

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting

February 26, 2008

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rice at 10:10 a.m. at the Mezzanine Conference Room of the Fort Jackson Building, Waynesburg, PA. Directors present included J. Robert Rice, Chairman; Bradley Eisiminger, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; Dave Coder, Commissioner Representative; Jim Kenney, Director; Jim Cowell, Director; Frank Blaker, Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director. Guests and District staff present were Pam Snyder, Commissioner; Archie Trader, Commissioner; Farley Toothman, County Solicitor; Gene Lee, Chief Clerk; Robbie Matesic, Director, Economic Development; Chuck Kubasik, Field Representative; John Scott, Regional Director, PA Department of Agriculture; Bobbi Bailey, Coordinator, Penn's Corner RC&D; Suzy Petery, SDC, NRCS; Chris Hardie, Planner, Economic Development; Martin Niverth, District Manager; Lisa Snider, Assistant District Manager/Watershed Specialist; Todd Klaner, Resource Specialist; Mary Jane Kent, Administrative Assistant to Program Support; and Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer.

Following the call to order, the board entered in to Executive Session.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Following the Executive Session, the meeting resumed with no public comments.

### III. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Suzy Petery – Suzy gave a brief report stating that there is still no federal budget or Farm Bill and that one staff position has been lost in the three county area. Assistant, Jennifer Firestone, is now working on a part time basis. All Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applicants have been finished utilizing all the funding. Even though there is no Farm Bill, plans are to accept applications and complete evaluations early.

Chuck Kubasik – Chuck announced two meeting dates. The Regional Directors meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> and the DEP Roundtable on April 4<sup>th</sup>. He

also said that Bob Ritchie of Cambria County is the new PACD Regional Director replacing Bill Slosky.

John Scott – Regarding the REAP program, John said that one application for Greene County has been approved. Martin noted he received correspondence stating that two Greene County applications were approved. Chuck added that \$10 million has been allocated for next year’s program with applications available in July. In closing, John mentioned the “Milk Can Program”, an educational program for elementary school students.

Bobbi Bailey – Bobbi was present to discuss the Ten Mile Rivers Conservation Plan and offered to wait and meet with Robbie later. Martin explained to Commissioners Coder and Trader that funding for the Rivers Conservation Plan was received in 2004 and he has been meeting with Robbie to move forward. This plan will be used as a tool of the Comprehensive Plan. Bobbi said that Penn’s Corner has been holding \$30,000 received from John Dawes for the plan and that \$15,000 has been on hold since 2004. Bobbi also said that if this money was not used soon, the funding would be lost and requested that the board work to move the project forward.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**On a motion by Tom Headlee and a second by Jim Kenney, the minutes of the January meeting were approved. (Motion Passed)**

V. TREASURER’S REPORT

**On a motion by Bradley Eisiminger and a second by Dave Coder, the Treasurer’s Reports were approved with the following additions.**

General Fund

- CK 263 Supermail – Newsletter Postage - \$ 144.25
- CK 264 Ford Business – Qtr. Copier - \$213.70
- CK 265 Hot Rods – Meeting Lunches
- CK 266 Laurel Rush – Expenses - \$93.61
- CK 267 Ramada Inn – WV Small Farms Conf. - \$147.84

NPDES/CWF

- CK 152 Todd Klaner – Expenses - \$94.58

Dirt and Gravel Roads

- CK 198 County of Greene – Laptop Insurance & Case - \$395.53

## VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Martin read a letter from Penn's Corner requesting a donation to the annual Grassland Evaluation Contest. He said that \$250.00 was donated last year. **A motion was made by Jim Kenney to donate \$250.00 and Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- b. Martin also read the letter from Penn State regarding the 2008 Conservation Leadership School. Lisa explained that last year she contacted Foundation Coal and they provided funding to sponsor a student to the school. **A motion was made by Tom Headlee to continue with the program this year. Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- c. Martin presented information regarding PACD's Capitol Day. The event will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> with a registration deadline of March 11<sup>th</sup>. He explained that the legislative event is held to provide an opportunity for Districts, specifically directors, to voice their concerns. Chuck urged attendance stating that conservation district funding cuts are proposed in next year's budget. Any director interested in attending should contact the office.
- d. Action on Child Fest was tabled to the next meeting.
- e. Martin read a letter from Troy Bishopp, speaker at the recent field day, commending us for the event.
- f. The last item of correspondence brought before the board was the Northeast Grassstravaganza to be held March 28 and 29 in Binghamton, NY. Anyone interested in attending should contact the office.

## VII. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

No Requests for Assistance forms were received.

The mini grant application of Isaac W. Pierce was presented for review and approval. Suzy said that the application was accepted at a previous meeting; however, she and Laurel had not visited the site. A visit has since been made, and the site was found to meet the requirements of the grant. The application for \$1,000 is for the installation of a spring development. **A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve this mini grant. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The matter of the signs, tabled from last month's meeting, was brought before the board for discussion. Martin explained that the original discussion was to install signs for awardees, BMP installers, and the "boundaries of the Conservation District". Plans are to apply for a grant through WREN and after speaking to them, it was decided to concentrate on farm signs only since the two were totally unrelated and because of the difficulty with sign placement on Penn DOT Right-A-Ways. Martin said that another funding source will be sought for the boundary signs.
- b. Martin read the response letter from FSA regarding the CRP Program and stream crossings in areas five acres or less. They appreciate our concern and the letter states that they are not arbitrarily denying all crossings that access pastures of 5 acres or less, but rather requiring that additional justification be submitted. Contact information was included should additional information be needed.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Martin referred discussion of the computer purchase for the Ag Manager to Todd. Todd stated that Laurel's computer is very old and no longer meets her needs. He estimates the cost of a computer and accessories to be from \$1,000 to \$1,500. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to purchase a new computer for the Ag Manager's position. Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- b. Lisa gave an update on the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program. At the last meeting, approval was granted to encumber \$63,000 of program funds and consequently, Greene Township revised their contract for the Falls Hollow site. The contract, a total of \$67,348.14, includes 120' of 24" pipe, 40' of 18" pipe, 800' of textile, 1.1 miles of dirt and gravel roads mix, rip rap of inlets, a 700' prewrapped under drain, a 200' French mattress, and the rental of a paver. Lisa also said that one half of the contract funding will be needed up front.

She also said that she and Mary Jane have been working to schedule training in Greene County and with Jackson Township on their contract.

**A motion was made by Dave Coder to provide one half of the contract cost upfront to Greene Township. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- c. The next item of business discussed was the PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) Annual Convention to be held May 11-14. Mary Jane attends this event annually on behalf of the County Association and has registered to attend this year as well. Since many of the conference workshops relate to work at the Conservation District, the board was asked to consider paying for part of the costs. The estimated cost is \$1,070.76 for a 4 night stay, meals, and mileage.

Also discussed was the matter of Mary Jane taking vacation for the convention.

**After discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to pay for one half of the costs. Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- d. Suzy reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between the District, NRCS and the SCC that was signed in 1995. She went on to say that the purpose of the agreement is to realize the partnership between the federal, state, and local entities for conserving our natural resources. The local entity being the conservation district board should reflect the citizens it represents. In Greene County, there should be representation from various entities such as male, female, and minorities. She noted that the resignation of Mrs. Cowen resulted in the loss of female representation and she hoped that this will be considered in the future. Training is mutually provided through the agreement. In closing, she briefly reviewed the other items in the agreement.
- e. Discussion of the nominating organizations was done in Executive Session.
- f. **After brief discussion, a motion was made by Dave Coder to table action on the poster contest until further information is acquired. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

#### X. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were distributed with the meeting notices. Additionally, the Field Day was briefly discussed.

Prior to adjournment, Chris Hardie briefly mentioned a system in the county, "Nexus Greene" for the distribution of public notices. Public notices regarding planning issues are reviewed by his office and a reply is forwarded on.

#### XI. The next regular meeting will be March 18<sup>th</sup>

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rice at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer