

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

April 21, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Bradley Eisiminger at 10:05 a.m. at the Mezzanine Conference Room of the Fort Jackson Building, Waynesburg, PA. Directors present were Bradley Eisiminger, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; Jim Cowell, Secretary; Archie Trader, Director, Jim Kenney, Director; and Greg Hopkins, Associate Director and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director. Guests and District staff present included Eric Boris, Ever Connect; Rex Woodward, Ever Connect; Chuck Kubasik, Field Representative; Robbie Matesic, Executive Director, Economic Development; Chris Hardie, Planner, Economic Development; Suzy Petery, SDC, NRCS; Lisa Snider, Assistant Manager/Watershed Specialist; Laurel Rush, Ag Manager; Dustin Teegarden, Environmental Program Specialist; Shannon Bates, WNV Surveillance Coordinator; and Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments were received.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Tom Headlee, the minutes of the March 17th meeting were approved as mailed. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a motion by Jim Kenney, the Treasurer's Reports were approved with the following additions. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

General Fund

Ck 524 Lisa Snider – Envirothon Expenses - \$334.57

Ck 525 County of Greene – Office License for Fiscal Officer’s Computer - \$281.00

Ck 526 County of Greene – Fiscal Officer’s Computer - \$1,032.38

Ck 527 Scotty’s Pizza – District Meeting Lunch - \$77.72

Speaker Fees for the Alternative Energy Forum - \$615.20

West Nile Virus

Ck 226 County of Greene – April Vehicle Rental - \$1,200.00

In addition to the Treasurer’s Reports, payment procedures were also discussed. Lisa explained that she and Becky learned from their recent Quick Books training that we may be in violation of the Sunshine Act since we are having checks signed between meetings and because we do not have a current budget in place, no approval for payments have been authorized by the board. Consequently, a meeting was held with Mr. Trader, Mr. Lee and Ms. Zivkovich of the Commissioners Office and they suggested that the board adopt a Resolution that would allow us to make payments between meetings and would give Tom the authority to sign checks and invoices. They also said that we should put limits on the check amounts being written between meetings to protect us until a budget is adopted. They also requested that we require two signatures on checks (one district director and one staff member). Robbie read the Resolution (Attached). **After discussion, a motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the Resolution and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Archie Trader to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

A motion was made by Archie Trader to reconvene the meeting and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Laurel read the letter from the Farmland Preservation Board thanking the District for our financial support to the agricultural easement program.
- b. A thank you was also received from Penn's Corner RC&D for our donation of \$250 for the Grassland Evaluation Contest.
- c. Lisa read the letter received from Longview Power concerning their donation of \$500 for the Alternative Energy Forum. They have started the process to get a check to us, but it will probably take a month.

VII. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Fredrick R. Juskowich – Washington Twp. – 50 acres

Richard L. Patton – Franklin Township – 81 acres

Jan R. and Barbara Broxterman – Greene Township – 104 acres

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve these Requests for Assistance. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

Fredrick R. Juskowich – Mini Grant Application

Jeanne M. Williams – Mini Grant Application

After discussion, a motion was made by Archie Trader to accept the two Mini Grant Applications and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Laurel explained that the Annual Plan of Operations, adopted earlier, did not include the agricultural section (the lime spreader and the work with Agricultural Security Areas). **After discussion, a motion was made by Archie Trader to adopt the revised agricultural section in the current Annual Plan of Operations. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- b. The next item discussed was the payment for the QuickBooks training. Lisa explained that approved was granted to pay \$950.50. This was an estimate, however, and the actual cost of her visit and training was \$1,637.74 which includes an optional fee of \$150.00 for one year of support. **After discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the payment of \$1,637.74 and Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)** The ability for staff members to check their program budgets through QuickBooks was also discussed. Vice Chairman Eisiminger asked Becky to check with the County's IT Department to determine what it would take to allow other staff this access.
- c. Lisa presented the contract with the Community Foundation of Greene County (CFOGC) for the Envirothon. This year's \$3,000 grant was made possible through Equitable Resources. **A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the contract and Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- d. A proposal (attached) was distributed regarding the next item, stream monitoring in the Monongahela River watershed. Robbie explained that the proposal from the PA Fish & Boat Commission, established the Three Rivers Ecological Research Center who Martin, Lisa and herself have been working with. The Commission has taken a leadership role and have brought several agencies together to participate in an aquatic study to re-do a 2003 study of the aquatic life in the Monongahela River. She said that this was prompted by the high

amounts of total dissolved solids found in the river last summer. Financial, manpower, and equipment assistance is needed and they are requesting a \$17,000 contribution from the District. **A motion was made Archie Trader to participate in the program. Motion died for lack of a second.** The following discussion ensued. Questions were raised such as the contributions from other agencies or other conservation districts, total cost of the project and upstream monitoring. Lisa said that the largest portion, \$10,000, will be going to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History to do the invertebrate study. She also said that they will be collecting 45 samples at each site at a cost of around \$250 per sample. Robbie said that given everything that's going on with the river, she feels that the project is critical. She said that she will ask Sue Thompson, Research Director, to give updates at board meetings to keep the board apprised of the monitoring. Mr. Hopkins said that he agrees with the importance of water quality, but voiced concern regarding taking action on this matter not knowing the total cost of the project and the contributions of the other agencies. Robbie will contact Ms. Thompson to obtain a full budget and suggested that we mail the information to board members, take a poll and vote at the next meeting. Lisa added that she received \$10,000 from the Floodplain Monitoring Program, which could possibly be used for a water program. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to obtain a budget for review and then poll each board member. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- e. A copy of a draft Resolution (attached) recognizing Dunkard Creek Watershed Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) as the most critical water related environmental issue in Greene County was distributed. Robbie explained that it is apparent that these problems have a significant impact on the total dissolved solids in the river and that it is a major contributor to the water quality problems in the river. Funding is being released through the Surface Mining Reclamation Act (SMRA) for the cleanup of AMD sites. Lisa went on to explain that she and Dustin attended the DEP Regional Roundtable Meeting where they learned that guidelines are being written, and should be ready in May, for the distribution of

these funds. Currently, there are 24 plans available for funding using 30 percent of SMRA's set aside fund. These funds will be used in a holistic manner, cleaning up entire watersheds. Lisa said that fortunately, Dunkard Creek is under a Hydrologic Unit Plan (HUP) which is currently being updated and gives us a pretty good chance of being one of those 24 plans receiving funding. Suzy asked to be updated, since work was done under the RAMP program. Suzy also asked for clarification of the resolution asking if we are saying that AMD is the most critical environmental issue facing Greene County and that she feels that water quantity is just as important and that perhaps the Resolution can be reworded. Others also questioned if this is the single most concern. **Archie Trader made a motion to sign the resolution, but the motion died for the lack of a second and he withdrew his motion. After lengthy discussion, the matter was tabled.**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. A memo, written by Martin, was distributed with the meeting packets regarding the Marcellus Shale Permits. Robbie reviewed the key points. She said that shortly after the last District meeting, a memo was received from DEP stating that effective April 1st; Conservation Districts will no longer be reviewing Marcellus Shale Permits. Dustin further explained that anything associated with Marcellus Shale, (site inspections, reviews, processing) will now be done by DEP. We will still review and process ESCGP-1 permits for intrastate and interstate pipelines. He also said that we have been only issuing these permits for about one year and to date, 28 permits have been issued, with only 6 last year. He said that many environmental groups are expressing opposition to DEP's action. The loss of the funding source and the lack of notification regarding activity on these sites were also discussed. Chuck said that although, many counties were doing a good job at processing these permits, many were not which probably lead to this action. Robbie said that Martin emphasized the importance of a local role in the memo which he planned to send to state legislators. She also said that a recent PA Supreme Court decision gave local entities the right to review things that

matter locally and she would also like to add this to the memo. **After discussion, a motion was by Tom Headlee to send the letter and Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- b. Robbie discussed the next item of business, DEP's announcement regarding water quality standards and Marcellus Shale waste water disposal. She said that DEP is taking a strong position regarding this waste water. No new sources of high total dissolved solids will be accepted into the waters of the Commonwealth after January, 2011 and that DEP has the right to hold the sewage treatment plant responsible for the discharges. Franklin Township and Waynesburg Borough were the only two treatment plants accepting the water and in October they were stopped. Soon, pre-treatment will be required at the well site. Active permits are subject to pre-treatment and new permits will be required to have pre-treatment and new water quality standards. Suzy asked if the new rules will address water withdrawal. Robbie said it does not, but it could be included in a letter of support. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to support this legislation and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- c. Suzy reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the District and the State Conservation Commission. She said that the document was updated in 1994 and includes Farm Bill implementation. It states that the District agrees to convene a core local work group made up of the District, agencies, and local groups to carry out this program. Also included is that the District will develop a long range plan of action to accomplish conservation goals and she said that it's been a long time since it was last updated. She stressed the importance of updating this document. The memo also allows the sharing of NRCS vehicles, for programs that are done together, and permits District employees to use the vehicles provided that a valid driver's license is available and they are not doing fundraising or enforcement activities. In closing, Suzy said that the memo is currently being updated and she will keep the board informed.

- d. Laurel discussed the next item, the Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful Sponsorships. She said that last year we were sponsors of the Farmer's Market at the Sunflower Level (\$500.00). **After much discussion, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to make a donation of \$250.00 to the Farmer's Market. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed, with one dissention, Archie Trader)**

- e. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to provide \$30.00 to the PACD Auxiliary for the Annual Education Scholarship. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- f. **On a motion by Jim Kenney, approval was granted to Dustin and Bill to attend the Geosynthetic BMP's for Stormwater Management Workshop on May 7th at a cost of \$25.00 per person. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- g. **A motion was made by Tom Headlee to enter the contract with the Greene County Fair for 2 spaces at a cost of \$100.00. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- h. The last item discussed under New Business, was the Nutrient Management Act Delegation Agreement. Laurel distributed information from the Nutrient Management Group's meeting. Program funding is uncertain and they came up with 4 options which are outlined in the letter. She said that she spoke to Robbie and John Hewitt, and they came to the conclusion that Option #1 would be the best choice for Greene County. It's the only option in which they don't cut the funding and options 2, 3, and 4 cuts funding outside the Chesapeake Bay. Laurel requested approval to write a letter indicating that we choose Option #1. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to accept Option#1 and send the letter. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

X. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were mailed with the meeting packets. Additionally, Dustin thanked the board for allowing him and Martin to attend the Oil and Gas Conference at Southpointe on March 24th and 25th. Topics discussed were the permitting process and water treatment. Dustin also said that an E&S Plan has been approved for the borrow area near Bob Evans. Plum Contracting will be using the site for material for the Ten Mile Bridge and they will be restoring the site in accordance to Chapter 102. Twenty six permits were processed with 17 of those being oil and gas related and to date, 7 permits have been received, reflecting the reduction.

Lisa introduced Shannon Bates as our new West Nile Virus Coordinator who assumed duties on April 1st. Vice Chairman Eisiminger welcomed her.

Laurel briefly mentioned the spreadsheet regarding the Alternative Energy Forum included in the meeting packets. She said that everyone agreed that it was a very successful program. Lisa also said that one of the speakers at the forum visited today and said that he has had 150 phone calls as a result of the forum and 6 people who will be installing full alternative energy systems. He would like to work with us to promote Alternative Energy.

XI. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Suzy Petery – Suzy reported that two applications were submitted for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. They include the Kirgan's in Center Township and the Presley's along Dunkard Creek. Regarding the Farm Bill, applications are being accepted until May 29th for the Grassland Reserve Program. Ten, fifteen, and twenty year easements are available for pasture and hay land. Suzy distributed information on a local field day sponsored by Project Grass.

Mr. Hopkins introduced Eric Boris and Rex Woodward of Ever Connect a Technology Business. They are located in the basement of the former McCrory Building.

XII. The next regular meeting will be **May 19th**

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was declared adjourned by Vice Chairman Eisiminger at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer