



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES March 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. James A. Cowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 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; Greg Hopkins-Vice Chairman; Dan Bazzoli-Treasurer; Dave Shipman-Director, Rebecca Trigger-Director and Glodenna Halstead-Secretary via phone. Associate Directors: Dominick Barbetta, George Scull, Jerry Day, Keith Golden and Kevin White.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Zachary Basinger-Environmental Permitting Manager; Heather Yorke-Fiscal Officer.

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Bobbi Bailey – ACAP Applicant representing Saurborn, Bailey & Bellicini applications. Ryan Furrer – Regional District Rep Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). Justin Brakenrich – Penn State Extension Agronomist.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve February 20, 2024 and February 26, 2024 Special ACAP meeting minutes. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Yorke distributed an updated Treasurer's Report to the board before the start of the meeting.

Ms. Yorke stated that she had written three additional checks from the First Federal account for Willis Farm Final Growing Greener payment in the amount of \$16,737.00, County of Greene February invoices totaling \$33,100.35 & Lisa Snider's mileage check in the amount of \$56.28. Additionally, one check had been written from the Community Bank ACAP account for Lisa

Snider's mileage in the amount of \$32.16. All of these checks were included in the updated Treasurer's Report that was distributed.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve the Treasurer's Report. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM

There was no request for additional agenda items.

CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Envirothon April 17, 2024 at Hunting Hills in Dilliner, PA.

Clean up day is May 2, 2024 during Conservation District Week.

Tire Recycling Event is May 15, 2024.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski stated that she received an email from EQT Foundation that GCCD received the grant for the Envirothon, which will allow us to have five complete resource boxes which will eliminate the need to rotate boxes. This grant is \$12,600 for resource boxes and to fund the scholarship and Envirothon event for a couple of years.

Apparel sale is upcoming and will have a coupon code that allows board members to order with their set amounts that are to be covered by the district.

Envirothon is underway, Envirothon shirts are ordered, the list of Envirothon sponsors for the board to approve is listed under new business.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger stated that permits and inspections have kept him busy. Tick season starts April 1st.

Tiffany Stewart – Ms. Stewart is at Willis Farms planting trees today. Ms. Snider stated that Ms. Stewart sat in on EQB Fletcher Run petition, the study area is from Gray's Fork to Grinnage Run. The stream that they are talking about downgrading from a high quality to a warm water fishery is along Martin Road and Grinnage Road. The petition was accepted for further review and it was stated that if Fletcher Run is accepted to move from high quality to a warm water fishery, then all of South Fork Ten Mile will be place under review.

Tess Prochaska—Ms. Prochaska was in the office for an online training. Ms. Prochaska is working to organize an AG meeting with Fayette, Washington and Greene Counties on April 3rd at the Conservation District office; this meeting will include ACAP discussions.

Ms. Prochaska, Ms. Snider and Mr. Brakenrich had their Hay Meeting on March 13th, 47 people showed up for the meeting, it was a positive meeting with great feedback. Going to start trying to have a similar event every 6 months or so.

Heather Yorko – Ms. Yorko stated that she had reached out to Nickia Yorty, Accounts Receivable Specialist, to run a report to make sure that all Conservation invoices were paid in full. After this check is paid and Nickia makes a couple of adjustments that had been discussed with James but not taken care of everything will be UpToDate.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider stated that Cumberland Township is wrapping up the Long Hill project. Ms. Prochaska and Ms. Snider are doing their first GRACE visits of the season this week. Ms. Snider started a reassessment of DGR classification due to changes from the Oil and Gas industry, this should be completed by the end of April.

OLD BUSINESS

AG COMPLAINT-UPDATE

Kovalcheck Road – Ms. Snider passed around Mr. Gall’s response to Ms. Prochaska’s review of his manure management plan and his farm inspection report, showing the quality of correspondence that has been received which is illegible. Mr. Gall wants the district to write him another manure management plan and states that he is unable to type or get anyone to type it for him. Ms. Snider stated that she has discussed this with the state conservation commission who does not want the district to write another manure management plan. Jared Zinn wrote a MMP for Mr. Gall and it is Mr. Gall’s responsibility to keep it up dated. Reports have been made to a couple of board member of a dead cow and some dead sheep. EMA was out along with the borough police to deal with a calf in a box and cow with a prolapse. The Humane officer was called to come out to the farm. Mr. Basinger drove by the farmer the next day and the calf and cow were no longer there. Ms. Prochaska and Ms. Snider have a call this afternoon with DEP regarding Mr. Gall’s farm. Mr. Gall will be notified that his respond is unreadable and given an explanation that GCCD cannot help him with his manure management plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

There were no requests for assistance.

ACAP APPLICATIONS

Ms. Snider apologized to the board for sending huge files by email when she sent out the I&Es for these three ACAP projects. Ms. Snider explained that there are three different applications and two separate inventory and evaluations, because Mr. Saurborn and Ms. Bailey own and

operate a farm together but separately so in order to keep a 1099 straight Ms. Snider had them submit two separate applications. Bellicini and Saurborn have two separate, adjoining properties that they farm together, as well.

Ms. Bailey explained that her, Mr. Saurborn and Mr. Bellicini all contracted with HRG to do the I&Es for their properties. When HRG did the I&Es on the two properties they didn't know the property boundaries, but Mr. Hepfl is going to go back and correct the property boundaries.

When Ms. Snider received these projects knowing that we did not have enough monies available to complete these three projects she spoke with Ms. Bailey, Mr. Saurborn and Mr. Bellicini to prioritize what is the most impactful and important practices to start with for their three projects. This first phase covers about 50% of each of the projects.

Ms. Snider scored each property according to the GCCD scoring sheet. Mr. Saurborn - 84; Ms. Bailey - 64; Mr. Bellicini - 65 with highest score possible being 150.

Mr. Bazzoli questioned if the board should consider the fact that two of the applicants live outside of the county. Ms. Snider consulted with the SCC and the Board can add extra points for being a resident of Greene County in their grading system, however, you can not otherwise make any judgements on project based owner's residence. After discussion, it was decided that the benefit is to the farms which are within the county.

At this time there is \$884,000.00 that needs to be contracted by the end of 2024. Once this total was discussed, Ms. Snider suggested the possibility of increasing the Bailey project to finish all of her fencing and watering system with the monies available at this time.

Gene Saurborn - \$429,226.20 with a 10% match. Project includes 1 Roofed Heavy Use Area (HUA), 1 Manure Storage Structure, site 4 stabilization of walkways and critical use area planting & fencing, streambank crossings, west pasture streambank fencing, east pasture fencing and a portion of the I&E.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve the Gene Saurborn ACAP project for \$429,226.20. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

Nick Bellicini - \$361,773.80 with a 10% match. Project includes 1 Roofed Heavy Use Area (HUA), 1 Manure Storage Structure (MSS), 2 Stream Crossings, west pasture water, east pasture fencing and west pasture streambank fencing and a portion of the I&E.

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve the Nick Bellicini ACAP project for \$361,773.80. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

Bobbi Bailey - \$9,000.00 increased to \$78,565.00 with 10% match. Project includes the water system and pasture fence site 3.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the Bobbi Bailey ACAP project for \$78,565.00. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

ACAP FARMER SALARY RATE

Ms. Snider explained that a standardized rate that farmers use when they are doing their own work not including equipment under the ACAP program is needed. After discussion, the board decided on \$32.00 an hour. Equipment rates will be based on FEMA's set rates.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve the ACAP Farmer Salary Rate for Greene County as \$32.00 an hour. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

ACAP STATEMENT OF POLICY UPDATE

Ms. Snider explained that the State Conservation Commission has implemented a setback policy for streambank fencing for Heavy Use Areas (HUAs) or Manure Storage Facilities requiring 35 feet.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to add 35 feet setback for streambank fencing of Heavy Use Areas and/or Manure Storage Facilities as a requirement in our ACAP policy. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

ENVIROTHON DONATIONS

1. Hunting Hills—use of their facility
2. Sheetz – providing food
3. First Federal – \$250
4. Greene Team Pellet – \$100
5. Bankson Engineers – \$100
6. T&B Excavating – \$500
7. Iron Senergy – informed that they are donating, but was not given an amount.
8. EQT Foundation through the Community Foundation of Greene County - \$12,600

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to accept the above listed donations. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Annual Report is sent to print and should be mailed out soon.

At the April 11th Commissioner's Meeting there will be a proclamation for Conservation District Week.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Justin Brackenrich – Penn State Extension Agronomist stated that he would love topic suggestions for his two-minute radio spots twice a month.

Mr. Brackenrich will have been in the Greene County office for one year on May 1st. He expressed his appreciation for all the help and support for his Hay Meeting on March 13, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be April 16, 2024.

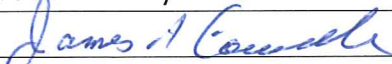
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 11:53am. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Yorko
Fiscal Officer

<u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u>
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on <u>April 30</u> , 2024.
 Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District 