



## **Greene County Conservation District**

22 West High St. • Suite 204 • Waynesburg, PA 15370

Tel: 724-852-5278 • Fax: 724-852-5341

email: gccd@co.greene.pa.us

Web: www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd

### **GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES August 15, 2023**

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Mr. James A. Cowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. at Greene County Fairgrounds Building 10, 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA.

Those in attendance were as follows:

#### **GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS**

James A. Cowell, Jr.-Chairman; Commissioner Mike Belding-Vice Chairman; Greg Hopkins-Treasurer; Dan Bazzoli, Dave Shipman and Glodenna Halstead. Associate Directors: Becky Salosky, George Scull, Keith Golden, Rebecca Trigger, Doug Willis and Kevin White.

#### **GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES**

Ryan Furrer-Regional District Rep Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP); Justin Brackenrich-Penn State Extension Agronomist. Phillip Judy-Farmer/ACAP Applicant.

#### **STAFF**

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Tiffany Stewart-Watershed Specialist and Heather Yorko-Fiscal Officer.

#### **Phillip Judy ACAP Application Review**

Mr. Judy attended the meeting for the review of his ACAP Application so Mr. Cowell asked the board to review his application first allowing Mr. Judy to return to work. Both ACAP applications being reviewed at today's meeting were emailed and mailed to the board members with their meeting packet. Mr. Judy has plans for heavy use area, manure storage facility, fencing, a few additional watering systems and access road improvements totaling \$251,734.40. Ms. Snider, Eric Cromer and Becca Siko did attend the ACAP farm visit a few weeks ago, ACAP score 70 pts out of 150 pts.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve Mr. Judy's ACAP application. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the July 18, 2023 minutes. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)*

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Yorke distributed Treasurer's Report to the board before the start of the meeting and stated that she was working with Controller to make needed adjustments to QuickBooks for the ACAP account.

*A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the treasurer's report. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)*

### **REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM**

Ms. Snider requested the addition of Scott Hackenburg Pursley Creek Farms - Center Township – 10 Acres to the Request for Assistance list.

*A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to added Scott Hackenburg to Request for Assistance list. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)*

### **CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Save the Date Wednesday, January 31, 2024 2024 Southwest PA Soil Health Conference at Fred Rogers Center Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA 15650 was sent out with meeting packets and board members are encouraged to attend.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – Ms. Kozlowski wanted to update DGR projects Jackson Township-Moore Road is almost finished, an inspection will be scheduled soon before the QAB goes out. Ms. Kozlowski and Ms. Snider had a preconstruction meeting with Cumberland Township, Presock Road construction is under way and the contract has been signed for their next project Long Hill Road. Ms. Kozlowski has been working on getting PNDI Clearances for DGR projects for Richhill Township so they can start construction.

Ms. Kozlowski and Ms. Snider met with Waynesburg Borough regarding Low Volume Road projects.

Ms. Kozlowski and Ms. Snider will be attending a portion of the ESM Training in Washington on Wednesday, August 16.

**Zack Basinger** – Mr. Basinger was unable to attend the meeting, however, Ms. Kozlowski reported for him that we did have one West Nile positive at the Waynesburg Borough Sewage Treatment Plant, which he has treated and numbers have gone down. Mr. Basinger has been getting high numbers everywhere and treating accordingly so the numbers are decreasing.

**Tiffany Stewart** – Ms. Stewart stated both Growing Greener projects are underway; the Willis project is almost done and the Cree project finished building the liquid storage tank last week. Mr. Kcenich of DEP is working on the bid package for the Jefferson Bridge Project.

**Heather Yorko** – Ms. Yorko had nothing to add to her written report unless anyone had questions.

**Lisa Snider**- Ms. Snider stated that she is very impressed with Ms. Stewart being thrown into these two Growing Greener projects and encouraged board members to visit either or both sites. The Willis Farm is near completion except the addition of ACAP for trees; The Cree Farm project phase one should be completed by September/October.

GRACE program application deadline is August 31; Ms. Snider has a few applicants that need farm visits for GRACE that are being scheduled. Ms. Snider told the board to be prepared for applications to come in after the deadline and people to be upset to be turned away for 2023 GRACE Program.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Penn's Corner Charitable Trust and Grigsby Site**

Ms. Snider stated that she had spoken with Jeff Parr of PADEP regarding the consent order and agreement, Mr. Parr said that the district is not responsible for finding funds to build that project; the district was only responsible at the time because there were funds earmarked for the project at the time.

Ms. Snider informed Indiana County that Penn's Corner Charitable Trust had not taken the 1% administrative fee for the Grigsby fund. The past 1% fee has been calculated by the organization and will be credited to Penn's Corner Charitable Trust prior to the account being transferred.

### **Ag Complaint – Update**

**Kovalcheck Road** – Ms. Snider stated the farm is much improved; grass is growing, a few cows, sheep and many geese. Commissioner Belding enquired if there was someone else tending to the property at this time to which Ms. Snider stated that there was an older man taking care of the farm.

**Pettit Complaint** – Ms. Snider stated that she needed to reach out to Mr. Pettit to gather needed info for Tom from Washington County Conservation District so that he can complete the plans.

#### **Discussion of a Manure Spreader Purchase**

After discussion of disease, transmission of parasites and seeds, as well as, tractor size needed to utilize manure spreader, the board consensus was to not purchase a manure spreader.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Request for Assistance –**

Nathan Miller – Jefferson Township – 19 Acres – Cattle

Scott Hackenburg – Center Township – 10 Acres – Niche vegetable farm

Don Throckmorton – Franklin Township – 14 ½ Acres – Hay production

Nathanael Palm – Dunkard Township – 30 Acres – Hay production

***A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve all four requests for assistance. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

##### **Greene County Association of Township Officials**

Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski attend this meeting every year; this is the first time that Ms. Snider received an advertisement for the packets that are distributed at this meeting. After discussion, it was decided to place full-page advertisement for the Dirt and Gravel Road Program.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to place a full-page ad in Greene County Association of Township Officials booklet. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

##### **James Willis ACAP Application Review**

Ms. Stewart explained the scope of work that still needs to be done for completion of the Willis Program; which includes replacement of trees that had been removed for project, pollinators and additional monies for cost increases to original quotes for the Growing Greener grant. Scoring for this project is 65 pts out of 150 pts.

***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve \$15,000 of ACAP funds to complete the Willis project. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)***

##### **2023 Awards Banquet Cooperator of the Year and Forester of the Year**

Ms. Snider stated that it was time to select the Cooperator and Forester of the Year for this year's upcoming banquet.

Ms. Kozlowski talked to Mr. Faling regarding scheduling pictures for this year's recipients and last year's recipients since the weather and Mr. Faling's plane did not cooperate to take 2022 photos. The aerial photos were quoted at \$600 each for the four recipients.

Commissioner Belding asked who were the runners up from last year's awards and Ms. Snider stated that she would research that information, but did not remember.

### **Cover Crops ACAP**

There was a one sheet cover crops explanation sent out in the meeting packets. Ms. Snider wanted to know if the board was interested in offering cover crops as part of the ACAP program. This was tabled for more research by Ms. Snider and Justin Brackenridge.

### **CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

Newsletter was mailed and the GCCD staff spent all of last week at the Greene County Fair. Ms. Snider is planning to order more ACAP Brochures for a direct mailing.

### **REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES**

**Ryan Furrer—PADEP**—Mr. Furrer stated the Conservation District Allocation funds was a part of the approved portion of the state budget.

Mr. Furrer stated that there has been an amendment to the reporting requirements for DEP Programs that received federal funds have to have exhausted every option to give money to a minority business in any grants that were awarded in the district. This is covered with the statement on every advertisement that the GCCD does not discriminate based on sex, race, and creed.

The state can provide a list of all MBE/WBE owned business in each county.

Already covered in discussion the need to take many progress pictures throughout the ACAP projects.

**Justin Brackenrich—Penn State Extension**—Mr. Brackenrich stated that he had missed the Greene County Fair due to Ag Progress Days; hoping that next year Ag Progress Days will be a different week so that he can attend the Greene County Fair.

Mr. Brackenrich is interested in having some winter meetings and asked for suggestion that would interest local participation.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive session not needed.

### **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be September 19, 2023.

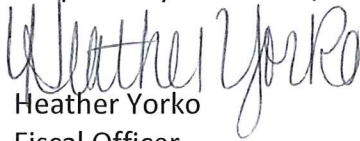
**Morris Township Volunteer Fire Department BattleAxe 5K**

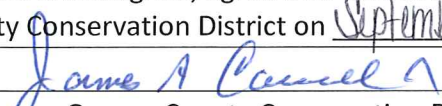
Mr. Hopkins distributed a flyer for the BattleAxe 5K event September 30 fundraiser for the Nineveh VFD utilizing 50 acres with options to trail walk, Obstacle run or four-person team completions. There will be vends, food stands, shuttle serve to see the obstacle course used by participants. Mr. Hopkins encourages everyone to come out and have a good time on September 30.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.  
Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)*

Respectfully submitted,

  
Heather Yorko  
Fiscal Officer

<b><u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u></b>
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on <u>September 19</u> , 2023.
 Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District