

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting

June 16, 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 of the Fort Jackson Building, Waynesburg, PA. Directors present were J. Robert Rice, Chairman; Bradley Eisiminger, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; Jim Cowell, Secretary; Dave Coder, Commissioner Representative; Jim Kenney, Director; Archie Trader, Director; Greg Hopkins, Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director. Guests and District Staff in attendance included Terri Davin, Guest; Chuck Kubasik, Field Representative, John Scott, Regional Director, PA Department of Agriculture; Gene Lee, Chief Clerk; Tracy Zivkovich; Director, Human Resources; Robbie Matesic, Executive Director, Planning and Development; Chris Hardie, Planner, Planning and Development; Martin Niverth, Research Associate, Planning and Development; Suzy Petery, SDC, NRCS; Laurel Rush, Ag Manager; Dustin Teegarden, Environmental Program Specialist; Lindsay Kozlowski, WNV Coordinator; Mary Jane Kent, Administrative Assistant for Program Support; and Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer.

### II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**A motion was made by Dave Coder to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**

**Following the Executive Session, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to reconvene the meeting and Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Terri Davin was present to discuss the petition to downgrade the South Fork of Ten Mile Creek. She said that she has been working with other organizations to scientifically oppose the downgrade. She distributed examples of what was sent in for Grinnage Run which Consol has petitioned to downgrade. She said that DEP has

not yet commented on the Grinnage Run redesignations. She also said that Penn Future, Mountain Watershed Association, and the Center for Coalfield Justice have obtained funding to hire consultants to write the document and to do sampling. She asked the board to endorse a support letter stating that we support the organization and the document for keeping the Holbrook area the high quality watershed that it is. She named the numerous other groups (Waynesburg Borough, Morgan Township, Cornerstone Care, and Watershed Groups) who have made an endorsement. **The board felt that they needed time to review the document so a motion was made by Jim Kenney to table action on this matter until July. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Terri stated that when she gets the compiled report she will bring it to the office or it can be accessed through Penn Future's website. She also said that she has a deadline of June 22<sup>nd</sup> to gather all the endorsements. In order to meet the June 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline, a phone poll was discussed. ***A motion was made by Archie Trader to give the board an opportunity to review the documents and take a phone poll on Friday. Jim Kenney seconded. Since a previous motion was made to table action on this matter until July, this motion was rescinded by Jim Kenney and Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)***

***A motion was then made by Jim Kenney to reinstate the original motion to table action and Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)***

***To clarify: Action on this matter is tabled.***

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**On a motion by Archie Trader, the minutes of the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved as mailed. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

V. TREASURER'S REPORTS

**A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the Treasurer's Reports with the following additions. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)**

General Fund

Ck 560 Scotty's Pizza – District Meeting Lunch - \$78.00

NPDES/CWF

Ck 221 Bill Wentzel – Expenses - \$18.04

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Laurel read the thank you letter received from Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful for our \$250.00 contribution.

VII. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Lori A. Blackwell – Perry Township – 36 acres

**A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve this Request for Assistance. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Laurel also discussed the Mini Grants stating that last year approval was granted to Curt Hughes to complete a project under the program. He has not started the project, and when contacted, he wished to put the project on hold.

**Consequently, a motion was made by Archie Trader to rescind the Hughes Mini Grant and Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Laurel presented four Mini Grant applications each for \$1,000.00 from Ron Bland, Fred Juskowich, Larry Vogel and Morris/Miller. She said that all of the applications are for spring developments and all sites have been visited. **A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the Ron Bland, Fred Juskowich, Larry Vogel, and Morris/Miller Mini Grant applications. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed with one abstention, Jim Cowell, because he leases the Morris/Miller Farm)**

The Mini Grant application of Jeanne Williams was brought up separately since it was for a different type of project (surface water barn yard work). **A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve this application and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

**A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve payment of \$1,000 to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for work completed under the James Cowell Mini Grant of 2008. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed, with one abstention, Jim Cowell, the applicant)**

**Because the spring development was already installed, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to disapprove the Mini Grant application of Lori Blackwell. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)**

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Martin Niverth was present to discuss the next item, the request for funding to monitor streams in the Monongahela Watershed. This item was discussed at the last meeting and the board requested that a full budget for the project be obtained. Additional information was received and mailed to the board for their review. Martin reviewed some of the key points. He said that the total project cost is \$401,800 and they are looking for a \$15,000 contribution from the District. Most of the funds will be coming from the “Monongahela Project Rain”, a consortium of drinking water suppliers. He also named many of the others involved in the project and said that the original request was for \$17,000, but they were able to make reductions. The board had questions regarding exactly who was getting the money, if other Conservation Districts were participating, and the time frame of the sampling. Martin said that the PA Fish & Boat Commission is leading the study and he wasn’t sure if other Districts were contacted. **After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the expenditure of \$15,000.00 for the study provided that Fayette, Washington, and Allegheny Counties be contacted. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed with two oppositions, Jim Cowell and J. Robert Rice)**

Martin indicated that he will draft a letter to the surrounding counties. Chuck added that it may be difficult to get other Districts to contribute, since they are afraid of proposed state budget cuts.

- b. Martin also discussed the next item, tabled at the last meeting, the Resolution recognizing the Dunkard Creek Watershed Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) as the most critical water related environmental issue facing Greene County. At the

last meeting, the board asked that the Resolution be revised. **After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the Resolution provided that it is revised to state that Dunkard Creek Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) is one of the highest related environmental issues facing Greene County. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- c. The next item discussed was the payment of the \$1,726.00 for PACD dues. Becky read some of the services that they provide. Jim Kenney had attended a meeting regarding this matter gave his comments. **A motion was made by Jim Kenney to pay the PACD dues. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- d. Laurel discussed the next item, the Nutrient Management Program Budget. She included a budget comparison for 2008-2011 with her staff report that noted each year's reduction. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2009-2010 will be \$11,880 and 2010-2011 will \$11,575. She also said that it should cover her salary and benefits as they stand today, however, travel and administrative costs will probably not all be covered.
- e. The Carmichaels Envirothon Team finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the state competition with a total of 403 points. Also, they had the highest wildlife score in the competition. Delaware County won the competition.
- f. The Cambria County 4-H Team won the Grassland Evaluation Contest with a total of 878 points.
- g. Dustin discussed the next item, the ESCGP-1 land permits and Permit by Rule. He said that a letter was received from DEP's Acting Secretary, John Hanger regarding the transfer of responsibilities for 102 & 105 permits for oil and gas activities. He reviewed some of the highlights, one of which was the increased workload and the insufficient funding to handle it. He also said that it has significantly reduced the amount of review fees we receive. Chapter 102, Erosion and Sediment Control and Storm water Management is being revised to include the Permit by Rule. The Permit by Rule is a new permitting option for

low impact projects. Laurel added that revisions will also be made under the agricultural section.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The proposed budget for 2009 was distributed with the meeting packets. Members of the budget committee, Mr. Headlee and Mr. Kenney briefly explained the proposal. **After discussion, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve the budget and Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)**
  
- b. Suzy discussed the next item of business, the NRCS move to Fayette County. She said that she was asked to move from the office in the Fort Jackson Building and the decision was made to relocate to the Fayette County Service Center. She noted that some of the equipment owned by NRCS was left in Waynesburg. She also said that when the District and NRCS are not co-located they will make an extra effort to keep a flow of information. The move also included the federal server and arrangements were made to allow Laurel to use the one in Washington County. She asked that Laurel be permitted to do so and that she and/or another NRCS employee be permitted to come to the District office to work when they are in the county. Jim Cowell said that he was sorry to see NRCS leave and Jim Kenney and Chairman Rice echoed his sentiment.
  
- c. The Dirt and Gravel Roads Program was discussed next. Mary Jane distributed an addition to the minutes that were mailed with the meeting packets. The Quality Assurance Board recently visited several sites and are recommending that 2 sites be approved for new projects, final payment be made for 2 completed projects, and a 60 day extension be granted for Wayne Township. She also said that Aleppo Township has two ongoing projects with contracts through July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Kenney asked if Monongahela Township was going to complete their two projects. Mary Jane said that they were mailed a letter stating that they need to request an extension if they cannot complete the work in the contract period. **After discussion, a motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve the recommendations of the Quality Assurance Board. Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)**

- d. Laurel reported that one application was received to attend the Conservation Leadership School. She read parts of the letter that applicant, Samantha May, of Carmichaels Area High School submitted. **A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the application of Samantha May to attend the Conservation Leadership School. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**
  
- e. **A motion was made by Jim Cowell to pay the 2009 RC&D dues of \$300.00. Jim Kenney seconded. (Motion Passed)**
  
- f. Not appearing on the agenda were the proposed reductions to the West Nile Virus Program. Laurel read portions from the DEP news release stating that this year \$4.6 million was allocated and that all 67 counties were participating in the program. Senate Bill 850 proposes a 40 percent reduction in the program to \$2.8 million which may force DEP to eliminate counties from the program. Also included in the news release are proposed cuts for DEP by \$50 million, which would set the department back to the 1994 level.
  
