

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

July 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, Fort Jackson Building, Waynesburg, PA. Directors present were J. Robert Robert Rice, Chairman; Bradley Eisiminger, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; Jim Kenney, Director; Jim Cowell, Director; Bob Andrew, Associate Director; Greg Hopkins, Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director. Guests and District staff in attendance included Abbey Falcone; Chief, DEP Assessment and Planning; Chuck Kubasik, DEP Field Representative; John Scott, Regional Director, PA Department of Agriculture; Suzy Petery, SDC, NRCS; Robbie Matesic, Director, Economic Development; Chris Hardie, Planner, Economic Development; Laurel Rush, Ag Manager; Todd Klaner, Resource Specialist; Dustin Teegarden, WNV Surveillance Monitor; Mary Jane Kent, Administrative Assistant for Program Support; April VanDruff, Intern; and Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer.

Mr. Kubasik introduced Abbey Falcone, Chief, DEP, Assessment and Planning and his supervisor.

Dustin Teegarden introduced himself as the new West Nile Virus Surveillance Monitor.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments were received.

III. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Suzy Petery – Suzy reported that construction season is in full swing. As discussed previously, work is being done with Consol to establish a Bob White Quail Habitat recovery area in Southeastern Greene County. Several years ago, the District signed on to cooperate in the project. Plans are to bring birds in around 2010. During her vacation, Rennie Stoy will serve as the Acting Supervisory District Conservationist and any administrative questions can be referred to him. Ken Kearns will be available for technical assistance.

Lastly, Suzy reported that in her field visits, she has found quite a bit of interest for the rental of the lime spreader.

Chuck Kubasik - Chuck distributed information regarding his activities and the Conservation District Law. He reported that DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty recently resigned and Joseph Powers will serve as the Acting Secretary, effective July 19th. He also reported that the state budget has passed with Conservation Districts not fairing very well. He explained that funding for Conservation Districts comes from two major sources, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Resources. The Department of Agriculture funding remained that same as last year at \$1.66 million; however the Nutrient Management Funding was cut. Last year the program was funded at \$3.28 million and now will receive \$3.27 with a projected amount needed at \$5 million. He said that tough decisions will have to be made regarding this shortfall. Funding for the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) will remain the same at \$10 million and applications will be accepted beginning August 4th. The Chesapeake Bay Program was cut from \$3.4 million to \$3.36 million. The Conservation District Funding Allocation Program (CDFAP), the funding for staff salaries and administrative expenses, remained the same for the last 6 years at \$3.6 million.

As part of the budget process, Chuck reported that the first major rewrite of ACT 217, the Conservation District Law, Senate Bill 1020 was approved. He highlighted some of the major changes and they include changes in director appointments that will require one nominee instead of two, the flexibility to the county to require that directors be county residents, a 6 month deadline for director appointments, and associate directors with 2 or more years of experience can be appointed to fill an unexpired term.

In closing, Chuck announced that next year's Envirothon will be held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown on May 18th and 19th with the subject of current events being "Bio Diversity in a Changing World." Also, he commended the District staff for their work on the county competition.

John Scott - John was happy to see that the REAP funding remained the same in the budget and that we have two projects in Greene County. Regarding Bio Security, he found that on large poultry and hog farms, truck tires are washed in a "foot bath".

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Bradley Eisiminger and a second by Tom Headlee, the minutes of the June 17th meeting were approved as mailed. (Motion Passed)

V. TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Jim Cowell and a second by Bradley Eisiminger, the Treasurer's Reports were approved with the following additions.

General Fund

Ck #347 Scotty's Pizza – District Mtg. Lunches - \$77.87
Ck #348 Bradley Eisiminger – District Mtg. Travel - \$29.82
Ck #349 Jim Cowell – District Mtg. Travel - \$47.84
Ck #350 Bob Andrew – District Mtg. Travel - \$19.80

NPDES/CWF

Ck #170 Todd Klaner – Expenses - \$78.28
Ck #171 Bill Wentzel – Expenses - \$84.89

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Laurel announced that the Annual Meeting of the Wheeling Creek Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Commission will be held at 10:00 a.m. July 17th at the Cabela's Store in Tridelfia. She said that our county representatives on the Commission are Farley Toothman and Martin Niverth. Since Lisa is on vacation, Robbie volunteered to attend the meeting.
- b. Laurel stated that she mailed a copy of the Penn's Corner Annual Work Plan for review and comment.
- c. **A motion was made by Tom Headlee to participate as a sponsor with a \$150 donation to Waynesburg University's Homecoming Race. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

VII. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

No Request for Assistance forms were received.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Because modifications are needed and a personnel issue is involved, Robbie asked that discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding with the County be postponed until Executive Session. She went on to explain that she would like to include the work on the storm water management plan, work with the planning commission, and work under the Annual

Plan of Operations. She said that the Memorandum of Understanding was accepted by the Commissioners with these comments and that an addendum can be added. The District will have 30 days to approve these changes.

- b. Laurel presented figures for the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP). She explained that there are three separate agreements to provide funding for the following. Salaries of the District Manager, First Technician, Second Technician, the Conservation Easement Program; and the Agricultural Technician Program.

Chuck added that since there has been no increases in the budget, and there is a maximum cost share of \$27,000 for managers and \$16,500 for technicians, the percentage of funding for the salaries is more like 42% for the manager and 38% for the technicians instead of the 50% percent stated.

After discussion, a motion was made Jim Kenney to approve the agreement for the salaries of the Manager and Technicians and Bradley Eisiminger seconded.

The next program agreement discussed was the Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance (ACT) Program which provides 50% of the ACT Technician's salary through CDFAP. **A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve this agreement and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

The last agreement provides funding under CDFAP for the Agricultural Easement Program (Farmland Preservation) for a Level II delegation. Laurel stated that funding was cut from \$9,000 to \$5,000. **A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve this agreement and Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- c. Mary Jane discussed the next item of business, the Dirt and Gravel Roads contract revisions for Monongahela Township. She said that the contract is \$1,300 less than the one presented at last month's meeting. **After discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve this contract revision. Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- d. In Lisa's absence, Laurel presented the Floodplain Monitoring Contract. The contract was approved at the last meeting; however Laurel said that a slight change was made breaking the funding down on an annual basis.

Robbie went on to explain that it's a standard agreement with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to provide funding for visits to municipalities with floodplains in the county. She said that all the municipalities in the county have floodplains, with the exception of Jefferson Borough, making the total 25.

A minimum of two visits per municipality is required to discuss the floodplains. This information will then be used by FEMA to revise maps to include aerial photos and contours. Draft maps will be available this spring and will be distributed to us and the municipalities with a 90 day review period to request modifications. If it is determined that homes, structures, etc. are at risk, \$150,000 of funding is available through Senator Stout's and Representative DeWeese's offices to do an engineering analysis.

A motion was made by Bradley Eisiminger to approve the revised contract. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)

- e. The next item of business discussed was the lime spreader. Jim Kenney reported that he and Laurel met last week to draft bidding specifications and they were distributed. Laurel added that Gene Lee informed her that the bid must be advertised for a minimum of 20 days with the last notice appearing 7 days prior to the bid opening. He suggested that a 10% bid bond be required payable to the County of Greene, and that the bids be opened in the Controllers office.

He also said the bids should be general enough to allow anyone to bid and that bid requests can be mailed directly. Questions were asked regarding the financing, rental agreement, storage, the number of wet lime suppliers, pricing, sampling comparisons, educational events, and newsletter response. Jim Kenney said that the project will be funded by the general fund, stored at Mr. Cowell's, and that a rental agreement must be written. Laurel said that an educational field day is planned this fall and that one call of interest was received. Mr. Scott suggested that brake lights be required as a bid specification.

After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to advertise for bid. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)

- f. Laurel stated that she received the PACD Mini Grant Agreement, approved at last month's meeting, and it was presented for Chairman Rice's signature.

- g. As an update, the bell chime purchased from Wayne Lumber was returned and another bought at Radio Shack which is working well.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. On Lisa's behalf, Laurel reported that an extension of the Environmental Education Grant for the Alternative Energy Project was approved to June 30, 2009. She also said the program is tentatively scheduled for March.
A motion was made by Bradley Eisiminger to approve this extension. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)
- b. Mary Jane announced that the Dirt and Gravel Roads Workshop will be held October 1-3 in Ligonier. Since registration is not due until September, action on this matter was tabled until Lisa is present. Chuck noted that Quality Assurance Board members as well as other staff members are also welcome.

X. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Robbie began the staff reports announcing that the Emergency Service Agency will be sponsoring a seminar regarding Pandemics on Thursday from 4:00 to 7:00 at Waynesburg University. She also reported that the public comment period is now closed for the Comprehensive Plan and a public hearing will be held tomorrow at 10:00 at the high school. She commended the District staff for their comments and Chris Hardie for his compilation. The comments will be included in the plan and submitted to the Commissioners for their adoption on August 7th. Work continues with the municipalities in the West Greene area to develop a comprehensive plan with all but two townships participating. Work is also being done to obtain funding to assist townships with fiscal difficulties and also hold a seminar with Tim Kelsey, a Professor at Penn State, tentatively scheduled for August 26th or 27th. She invited directors and staff to attend and will be mailing a notice.

Robbie also discussed the integration of the Stormwater Management Plan, the Floodplain Monitoring Grant, and the Rivers Conservation Plan. Separate checklists have been developed and are completed for each township visited by two recently hired interns. She said that the Rivers Conservation Grant will require the work of a consultant and that the \$130,000 allocated must have a match of that much staff time. She also said that Lisa worked with DCNR to write an advertisement to request qualification packages from consultants and she asked the board for their approval to publish the ad.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to advertise and Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)

Robbie announced that a workshop to discuss natural gas exploration and land leases will be held on July 21st at the Carmichaels High School. There is a registration fee of \$10.00.

Also, Community Bank is planning a tri-county seminar regarding oil and gas tentatively scheduled for September 18th at Carmichaels Fire Hall. She said that the goal is to bring industry, regulatory, and education together for the event which they have asked the Commissioners to co-sponsor.

Chris distributed an update of the “Nexus Greene” Inventory, containing the public notices.

Jim Cowell requested an update on Martin and Robbie said that it will be discussed in Executive Session.

Dustin distributed his report. Additionally, he reported that he started on May 28th and missed that last meeting due to training. He briefly reviewed the report stating that the first page contains a list of sample numbers. Thus far, the mosquitoes tested from Greene County have all been negative with the closest positive being found in Allegheny County. The only site in Greene County with high numbers is located in Wana B. Park in Carmichaels with 92 mosquitoes being found. The site was treated to kill the juvenile mosquitoes, however, Ed Farrell, did not feel that adulticiding was necessary at this time.

Todd and Laurel’s reports were distributed with the meeting notices and both asked for questions.

Mary Jane briefly reported that a demonstration of the installation of a “French Mattress” was done on July 8th in Greene Township under the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program.

Bill reported that he started working on May 30th and thanked the District for the opportunity. He has been working 2 mornings a week for about 8 hours. Thus far, he has inspected pipelines and 3 building sites and found that the wet weather has made it difficult for contactors.

XI. The Next Regular Meeting will be **August 19th**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Rice recessed the meeting at 12:00 to enter Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer

