

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

March 19, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rice at 11:00 a.m. at the Mezzanine Conference Room of the Fort Building, Waynesburg, PA. Directors present were J. Robert Rice, Chairman; Bradley Eisiminger, Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee, Treasurer; Dave Coder, Commissioner Representative; Jim Cowell, Director; Jim Kenney, Director; Bob Andrew, Associate Director; Frank Blaker, Associate Director, and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director. Guests and District staff present included Archie Trader, Commissioner; Ralph Bell, Guest; Suzy Petery, SDC, NRCS; Chris Hardie, Planner, Economic Development; Lisa Snider, Assistant District Manager/Watershed Specialist; Laurel Rush, Ag Manager; Todd Klaner, Resource Specialist; and Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

III. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Suzy Petery – Suzy gave a brief update on the CREP program stating that the program for the Ohio River Basin has been extended to April 18th. Since the extension, three plans have been completed for 50 acres of streambank buffers. Regarding EQIP, Suzy reported that the original allocation for the three county area was \$275,000. In the end, a total of twenty seven contracts were completed at a total of \$403,463. In Greene County, six contracts were funded for a total of \$73,000.

Laurel mentioned that she was absent from last month's meeting due to her attendance of the Small Farms Conference in Morgantown. Handouts are available for anyone interested.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Tom Headlee and a second by Dave Coder, the minutes of the February 26th meeting were approved as mailed. (Motion Passed)

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a motion by Dave Coder and a second by Jim Cowell, the Treasurer's Reports were approved with the following addition.

General Fund – Subway – Meeting Lunches - \$ 29.99

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **On a motion by Dave Coder, approval was granted to Laurel to attend the Cooperative Extension/Farm Bureau Annual Meeting with a registration of \$12.00. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- b. Lisa reported that PACD is requesting a donation of \$30.00 from each Conservation District to help with their scholarship program. Mr. Coder asked if this donation is permissible. **A motion was made by Jim Kenney to approve a \$30.00 donation and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- c. Laurel reported that she attended a meeting of the Appalachian Grazing Conference and was asked to join the planning committee. She also said that she was the only representative from Pennsylvania in attendance and the committee would like to change that. The conference is held every other year with the next one to be held in March, 2009. In order to spur more interest from Pennsylvania, a request for a donation or the sponsorship of an individual to attend the conference with a registration fee of \$75.00. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to table action on this matter until next month.**

VII. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Rita & Dave Martin – Washington Township – 27.5 acres

After brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve this Request for Assistance. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. At a previous meeting, Lisa was instructed to draft a letter to the Environmental Quality Board and state legislators regarding the redesignation of Grinnage Run and she gave an update on the matter. After contacting Representative DeWeese's office, she found that a letter was written to Secretary McGinty and also an article appeared in

yesterday's paper. Representative DeWeese is calling for public meetings and they will be working with us. Lisa also said that she spoke to Rob Reiner to ask who a letter should be sent and he advised her to wait until a public comment period is held. Several members of the group said that a public comment period announcement recently appeared in the paper, so Lisa will prepare a letter to Tony Shaw.

- b. Upon Martin's request, Mary Jane and Lisa attended a meeting regarding the Floodplain Monitoring Program. Lisa explained that the main purpose of the program is to make contacts with municipalities to find out if they have floodplain ordinances and if they are being followed. Funding is available for the program through a 3 to 5 year contract with DCED which can be cancelled (at any time?). There are various levels of involvement and funding for the program, including developing a library to provide information to the municipalities to making visits. Working with the Planning Department on the program was also discussed. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to direct the staff to invite DCED officials to the next meeting to further explain the program. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- c. A donation request was made for Child Fest. It was the consensus of the board that since we have no direct involvement with the program that no donation be made.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Lisa asked that the Jackson Township Dirt and Gravel Roads application be tabled. She explained that Township Supervisor, Junior McGlone, was in the office last week to review the application and it was found that the cost of the construction of the forms for the arched culverts was very high, around \$40,000. Mr. McGlone agreed to check to see if the culverts could be done at a more reasonable cost. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to table action on this matter and Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- b. Todd distributed information regarding the proposed computer replacement policy. He said that it is a collection of ideas which could perhaps be funded through the accelerated review fees. He asked that the proposal be reviewed for future discussion.
- c. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to grant approval (mileage reimbursement and expenses) to Laurel to attend the Nutrient Management Continuing Education Training**

**in Holidaysburg on April 3rd. Tom Headlee seconded.
(Motion Passed)**

- d. Lisa reported that the county has increased the mileage reimbursement rate, effective March 19th, from \$.485 to \$.505. **A motion was made by Tom Headlee to accept this rate and Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- e. Bob commended the staff for the recent newsletter.
- f. Laurel brought the next matter of new business, the Farmers Market, for discussion. She reported that she met with the organization regarding a grant and was asked to sit on the board where she learned that the First Baptist Church, where the event is held, will begin charging for the space. Funding for the charge will be taken from their advertising budget. She asked that the board consider a donation or a sponsorship. She explained that there are various levels of sponsorship, \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$1,000 and that certain levels would include recognition and a table at the market. **After discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to be a \$500 sponsor and Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed with one opposed, Bradley Eisiminger)**

X. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were submitted with the meeting notices. Additionally, Laurel announced that Jim and Billie Cowell received the Environmental Stewardship award by the PA Cattlemen's Association. The Cowell's were nominated by the District and she thanked Martin and Suzy for their help with the write-up. The award will be presented on Thursday in State College.

XI. The Next Regular Meeting will be April 15th

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was recessed at 11:55 a.m. with an Executive Session to follow lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer

DRAFT