



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

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

September 20, 2016

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Eisiminger called the meeting to order at 10:05 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; Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director; Jim Jones-Associate Director; Dave Shipman-Associate Director; and Gay Thistle-Associate Director.

Introductions were made to Jim Jones, who was recently appointed as an Associate Director. Mr. Jones, a Carmichael's resident, thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. Chairman Eisiminger welcomed Mr. Jones to the GCCD board.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Phil Evans-NRCS

Staff

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2016 meeting. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Timber Harvest Workshop – This workshop, hosted by GCCD, will be held on Wednesday, October 12th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Greene County Fairgrounds, Building Number 10 (lower floor). An article, regarding the workshop, recently appeared in the Observer Reporter. Beginning next week, radio spots

advertising the event should be aired. Topics of discussion will include the timber sale process, the contract, erosion and sedimentation controls and permitting, etc.

Ms. Thistle noted that the event was advertised in the Southwestern PA Woodlot Owners newsletter. She and her husband, who are members of the group, plan to attend the workshop. The topic of discussion for the November meeting of the group will be growing high quality oak trees.

PACD Southwest Region Meeting – Information, regarding this meeting, was received following the mailing of the meeting packets and therefore was not included on the meeting agenda. The meeting will be held on November 3rd, 2016 at the Westmoreland Conservation District office. Mr. Cowell and Ms. Snider plan to attend.

STAFF REPORTS

Lindsay Kozlowski – She apologized for not providing a written staff report, as she was out of the office for a number of days. The review of Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control Plans and permit applications continue with many new plans recently received.

She is drafting a letter seeking donations for the 2017 Greene County Envirothon. Ms. Snider noted that materials would be purchased, with a surplus of 2016 funds, to create a resource box for each school. The boxes will be distributed to the teachers in January and returned to GCCD at the county Envirothon.

Zack Basinger – Recently, he has spent a lot of his time conducting site inspections and encouraging the establishment of a grass cover prior to the end of the growing season. The recent influx of plans will most likely require more office time.

Bill Wentzel - He has been conducting site inspections and working with several loggers.

Karlie Wright – Work 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, is progressing. Attorney Greg Hook has completed his title search work and it appears that both properties meet the easement requirements and show no problems with the surface coal rights. The appraisal, the next step in the process, is currently being completed.

Regarding the mini grant program, Jim Cowell has completed his spring development and has received payment. Design plans for their proposed spring developments have been completed for Mark Eckleberry, Ken Headlee, Walt Simatic, and Larry Wise. She visited the Wise property where work was progressing well and should soon be completed. Three additional mini grant applications have been submitted for next year's funding.

Efforts are being made to regenerate GCCD's cooperator program, with three applications recently received.

April Brummage – She has been assisting with the agricultural and E&S programs as needed.

Jared Zinn – Work continues with Ms. Wright to develop a Growing Greener grant application for the Browns Creek Watershed.

About three rain barrels remain, out of a total of fifty available, through the stormwater management project held in conjunction with Waynesburg Borough.

Lisa Snider – To date, three applications have been received from townships for large projects under the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program. She is working to promote the program and acquire additional applications. Following this meeting, she will be meeting with Wayne Township Supervisors regarding a potential project.

Finding a source to mix the Drive Surface Aggregate (DSA), the only surface material that can be used under the program, has been challenging. The source must meet the requirements of the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads.

OLD BUSINESS

Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road

No additional information has been received regarding the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

Emil R. Enoff, Jr. – Dunkard Township – 80 acres

Mark & Gaylene Eckleberry – Franklin Township – 19 acres

Walt Simatic – Jefferson Township – 71 acres

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to accept the above Requests for Assistance. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

Staff Extended Leave-April Brummage

Ms. Brummage has requested, through the Greene County Human Resources Department, eight weeks of maternity leave and hopes to return to work early next year.

Annual Awards Luncheon

This year's annual awards luncheon was discussed and the following decisions were made. This year's event will be held on December 13th, to coincide with the regularly scheduled GCCD meeting, at Thistlethwaite's Vineyard. Aerial photographs of the recipient's farm will be awarded to the Outstanding Cooperator and Forest Conservationist.

Phil Evans, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Russ Gibbs of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) will be asked to submit names of nominees for these awards. GCCD's awards committee will then visit the farms and make a recommendation to the GCCD Board.

Mr. Hopkins noted that he felt that the Power Point presentation that was shown during last year's luncheon was a valuable tool to showcase the award recipient's farm and GCCD programs.

Farm Complaint – Carmichaels Area

A complaint, regarding several horses being confined to a small area, was received. Ms. Wright distributed an aerial map of the property located on the Carmichaels Road. Since the property is being purchased through an Article of Agreement, the property owners were difficult to identify. They, along with the owners of the horses, would be responsible to comply with state regulations. The bare area, created by too many animals in a small space, could be considered a concentrated animal operation, and with a stream located below, pollution is most likely occurring. In addition, a manure management plan may be needed.

Ms. Halstead noted that she believes that the owners of horses have rescued these animals to save them from the slaughterhouse and they are attempting to sell some of them.

GCCD Agricultural Committee members, Jim Cowell and Greg Hopkins and Karlie Wright will be visiting the site following today's meeting to obtain additional information.

2016 Township Convention

The Greene County Association of Township Officials Annual Convention will be held on October 20th, 2016 at the Jefferson Fire Hall. In the past, GCCD has participated in the event to discuss, District programs (Dirt and Gravel Road program, permitting, etc.) This year, to help cover the cost of the event, a fee of \$50.00 will be charged to vendors to reserve a table.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the expenditure of \$50.00 to reserve a table at the event. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

Fair Building Upgrades

This matter was brought before the board for discussion. It was noted that the most urgent need was an upgrade of the electrical system to accommodate air conditioning.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to allow Ms. Snider to work with Mr. Patton, the electrician for the Greene County Fairgrounds, to obtain a cost estimate to upgrade the electrical system. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

At the request of Mr. Cowell, permission was granted to use this building to serve food at the state Simmental sale to be held in October.

2017 Budget and Objectives (APO) Committees

All directors were asked to review the 2016 objectives and consider changes for 2017. Members of the Personnel and District Operations Committee (Commissioner Trader, Mr. Belding, Mr. Cowell, Mr. Headlee, Mr. Kenney) will be contacted to determine if they would like to meet to review the proposal.

In addition, a meeting will soon be scheduled with the Budget and Audit Committee (Mr. Headlee, Mr. Kenney, Mr. Belding, Ms. Snider and Ms. Salosky) to draft a budget for next year.

It is hoped that both the budget and objectives can be finished and presented to the GCCD board at either the November or the December regular meetings.

Ms. Snider and Ms. Salosky continue to work to update QuickBooks.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Phil Evans – The deadline for the next round of funding under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is October 15, 2016. Dennis Thorne will be leaving his position as a Conservation Technician in Fayette County to accept another position.

NRCS reviewed and updated the Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) used for land development and they are requesting comments from GCCD by October 31, 2016.

He will review the list of cooperators that NRCS has worked with this year to make a recommendation for nominees for the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year award.

He is willing to share, with GCCD, the rolodex files that contain all the cooperators information. The GCCD board indicated that they would be willing to review this list to assist in updating this information.

Payments for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will not begin until after October 1, 2016.

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

ADJOURNMENT

*A motion was made by Mike Belding to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. Jim Cowell seconded.
(Motion Passed)*

Respectfully submitted,



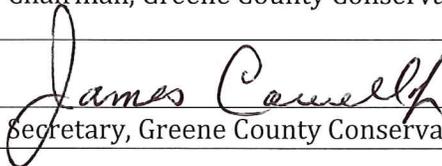
Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer

MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on 10/18, 2016.



Chairman, Greene County Conservation District



Secretary, Greene County Conservation District