

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting

January 20, 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 Mezzanine Conference Room, Fort Jackson Building, Waynesburg, PA. Directors present were J. Robert Rice, Chairman; Bradley Eisiminger, Vice Chairman; Jim Cowell, Secretary; Dave Coder, Commissioner Representative; Archie Trader, Director; and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director. Guests and District staff in attendance included Robbie Matesic, Director, Economic Development; Chris Hardie, Planner, Economic Development; John Scott, Regional Director, PA Department of Agriculture; Martin Niverth, District Manager; Lisa Snider, Assistant District Manager/Watershed Specialist; Laurel Rush, Ag Manager; Dustin Teegarden, Resource Specialist; and Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer.

### II. OATH OF OFFICE

Commissioner Coder administered the Oath of Office to reappointed Director Bradley Eisiminger.

### III. REORGANIZATION

**Provided there were no objections, a motion was made by Archie Trader to reappoint all officers who served last year. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed Unanimously). The 2009 officers are as follows: J. Robert Rice, Chairman; Bradley Eisiminger, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; and Jim Cowell, Secretary.**

**A motion was made by Jim Cowell to appoint Bob Andrew, Frank Blaker, Greg Hopkins, and William Wentzel to serve as Associate Directors for a one year term. Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**On a motion by Jim Cowell, the minutes of the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as mailed. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**

VI. TREASURER'S REPORTS

**On a motion by Archie Trader and a second by Dave Coder, the Treasurer's Reports were approved with the following additions.**

General Fund

Ck # 456 Scotty's Pizza – District Mtg. Lunch – Approx. \$80.00

Ck # 457 County of Greene – S.R. – Martin & Lisa – December Accrual - \$2,117.94

Ck # 458 County of Greene – S.R. – Laurel & Bill – December Accrual – \$1,553.82

Regarding the West Nile Virus account, Becky informed the board that \$15,000.00 is due to the General Fund for reimbursement of working capitol.

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to deposit the \$15,000 in the interest bearing account at First National Bank. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Martin said that the PA Envirothon is seeking donations and that the information will be sent to directors for review.
- b. The next item Martin discussed was the PACD List serve, a means of electronic notification. He asked that director's who wish to receive PACD notifications by e-mail, to include their name and e-mail addresses on the form being distributed.
- c. Martin presented information regarding the upcoming Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) Conference. He said that Mary Jane is interested in attending the conference with a registration cost of \$240.00. Martin feels that there are several topics that will be discussed

which would be of benefit to the Conservation District. They include township ordinances, the Open Records Law, and gas wells. **A motion was made Archie Trader to approve Mary Jane's attendance of the conference and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- d. The last item under correspondence discussed was the CDFAP, Administrative Assistance. Martin said that we have received our \$6,900.00 of funding. As discussed at the last meeting, the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter reimbursement for the cost sharing of the manager and technicians is still pending. He will try to determine its status at the Staff Conference he will be attending this week.

#### VIII. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Gene A. Saurborn – 94 acres – Perry & Whiteley Townships

**A motion was made by Dave Coder to accept this Request for Assistance. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

#### IX. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The next item discussed was the Memorandum of Understanding with the County. Martin stated that a meeting was held with the Committee in November and he distributed a copy (see attached) of the items discussed. He reviewed each item. Specifically, he mentioned Item 2, “in the event of an emergency” and the absence of an employee, additional employee responsibilities, the elimination of the Rivers Conservation Plan, the lack of a job description for the Assistant Manager and Mary Jane, and bonding. He will be working on the amendments and it should be ready for a vote at the next meeting. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to table action on this matter and allow Martin to continue working on the document. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Robbie urged completion of the document so it can be presented to Farley Toothman, County Solicitor, Gene Lee, and herself for review.

#### X. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Martin said that the West Nile Virus Contract in the amount of \$39,939.25 was approved. **After discussion, a motion was made by Dave Coder to begin the procedure to hire an individual for the**

**monitoring position. Bradley Eisiminger seconded.  
(Motion Passed)**

- b. Martin reported that he is currently working on an Annual Plan of Operations (APO), a budget, and an annual report. These proposals will be mailed to the directors prior to the February meeting for their review.
- c. Laurel discussed the next item of business, the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP). She said that the Ag Conservation Program and the Ag Easement Program were combined and she mailed a budget summary with the meeting notices. She explained that there is a small amount remaining in both programs that could be disencumbered and redistributed by the state. She estimates that approximately \$3,400.00 is remaining. **After discussion, a motion was made by Archie Trader to return these funds to the state. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**

XI. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Martin began the staff reports by distributing two reports. One, a summary of a recent meeting held to discuss the Dunkard Creek AMD Cooperative Treatment Project. The project is only conceptual at this point. Martin reviewed the second report, the manager's report and said that there has been talk of completely removing Conservation Districts from the review and permitting process. He will be attending the Staff Conference where this will be a topic of discussion. He will report his findings at the next meeting.

Lisa reported that the Dirt & Gravel Roads Reassessment has been completed. She has prepared a budget for this year's program for Martin's review and estimates to have about \$70,000 for projects. Two projects will be visited next week, Jackson and Washington Townships, and closed out. Regarding another matter, Lisa said that she has applied for funding for the work completed by Brian Ratica under the Floodplain Management Program.

Dustin said that he has heard that Oil and Gas Companies may be required to apply for ESCGP-1 permits for past sites. A property owner located on Tripp Hill Road has filed a complaint regarding a slip problem located at a CNX Gas well site. He said that it has been an ongoing problem and CNX has been on site to correct the problem. The site is vegetated, but it is still slipping and he feels that it may be an ongoing problem. He thanked Bill for his work in the field. Martin gave an example of the increase in the work load of the program. He said that in 2007, approximately \$26,000 was collected in fees for the 102/105 program and in 2008, approximately \$77,000.

On behalf of the Farmland Preservation Board and the Cree's, Laurel thanked the board for their recognition at our annual awards luncheon. Under the Project Grass Program, work continues on the Brian Sanders property with some fencing being completed. The deadline for project completion is June 30<sup>th</sup>. In closing, Laurel announced the following conferences: Appalachian Grazing Conference, March 6 & 7 at Lake View; No-Till Conference, February 28<sup>th</sup> in Westmoreland County; West Virginia Small Farms Conference, February 24-26 at the Ramada Inn, Morgantown; Northwest Grazing Conference, March 17<sup>th</sup> in Dubois; and the Fayette County Grazing Group on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. She plans to attend some of these meetings and offered to car pool and/or provide additional information.

## XII. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Chris Hardie – Chris distributed “Nexus Greene”, a listing of environmental projects and maps. He reviewed the three projects that will be brought to the Commission's next meeting. They include Foundation Coal's, Maple Run Airshaft/Portal; Coal Gas Recovery's DD-11 and DD-9 Compressor Stations in Wayne Township. Work continues on the Multi Municipal Plans. Southeastern Greene is in the middle of their 45 day review period and he thanked everyone for their comments. West Greene will be meeting in March and is focusing on housing. They will be applying for state funds through DCED. In a collaborative effort, Martin & Dustin have agreed to “walk” him through a couple of permits. The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance will be revised this year and will involve the Conservation District. In closing, he reported that at the Planning Commission's December meeting, their Chairman requested that a subcommittee on roads and infrastructure be formed and that this will also involve the Conservation District.

John Scott – John reported that due to budget cuts, they have requested that they reduce their regional office space and they would like them to partner with another agency. In closing, he noted that the Farm Show was held last week.

XIII. The next regular meeting will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup>

## XIV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Rice at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer

