

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

December 1, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rice at 10:05 a.m. at the 4-H Building at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Directors present were J. Robert Rice, Chairman; Bradley Eisiminger, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; Jim Cowell, Secretary; Dave Coder, Commissioner Representative; Archie Trader, Director; Jim Kenney, Director; and Greg Hopkins, Associate Director. Guests and District staff in attendance, in alphabetical order by last name, were Billie Cowell, guest; Bill Cree, Director, Greene County Cooperative Extension; Billy Cree, Chairman, Farmland Preservation; Shirley Eisiminger, guest; Anna Fast, Resource Specialist; Chris Hardie, Planner, Economic Development; Bob Harry, guest; Linda Harry, guest; Thelma Harry, guest; Mary Jane Kent, Administrative Assistant for Program Support; Robbie Matesic, Acting District Manager; Kim Moninger, NRCS; Suzy Petery, NRCS; Laurel Rush, Agricultural Manager; Bob Russell, guest; Pam Russell, guest; Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer; John Scott, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; Pansy Six, guest; Laura Smith, NRCS; and Lisa Snider, Assistant District Manager/Watershed Specialist.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments were received.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Archie Trader, the minutes of the October 27th meeting were approved. Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Jim Cowell, the Treasurer's Reports were approved as mailed. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to donate \$100 to the Pennsylvania Envirothon. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- b. **A motion was made by Jim Kenney to pay the Project Grass dues of \$200 for 2010. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- c. Lisa distributed the comments that were submitted to the Environmental Quality Board regarding the Chapter 102 revisions. She asked that the board review them at their leisure and get back to her with questions.

VI. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

No Request for Assistance forms were received.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Laurel gave an update on the NRCS Local Work Group Meeting she attended. She said that all three counties; Greene, Washington, and Fayette participated as well as some of the agencies. They came up with about 15 items they considered to be priorities and suggestions can be made before the ranking sheet is prepared. She also said that while the Farm Bill is a national standard, the state does have some say in how it is administered. Some of the items the local group submitted were animal mortality, horse operations, invasive species control, targeting watersheds (high quality and exceptional value), preference to no-till, organic farms, locally grown, biodiesel, water quality and quantity, and forestry plans.

- b. Robbie reported that she attended the Pennsylvania Floodplain Managers Meeting where she learned that Greene County's revised FEMA maps are expected to be sent to the municipalities in May of 2010. The municipalities will then have the opportunity to review, comment, and agree or disagree. Once floodplains are established, there is a federal program that will quantify the exposure in a high rain event, such as what facilities are at risk, their value, etc. Questions were asked regarding who has the final say, and flood insurance. Robbie also said that a professional organization has been formed, the Pennsylvania Manager's Floodplain Association, that requires a certification. She said that we need to look at having a certified Floodplain Manager on staff, either Lisa, Anna, Chris or all. Future updates will be given.

- c. Lisa reported that she has been working with the consultant on the Act 167 plan. They prioritized the comments they received from the municipalities at the October 29th meeting of the Watershed Plan Advisory Committee. She distributed a list of some of the areas of concern and how they were ranked. She said that later they will have to determine whether areas need to be modeled to see if there will be increased flood impacts. Lisa added that all but 7 municipalities were represented at the October meeting, with a total of 49 in attendance.

- d. Lisa distributed the draft agenda and news release regarding the Upper Mon River and Dunkard Creek Water Quality Public Meeting and Water Quality Forum scheduled to be held on December 3rd at the Mt. Morris Tabernacle Church. She said that they are requesting \$300 to cover the facilities rental fee and light refreshments. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to pay the \$300 and Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Robbie reviewed the meeting agenda and said that she will be opening the meeting at 4:00 and that Item III has been moved to later in the meeting. She also said that the Regulatory Agencies requested to speak first to discuss the sources of the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in the river, what they know of treatment and disposal facilities, and the groundwater. She hopes that all board members will be there, as she plans to make introductions. The Water Quality Forum will be chaired by Barry Pallay. Robbie also said that they are very concerned that there will not be enough time to answer questions, but plans are to take written questions to be answered later. Mr. Kenney felt that questions should be allowed

following each panelist and Mr. Coder agreed. Mr. Eisiminger asked if the meeting will be recorded and Robbie said that arrangements are being made to have Waynesburg College tape it.

- e. Lisa stated that the State Conservation Commission has approved Penn State Cooperative Extension of Greene County as a nominating organization. Also, Lisa presented a nominating organization petition from the Greene County Volunteer Fireman's Association. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to approve this petition and Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- f. Laurel discussed the next item, the Bland and Williams Mini Grants. She said that Ronald Bland has completed his spring development under the \$1,000 grant and it's awaiting Suzy's final approval. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the \$1,000 payment to Mr. Bland pending final approval. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Regarding the Williams' Mini Grant, Laurel reported that it's been nearly a year since the application was made and no work has been completed. She explained that Ms. Williams' was waiting to see if her EQIP contract could be modified, as she plans to use the grant towards some of those practices. Laurel also said that it looks like the EQIP modifications will be allowed. **After discussion, a motion was made by Archie Trader to extend the Williams' Mini Grant by 6 months. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Anna displayed maps and gave a presentation on the natural gas lines in the county. She explained that there are three different kinds of lines; transmission, gathering, and distribution. Transmission lines are large lines under high pressure that traverse large distances. Gathering lines run from the gas wells to the gathering lines and on to the transmission lines. Distribution lines take the natural gas to the residential customer. She said that there are 6 different pipeline operators in the county; Columbia Gas, Dominion, Equitable, Equitrans, Texas Eastern, and National Fuel Gas Supply. There is a total of 691 miles of natural gas

pipeline in the county. Anna said that there are 5 proposed natural gas line projects currently being worked on; the Appalachian Gateway Project, the Columbia Gas Line 1570, the Dominion Hub III Project, the Texas Eastern Temax project (crosses the entire county to the East Coast and includes the Holbrook Compressor Station Upgrade) and the Equitrans H-147 Line Replacement. Questions were asked such as what is the largest diameter pipeline in the county and if Right-of-Ways are wider for transmission lines. It was also asked if a map could be made to show all the pipelines by size in the county and in relation to property owners. It was explained that security issues may make some of that information inaccessible. All available information will be found and reported at the next meeting.

- b. Lisa said that she and Becky met with the Budget Committee, Mr. Headlee and Mr. Kenney, to review and draft a budget (attached). The draft was mailed with the meeting notices. She noted that the NPDES funds and E&S review fees have significantly fallen off since DEP is now reviewing many of the oil and gas projects. **After discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the proposed budget for 2010. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Mr. Kenney explained that the account at First National Bank was established to earn a higher interest rate, however, in the last few months, that rate has plummeted. The committee discussed checking with other banks on their rates and Lisa said that this information will be presented at the January meeting.

- c. Lisa also presented the Annual Plan of Operations for 2010 (attached). **After discussion, a motion was made by Dave Coder to approve the Annual Plan of Operations. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- d. **After discussion, a motion was made by Dave Coder to donate the chemicals used for the West Nile Virus Program to the state. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- e. Mary Jane discussed the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program. She said that Monongahela Township has completed their projects on Sugar Grove and Kiger Hill Roads and they are ready for final payment. She presented new

contracts for Gray Run Road in Washington Township and Shoe String Road in Morris Township.

- f. After several inquiries from farmers, Laurel attended the Project Grass meeting and asked if a Grazing Calendar was available. After several meetings, it was determined that there was enough interest to warrant a project through the RC&D Core 4 Program **After discussion, a motion was made by Archie Trader to submit a proposal to Penn's Corner RC&D for the calendar project. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

IX. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff Reports were submitted with the meeting notices. Additionally, Robbie said that at the last meeting, it was said that we were unable to acquire Water Management Plans from DEP. Abbie Owoc said that she would check into this and we have received one plan. Work is being done to map the drilling sites for Thursday's public meeting. Under the Obama administration, the EPA is becoming much more scrutinizing with mining, drilling, and water quality issues. A new group has formed in Region III and public reports have appeared regarding mountain top mining. Additional information is being received regarding water treatment of Marcellus Shale waste water and interest has been expressed in building a facility in the county. The Commissioners have submitted two requests to Congressman Murtha's office for federal authorizations. One for the opportunity to create systems similar to the "Steel Shaft", where the AMD water is being pumped out and used in the fracturing process. The other for a sewage treatment system in concert with an AMD treatment system. She explained that Federal Authorization provides no funding; it goes before Congress for consideration. Laurel introduced Bill Cree, Jr., Chairman of the Farmland Preservation, to the group. Mr. Cree said that Laurel was a valuable asset to their board and thanked her and the Conservation District Board for all their help.

X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

John Scott – John said that his department was not hit as hard with the second round of layoffs. He briefly mentioned the problems of the dairy industry.

Suzy Petery – Suzy reported that field reviews are being completed for the Conservation Stewardship Program. The deadline for getting these projects to contract has been extended to January. Also, contracts will be put out for the Phase II Study for the proposed Dam Removal Project on Dunkard Creek. Construction is being completed as well as cover crop verifications. Before closing, Suzy introduced her co-workers, Laura Smith and Kim Moninger.

XI. The next Regular Meeting will be January 19th

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Commissioner Coder announced that Chairman Rice will be retiring as Chairman at the end of the year. The group gave him a round of applause for his 44 years of service. Chairman Rice expressed his gratitude and declared the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer