that can also be used.

West Nile Virus (WNV) Grant Opportunity

PA DEP's Vector Control Section has requested funding from the state to provide a grant to Greene County to conduct West Nile Virus, and Zika monitoring. For the past few years, grant funding has not been available, but GCCD has continued monitoring, which was a factor that may have helped prompt the state to consider funding for next year. If approved, the grant could provide funding for salaries for interns to conduct the monitoring and for the purchase of additional supplies.

PA DEP officials were pleased with the work this year's GCCD interns completed and it was noted that one of those interns, Jenna Henry, may be interested in returning to GCCD next year.

It was noted that one mosquito, trapped at the Cumberland Township Sewage Treatment Plant, tested positive for WNV; however, further testing at the site, showed no evidence of the virus.

Westmoreland County PA DEP Education Grant Partnership

GCCD has printed posters, to be distributed to municipalities, regarding the Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 programs. The Westmoreland County Conservation District (WCCD) has requested permission to reprint these posters with their contact information and partner with GCCD to apply for funding, through either PA DEP or PACD, to offset the printing costs. Ms. Snider gave them permission to reprint the posters to include notation that GCCD developed the posters.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to partner with the WCCD on the grant application and provide the images for the posters. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Phil Evans – The deadline for the submission of applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is October 21st, 2016. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is being restructured and the application period, for 2017, is expected to begin on November 1st, 2016.

The departure of Dennis Thorne from the Fayette County office has left him as the only employee working out of that office, serving Fayette and Greene Counties.

He will be participating in a land judging on October 19th, 2016.

Chuck Kubasik – Governor Tom Wolfe has nominated, Patrick McDonnell, the acting Secretary, to replace John Quigley as PA DEP Secretary. The nomination is pending a Senate vote.

A PACD Regional District Directors meeting will be held on November 3rd, 2016 at the Westmoreland County Conservation District office. The following day, November 4th, 2016, a PA DEP Regional Roundtable meeting will be held at the same location.

PA DEP, with the assistance of a recently formed work group, is currently working to revise the Watershed Specialist program, including the contract, the deliverables, the job descriptions, etc. The work group consisting of PA DEP central office personnel, PA DEP watershed managers, a conservation district director, conservation district managers and watershed specialists, will be meeting several times this year. Heather Fowler, Watershed Specialist, Fayette County Conservation District and Adam Cotchen, District Manager, Indiana Conservation District, both bring many years of experience to group and will be representing the Southwest region.

At the last GCCD meeting held on September 20th, 2016, the meeting minutes noted that a farm complaint was received and that GCCD agricultural committee members, Jim Cowell, Greg Hopkins, and Karlie Wright would be visiting the site following the meeting. Mr. Kubasik commended Mr. Cowell and Mr. Hopkins, as well as all GCCD directors, for their efforts in assisting the staff in these matters.

Mr. Cowell noted that he received a call from WITS Radio Station from Harrisburg who invited him to participate in a talk show to discuss frack water with a State Representative from Lancaster County. When the show began; however, the topic of discussion was in support of a bill that would require farmers to fence all streams in Pennsylvania.

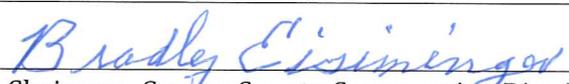
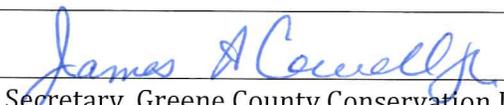
EXECUTIVE SESSION--There was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,


Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer

<u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u>	
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on <u>Nov. 15</u> , 2016.	
	
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District	
	
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District	