- g. Mr. Cowell discussed the next item of business, the Penn's Corner RC&D Area Plan which a draft was distributed with the meeting packages. He said that a meeting will be held this Monday to discuss this item and asked for board input. After discussion, it was the board consensus that water issues should be the number one priority. Laurel said that one item Lisa felt should be included is abandoned mine drainage (AMD).
  
- h. Several trainings and meetings were discussed with the PACD/State Conservation Commission Joint Annual Conference being the first. This meeting will be held at the Ramada Conference Center, State College July 20-21 with a registration deadline of July 3<sup>rd</sup>. **A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve the attendance of one person should they choose to go. Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)**

The next meeting discussed was the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program meeting. Laurel said that attendance is mandatory if you wish to participate in the program. She also said that she attended last year's meeting and learned that the closest county with a problem is Somerset. She asked Bill Wentzel, Retired Forester, if he felt that we should attend and while he said that gypsy moths are

present in the county, the amounts are not excessive so we would probably not need to attend this year. He asked if we had appointed a Gypsy Moth Coordinator and said that each county is supposed to have one.

Laurel said that the Nutrient Management Specialist for Allegheny and Beaver Counties is hosting the Agricultural Odor Management and Morality Composting Training on June 30<sup>th</sup> in Cranberry. In lieu of charging registration fees for employees in the surrounding counties, they are asking us to donate refreshments (bottled water, fruit tray, etc). **A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve the donation, not to exceed \$50.00. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

The Nutrient Management Annual Conference will be held on July 22<sup>nd</sup> in State College with a registration fee of \$30.00 and travel costs. **On a motion by Jim Kenney, approval was granted to allow Laurel to attend the above conference. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

The last meeting discussed, was the Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Boot Camp August 3-6 at Fort Indiantown Gap. Dustin also asked that Mr. Wentzel be permitted to attend as well. **Since additional information is forthcoming, the matter was tabled until the July meeting.**

#### X. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were submitted with the meeting packets. Lindsay Kozlowski, was introduced as our new West Nile Virus Monitor. Chairman Rice asked if traps were being set in the Western part of the County. Lindsay said that she has placed a trap in the Holbrook area and that her report does not reflect that since it was mailed last week.

Additionally, Dustin reported that a complaint was received last year regarding a pollution problem on Woodland Avenue in Waynesburg. At the time, it appeared that the problem was minimal with some sort of herbicide that had possibly leaked. Since that time, about nine homes are being impacted by what they feel was some type of a runoff event. He recently visited the site and has been in contact with Dave Planinsek of DEP who plans to send a soil scientist to take soil samples. He will report further on this matter at future meetings.

Laurel reported that progress is being made on the Washington Township Ag Security Area and that she has completed the soils inventory for people who wanted to be added. Yesterday was the deadline to submit modifications to the township.

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

Suzy Petery – Since Suzy had to leave, she gave her report earlier in the meeting. She said that work is being done to complete contracts for Farm Bill Programs with 7 or possibly 8 Greene County landowners. Kim Moninger has been hired as a Support Assistant as a part-time intermittent employee. West Greene FFA placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the Penn State Land Judging Competition. Next spring they will travel to Oklahoma to compete in the national competition. PACD Engineers will be visiting two Ruff Creek landowners tomorrow to complete an inventory and evaluation for stream bank rehabilitation/restoration work. Under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, nationwide 200 applications were received with 5 sites in Pennsylvania being approved. They are located in Greene, Westmoreland, Delaware, and Chester Counties. In closing, Suzy announced that a Wildlife and Forestry workshop will be held tonight at DEP's building located on Old Salem Road near Uniontown in Fayette County at 6:30 p.m.

Greg Hopkins asked why the NRCS office was moved. See attached correspondence.

Chris Hardie – Chris said that two projects will be discussed at the July Planning Commission meeting, a bleeder shaft and the Pursley Substation both in Center Township. Work continues on the West Greene Multi Municipal Plan with a consultant to be on board soon. An increase has been seen in the use of "Nexus Greene", a public notice system. Work also continues on the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) with a specific rewrite of the storm water section which they will be working with the Conservation District.

Chuck Kubasik – Chuck apologized for being unable to attend our local Envirothon, but he did have the opportunity to assist Tom Crist in preparing the Carmichaels team for the state competition. He distributed the State Water Plan which is rewritten every five years. New Director Handbooks and new Act 217 Amendments are also being published and will be distributed at the next meeting. Mike Klimkos, Director of the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program, will be retiring on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for submitting applications for the Resource Enhancement Protection Program (REAP) for tax credits is August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

John Scott – John briefly discussed the state budget stating that things are really bad. He said that if the Senate version passes, expenses for fairs and assistance to Conservation Districts will most likely be cut. There is also concern for the inspection programs.

XII. The next regular meeting will be July 21<sup>st</sup>

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Rice at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer