

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting

January 15, 2008

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rice at 10:00 a.m. at the Mezzanine Conference Room, 19 South Washington St., Waynesburg, PA. Directors present were J. Robert Rice, Chairman; Bradley Eisiminger, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; Jim Cowell, Director; Jim Kenney, Director; Judy Gardner, Newly Appointed Director; Bob Andrew, Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director. Guests present included Dave Coder, Commissioner; Gene Lee, Chief Clerk; Chuck Kubasik, Field Representative; Suzy Petery, SDC, NRCS; Chris Hardie, Planner, Economic Development Office; Jim O'Connell, Guest; and Frank Blaker, Guest. District staff in attendance were Lisa Snider, Assistant Manager/Watershed Specialist; Todd Klaner, Resource Specialist; Laurel Rush, Ag Manager; Mary Jane Kent, Administrative Assistant to Program Support; and Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer.

### II. OATH OF OFFICE

Commissioner Coder administered the Oath of Office to reappointed director Jim Kenney and newly appointed director Judy Gardner.

### III. REORGANIZATION

**Chairman Rice opened the floor for the nomination of Chairman. Jim Kenney nominated J. Robert Rice and Judy Gardner seconded. (Motion Passed)**

**For the Office of Vice Chairman, Jim Cowell nominated Bradley Eisiminger and Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

**For the Office of Secretary, Jim Kenney nominated Judy Gardner and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

**For the Office of Treasurer, Judy Gardner nominated Tom Headlee and Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

**On a motion by Judy Gardner; Bob Andrew, Frank Blaker, Greg Hopkins, and Bill Wentzel were approved as Associate Directors. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments were received.

Chairman Rice inquired about the status of the District Manager and he was informed that he will be calling in later.

#### V. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Suzy Petery – Suzy reported that December was a busy month with 43 Conservation Reserve Program (CREP) contracts written in the three county area. Thirteen of those were in Greene County for approximately 320 acres. The program has been extended until the middle of March. Regarding the EQIP program, 5 farmers may be funded under various contracts including cover crops, no-till, a grazing system, and a livestock operation.

Chuck Kubasik – Chuck gave an update on the REAP program stating that \$10 million dollars was allocated for the program and 160 applications have been received for approximately \$6.7 million dollars. He advised anyone interested in applying to do so soon. Chuck announced that the next Regional Roundtable Meeting will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Westmoreland Conservation District Office.

Chris Hardie – Chris gave a brief report mentioning our review of the Agriculture Section of the Comprehensive Plan. He also said that Washington and Morris Townships have started the process of a Multi-Municipal Plan with hopes that Richhill, Center, and Gray Townships will also join.

#### VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

**On a motion by Jim Kenney, the minutes of the special meeting held on December 11<sup>th</sup> were approved with the following correction. Under New Business regarding the Cowell nutrient management plan, the addition of John Hewitt reviewed the plan and recommended approval per reciprocal agreement. Judy Gardner seconded. (Motion Passed)**

#### VII. TREASURER'S REPORTS

**On a motion by Jim Kenney and a second by Judy Gardner, the Treasurer's Reports were approved with the following additions.**

General Fund

CK 238 Scotty's Pizza – Meeting Lunches - \$77.48

CK 239 Laurel Rush – Expenses – \$19.50

CK 240 Becky Salosky – Expenses - \$29.32

NPDES-CWF

CK 149 Todd Klaner – Expenses - \$82.45

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Lisa stated that an orientation will be held for the Floodplain Monitoring Program on February 13<sup>th</sup> in Enola, PA and Martin has requested that Mary Jane and she attend. She went on to further explain that funding, in the range of \$5,000-\$7,000 per year, will be available to Districts through contracts with DCED. The current rates are four hundred and twenty five dollars per community assistance contract or community assistance visit. This orientation will be held for Districts to become aware of the program and to make an informed decision as to whether they want to be involved.

**On a motion by Judy Gardner, approval was granted to Lisa and Mary Jane to attend the conference and Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- b. Becky distributed the State Ethics Forms to the directors for completion.
- c. **A motion was made by Tom Headlee to make a \$100 contribution to the Envirothon and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

IX. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

No Requests for Assistance forms were received.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Laurel stated that action on the signs was on hold until next month.
- b. Lisa stated that the proposed changes in the Dirt and Gravel Roads Quality Assurance Board were mailed to the Directors for review. The old proposal called for a minimum of two voting members which she changed to allow a minimum of three voting members. QAB members will be J.

Robert Rice, Voting Member; Suzy Petery, Voting Member; Tom Crist, Voting Member; Martin Niverth, Voting Member; Lisa Snider, Alternate Voting Member and Mary Jane Kent, Non-Voting Member.

**A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve this change and Judy Gardner seconded. (Motion Passed)**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Lisa also said that the proposed Dirt and Gravel Roads Application Policy was also mailed for review. She explained that it will be mailed to the Township Supervisors and Mary Jane will attend township meetings to explain the program. She also said that in the past, an application deadline was never established. The written policy will set a deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup> and it will explain how projects are ranked.

**A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the policy and Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- b. Also, regarding the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program, Lisa reported that two gentlemen, who administer the state program, are coming here today to tour the township roads which have been submitted for funding. She also said that approximately \$63,000 (unspent funds from the 04-06 programs) must be committed by the end of January in order to receive next year's allocation. The two townships that have made application and ranked as first and second were Greene and Jackson. Lisa said that Greene Township's application for \$37,000 was approved by the QAB last year, but with the rising fuel costs, a bonding issue, and the scope of work, she was uncertain if the project could be done for that amount. The Jackson Township site ranked second, according to the QAB Minutes, but no cost estimates were submitted. Since there is not enough time to accept additional applications, the decision was made to fund the second ranked project. Lisa also said that a new laptop is needed for the program and after checking; Todd estimated that about \$4,000 would be needed.

**After discussion, a motion was made by Judy Gardner to do what ever was necessary to get the \$63,000 encumbered, including the purchase a laptop. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- c. At this point in the meeting Martin called and gave an update on his status.
- d. Laurel presented the 2008 Nutrient Management Delegation Agreement for continuation of the program. She stated that the agreement provides the same funding as last year, \$14,700.

**After discussion, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve the agreement and Judy Gardner seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- e. Laurel reported that she has scheduled a Field Day for January 30<sup>th</sup> and distributed a preliminary agenda. Plans are to invite two speakers, Troy Bishop and Ron Gargas. She estimates that \$1,500 will be needed to hold the event which would include expenses for the speaker and food. She asked the board for their thoughts on whether there should be a charge for the attendees. She has solicited the neighboring counties as well as Project Grass for assistance; however, no decision has been made. After discussion, the board decided not to charge attendees, but if vendors are invited to require a charge.

**A motion was made by Jim Cowell to sponsor the field day with an approximate expenditure of \$1,500. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- f. Lisa distributed information regarding the redesignation of Grinnage Run in Gray and Richhill Townships from a high quality watershed to a warm water fishery. As discussed at a previous meeting, Consol has petitioned the Environmental Quality Board for this change. Data sources were discussed such as Waynesburg and California Universities, and Joel Folman. After discussion, Lisa was instructed to draft a letter expressing our concerns and to notify Representative DeWeese and Senator Stout's offices, Tony Shaw, Chief Water Quality Monitoring Section of DEP and the newspaper.

## XII. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Lisa, Todd and Laurel's reports were distributed with the meeting notices. Additionally, Todd gave an update on the 102/105 program. In 2007, 124 projects were completed for fees of \$30,175.00 and an additional \$4,625 for the new accelerated rate. Twelve NPDES permits and/or revisions were processed for fees of \$3,250 and 113 general permits were processed. As of January 8<sup>th</sup>, plans have been received for two projects for fees of \$775 and two general permits were processed.

**On a motion by Judy Gardner, approval was granted to Laurel to attend Southwestern Regional Tillage Conference in Greensburg with the expense of \$25.00 for registration and for mileage. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Laurel also reported that she will be attending the Project Grass Meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> and that she and Martin have registered to attend a seminar on Preparing Communities for Agro Terrorism. Also, Laurel distributed a survey requesting comments on a self assessment planning tool. She said that she discussed the purchase of a new computer with Martin as hers is probably the oldest in the office. She said that she did budget money in the Nutrient Management Program for this purpose and could look at other funding options as well. In closing, Laurel said that she received two REAP applications and she has submitted all the necessary paperwork to encumber a farm under the Farmland Preservation program

XIII. The Next Regular Meeting will be February 19<sup>th</sup>

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Rice at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer