

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting

November 18, 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 Meeting 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; Archie Trader, Director; Frank Blaker, Associate Director; Greg Hopkins, Associate Director; and Bill Wentzel, Associate Director. Guests and District staff present included Sandra Brown, Guest; Suzy Petery, SDC, NRCS; Robbie Matesic, Executive Director, County Development; Chris Hardie, Planner, County Development; Martin Niverth, District Manager; Laurel Rush, Ag Manager; Dustin Teegarden, Resource Specialist; Mary Jane Kent, Administrative Assistant to Program Support; and Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

### IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS

**On a motion by Jim Cowell, the Treasurer's Reports were approved with the following additions. Bradley Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)**

#### General Fund

Ck # 420 County of Greene – S.R. – Martin – October - \$1,766.66

Ck # 421 County of Greene – S.R. – Lisa – October - \$2,383.27

Ck # 422 County of Greene – S.R. – Laurel – October - \$2,208.45

Ck # 423 County of Greene – S.R. – Bill – October - \$227.60  
Ck # 424 Martin Niverth – Expenses - \$45.63  
Ck # 425 Rhodes & Hammers – Luncheon Invites - \$110.00  
Ck # 426 Scotty’s Pizza – District Mtg. Lunch - \$78.00

Dirt & Gravel Roads

Ck # 219 South Side Deli – ESM Training - \$742.00

NPDES/CWF

Ck # 193 Bill Wentzel – Expenses - \$33.75

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Martin presented the 2009 West Nile Virus grant application for review and approval. He said that the application is for a total of \$39,939.25 and is pending state budget approval. He also said that in the past, he has signed the document. **A motion was made by Tom Headlee to accept the agreement and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**

VI. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Larry Vogel – 119 acres – Morris Township

**A motion was made by Jim Cowell to accept the Request for Assistance and Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Laurel also presented the Mini Grant Application of Mr. Vogel for a spring development. She said that she and Suzy have not had the opportunity to visit the site so at this point we are accepting the application.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. **After discussion, a motion was made by Dave Coder to table action on the payment of PACD dues. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)**

b. Martin reminded everyone of the Annual Awards Luncheon on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Stryker’s Banquet Hall. **A motion was made by Archie Trader to hold the regular meeting prior to the luncheon at 10:00 a.m. Dave Coder seconded. (Motion Passed)**

Laurel added that the first preserved farm, owned by William & Laura Ann Cree, will be recognized at the luncheon.

- c. At the request of Mr. Kenney, Chairman of the Memorandum of Understanding Committee, a meeting with District personnel will be held on November 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Mezzanine Conference Room. He also requested that Jim Cowell be added to the committee which includes Mr. Eisiminger and Mr. Headlee.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to pay the 2009 NACD dues of \$775.00. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- b. The next item of business discussed was the funding of PA Cleanways. Martin said that we typically contribute to the organization since we frequently work together under the West Nile Virus program as well as other programs. In the past, the county commissioners have contributed \$5,000 to them; however, this contribution is not included in this year's budget. Martin asked the board to consider increasing our contribution and has requested that Theresa Matscherz, Director of PA Cleanways for Greene County, to provide additional information which he will mail to them for future consideration.
- c. Martin reported that a Verizon mobile phone was leased this summer for the West Nile Virus Program. The monthly bill will be approximately \$55.00 per month and can be paid by the West Nile Virus grant for the period of April through October. The remainder of the time, the phone can be used by staff that are away from the office for training and/or field work and can be paid out of the general fund. **After discussion, a motion was made by Dave Coder to maintain the phone and Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- d. **A motion was made by Dave Coder to approve the purchase of a chair for the Fiscal Officer from Mark IV for approximately \$378.00. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)**
- e. The last item discussed under New Business was the FDIC Insurance which covers Conservation District bank accounts. Martin was concerned that \$100,000 of coverage was insufficient. Mr. Coder and Mr. Trader informed the group that the FDIC coverage has increased and now covers \$250,000.

## IX. DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were mailed with the meeting notices. Additionally, Mary Jane reported that the Dirt and Gravel Roads Training held on November 5th and 6th at the Fairgrounds was very successful. Greene County hosted the event with representation from 8 different counties as well as 16 Greene County officials who received either new certifications or were recertified. She requested that a visit be made by the Quality Assurance Board to the Jackson and Washington Township projects which have been completed. Mary Jane also said that they are making every effort to complete the road assessment by the end of the year.

Dustin apologized for missing the last meeting due to his attendance of an oil and gas meeting. He said that the meeting was very informative and thanked the board for the opportunity to attend. The amount of well activity and water was discussed.

Laurel reported that the field day held on October 25th was successful with approximately 20 people in attendance. Regarding the lime spreader, Farley has reviewed the agreement and made some changes, mostly in the wording. Mr. Cowell was concerned about the change he made regarding inclement weather. He feels that there should not be an additional charge if the machine can not be used due to inclement weather. Martin said that it will be included. Also, she attended the Project Grass quarterly meeting where they were informed that dry hydrants are available. The Northwest Grazing Conference will be held January 30<sup>th</sup> in Dubois and she will forward additional information when it is available. Lastly, she said that we can expect an invoice for the 2009 Project Grass dues.

Robbie reported that the coordination of storm water and other permitting activities was discussed at the workshop held with the Conservation District and Planning Commission boards. She also said that Martin informed DEP that we are working together on this matter and they are pleased. Martin went on to explain that through our efforts, a NPDES post construction storm water plan review will be completed by an engineer. A meeting will be scheduled with all parties for further discussion. Robbie added that the Planning Commission does have an ordinance which includes storm water requirements and noted that changes may be made next year. Currently, storm water plans are reviewed by Mackin Engineering. She also said that Brian Ratica worked this summer and talked to township supervisors about their water related concerns.

Also discussed at the workshop, was Allegheny Power's 502 Substation. Since that meeting, they have submitted much better plans and have received preliminary and final approval with conditions. Regarding Foundation Coal's

proposed substation in Center Township, they were asked to submit plans for review (see attached testimony). The next workshop will be called as needed.

Robbie also discussed the recently revised Right to Know Law. She said that the biggest change in the law is that the burden of proof is not on the person requesting the information, but on the public agency. The governor and county have appointed a Right-to Know officers. Gene Lee will serve as the county officer with Robbie serving as the Department officer, and Martin will be named the officer for the Conservation District.

Regarding another matter, Robbie reported that the Commissioners have requested that the Governor's Office direct their Growing Greener II entitlement funds to Waynesburg Borough to solve the flooding problems on Jackson Run.

In closing, Robbie suggested that we advertise for a West Nile Virus Surveillance Monitor at the beginning of the year.

Guest, Sandra Brown, was invited by Martin to discuss her Bed and Breakfast and farming operation. She said that she purchased the farm located on Bristoria Road from Chuck Rembold 3 years ago. She was living in the Pittsburgh area at the time and while camping at Ryerson Station State Park, found Greene County to be exceptionally beautiful and wanted to purchase income producing property. She said that people are more conscience of what they are eating and many do not trust the food purchased from the grocery store. Her approach is to have optimal use of the land instead of the maximum use of the land. She raises grass fed beef on rotational pastures which she sells direct to the Pittsburgh area. She also raises free range French roasting chickens. She is concerned that the development of the new mine will affect her Bed and Breakfast. When the Comprehensive Plan was released for comment she felt that there was very little that she could say because the plan essentially said that mining is the future of our county. She feels that this is a mistake and that when the mining is gone, people will still need to eat and locally produced food is thought to be the answer to the energy, employment, food safety crisis. She feels that we have a lot of potential and that we should not let mining compromise that.

#### X. REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENICES AND GUESTS

Suzy reported that she's been spending her time on ongoing construction projects. Work is underway on new EQIP projects with practices being installed. NRCS is scheduled to have a major audit of all open contracts (66 in her area) in all programs. This will occur November 25<sup>th</sup> through the end of December. She apologized for not being able to attend the Dirt and Gravel Roads Training and thanked Dustin for getting her a copy of the updated

manual. To date, twelve applications have been received in Greene County for Farm Bill Programs.

XI. The next regular meeting will be held December 5<sup>th</sup> prior to the awards luncheon.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Rice at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer