

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting

August 18, 2009

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rice at 10:10 a.m. at the Second Floor Conference Room, County Office Building, 93 East High St., Waynesburg, PA. Directors present were J. Robert Rice, Chairman; Bradley Eisiminger, Vice Chairman; Jim Cowell, Secretary; Dave Coder, Commissioner Representative; Archie Trader, Director; Jim Kenney, Director; and Greg Hopkins, Associate Director. Guests and District staff included Sherene Hess, RC&D Coordinator, Penn's Corner; Tracy Zivkovich, Director, Human Resources; Robbie Matesic, Acting District Manager; Lisa Snider, Assistant District Manager/Watershed Specialist; Laurel Rush, Ag Manager; Bill Wentzel, Environmental Program Associate; and Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer.

### II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to enter in to Executive Session and Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Since personnel issues would be discussed, Ms. Matesic requested that she and Ms. Zivkovich be permitted to attend. Chairman Rice granted approval.

### III. MEETING RECONVENED

**Following the Executive Session, a motion by Dave Coder to reconvene the meeting. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

**A motion was made by Dave Coder to have the Conservation District loan or "front" up to \$110,000 to the County of Greene to administer Conservation District programs and employees until December 31<sup>st</sup> and at the discretion of the director to handle any personnel issues involved. Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments were received.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**On a motion by Archie Trader, the minutes of the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as mailed. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

VI. TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

General Fund

Ck 582 Scotty's Pizza – District Meeting Lunch - \$52.00

Ck 583 County of Greene – S.R. for June for Manager and July for Everyone  
\$14,530.37

Ck 584 Laurel Rush – Expenses - \$277.99

West Nile Virus

Ck 247 County of Greene – July S.R. and Vehicle - \$5,644.91

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. The first item of Correspondence discussed was the Greene County Business Expo to be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> with a registration fee of \$100.00. **After discussion, a motion was made by Dave Coder to share the table and cost with Planning and Development and Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- b. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to table action on the sponsor request from Waynesburg University. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- c. Lisa announced that Penn Crest High School of Delaware County, Pennsylvania won the Canon Envirothon, the national competition.

#### VIII. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

No Request for Assistance forms was received.

#### IX. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The first item discussed under Old Business was the Penn Future Support Letter. Mr. Coder said that they were supposed to send additional information. Lisa said that she did receive information that they submitted to DEP including a list of the organizations that are supporting them. Robbie said that the board took action to protect those streams and that a letter was drafted, but was not mailed. The letter is not connected to Penn Future, it supports maintaining the quality of the streams. She said that it could be sent to the board for their review and then on to DEP.  
**A motion was made by Archie Trader to send the letter and Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Lisa reported that Consol and Foundation Coal had petitioned to downgrade streams within the South Fork of Ten Mile Watershed High Quality designated area, but they were actually upgraded to Exceptional Value streams. DEP upgraded 7 tributary stream segments (Hoge, House, McCourtesy and Owens Run), to Exceptional Value. Mr. Kenney asked if the Coal companies had any recourse and Robbie stated that it is her understanding that they are lobbying to use Exceptional Value streams. She also said that to our knowledge, they are currently not allowed to use Exceptional Value Streams. Lisa said that a decision has not been made on the Grinnage Run petition.

- b. A letter from Samantha May, who attended the Conservation Leadership School, was mailed to the directors for their review.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Lisa said that last year we talked about updating our Nominating Organization list. The current list includes the County ASC Committee, County Bar Association, County Farmers Association, Historical Society, Planning Commission, Isaac Walton League, Pomona Grange, Richhill Agricultural Society; Southwestern PA Livestock Co-Op, and the Washington/Greene Tourist Promotion Agency. She said that some of these organizations have changed or no longer exist, such as reported by Mr. Eisiminger, the Southwestern PA Livestock Co-Op and the Sheep and Wool Growers. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to have the staff go through the list and try to come up with new organizations and to include any board recommendations for the next meeting. Archie Trader seconded.** Lisa said that she would like to visit potential organizations and Mr. Coder said that the motion would allow her to do so. Lisa then read the list of the prospected organizations as follows: Fair Board, Extension Board, Farmland Preservation, PA Cleanways, Greene County Association of Township Officials, Ralph Bell Bird Club, Southwestern PA Woodlot Owners Association, the Bass Masters Association, Fireman's Association, Rotary Club, Farm Bureau, and the Greene County Society of Farm Women.
- b. **Upon the recommendation of the Quality Assurance Board, a motion was made by Dave Coder to make the final payment to Aleppo Township for the completion of their Dirt and Gravel Road Project on Mud Lick Road. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- c. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to table action on the scholarship for the Dirt and Gravel Roads Annual Workshop. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- d. Laurel discussed the next item of business, the Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance (ACT) Program. She said that 2 years ago we signed a 5 year agreement for the ACT Program and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program which were combined. Each year, the budget must be redone and she began with the ACT position. The letter

states that although the funding level is unknown at this time, they are expecting to support current positions. She requested approval to enter into the ACT Program agreement which would fund approximately 50% of her salary. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to enter into the contract and Jim Cowell seconded.**

- e. Laurel also presented the agreement for the Ag Easement Conservation Support Program for work with Farmland Preservation. Again, they anticipate being able to fund existing positions. **A motion was made by Jim Cowell to sign the agreement and Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- f. Laurel also discussed the next item, the Field Day scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Rick Miller farm. She said that she had called all directors and asked for approval to spend \$700 which is included in our budget. She received approval by phone and asked for a motion to reflect that. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to confirm the phone vote and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- g. **A motion was made by Jim Kenney to make payment of \$8,886.37 to Brian Sanders for completion of his Project Grass contract. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- h. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to table action on the Memorandum of Understanding.** Mr. Kenney asked for the status of the Memorandum stating that the board made changes and forwarded it to Farley Toothman, former county solicitor, for review. Robbie said that she did not have the changes, and Laurel said that she had them. Mr. Trader said that we need to get those changes to Cheryl Cowen, who was appointed to serve as interim solicitor. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to get a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding to Cheryl Cowen for her review. Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)**

#### XI. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were mailed with the meeting notices. Robbie reported that Dustin Teegarden submitted his resignation, five candidates were

interviewed, and the top three were ranked. Shortly after, the impact of the state budget impasse has affected the county, so no one will be hired for the position at this time. As stated in the memo sent to directors, the existing staff will cover the workload. Robbie also said that the upcoming "Boot Camp" sponsored by DEP will be at the same time as the next Conservation District meeting and the board agreed to reschedule our meeting for the following Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dustin asked Laurel to thank the board for their help during his employment and say that he was sorry that he did not say goodbye. Mr. Hopkins said that it was unfortunate that we lost Dustin and asked whether the county had a contingency plan to replace employees lost to the private sector. Mr. Coder said that it is a good point and that many county departments lose good employees to the private sector. Robbie said that we should check with DEP to see if they can help, as other Conservation Districts are probably experiencing the same problem. She also said that DEP has offered their assistance during this period. She reported that a conference call was held with DEP regarding gas permitting. In May, DEP asked that all gas drilling permits be returned to them leaving no local interface. She said that complaints have been received regarding access roads, runoff problems, etc. During that call, DEP said that their permitting procedures do not overstep local ordinances. The Act 167 ordinance was also discussed and DEP will be mailing the water management plans for Marcellus Well sites to the Conservation District and the Planning Commission for review. A meeting to discuss Act 167 was scheduled with the municipalities, but with only 12 planning to attend, the meeting was cancelled. It will be scheduled at a later date and board members will be invited.

Lisa asked for questions regarding her written report.

Additionally, Laurel reported that 3 applications were submitted for the REAP program in Greene County. The application period for this program opened on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and over 300 applications were received within the first week. She has been moving forward with the design and permits for the Mini Grant Program. She thanked Mr. Cowell, for paying for a space and setting up the lime spreader at the Greene County Fair. She also said that magnets were placed on side of the spreader to advertise its availability and two calls were received. In closing, Laurel said that since the inception of the program, \$1,095.05 was received. Mr. Kenney asked if the spreader will be advertised at the Washington County Fair. Laurel said that she plans to ask Washington Conservation District to distribute information.

Bill reported that we miss Dustin and we are trying to cope without him. He has been conducting inspections on logging sites.

XII. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Sherene Hess - Ms. Hess said that the mission of Penn's Corner RC&D Council is to enhance the area's natural resources and build strong communities by fostering regional partnerships and securing resources to deliver needed services and programs. They are in the process of developing their Annual Plan of Work and plan to meet with counties to determine what they would like to see in that plan. The projects could be Ag Best Management Practices (BMP's), Education, Water Management, Drinking Water, Storm water, and Marcellus Shale. In the next few weeks, she will be contacting Lisa to set up a meeting with Fayette and Washington Counties. She informed the group that there is a vacancy on the Penn's Corner Executive Council with Martin Niverth serving as the Conservation District Alternate. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to appoint Laurel Rush as the Alternative. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

XIII. The next regular meeting was changed and will be held on **September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Cowell asked if Associate Directors can receive all meeting packet information (correspondence, Treasurer's Reports, etc.) along with the agenda and minutes. The board agreed that they should receive the entire packet.

**A motion was made by Dave Coder to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer