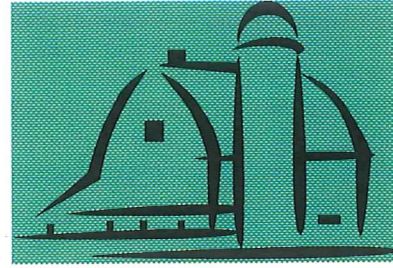


Greene County Farmland Preservation  
22 West High Street, Suite 204  
Waynesburg, PA 15370  
724-852-5278



Greene County Farmland Preservation  
Board Meeting Minutes

**October 18, 2023**

Carmichaels Grange/Back Bay Catering  
510 Ceylon Road  
Carmichaels, PA 15320

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

William Cree III called the meeting to order at 1:30pm at the Carmichaels Grange after a quorum was reached.

Those in attendance were as followed:

**Greene County Farmland Preservation Board (GCFLP) Members:**

William Cree III- Chairman; Dave Shipman- Vice Chairman; Richard Thistlethwaite- Treasurer;  
Mike Belding- Commissioner; James Willis, Richard Belding, John Hildreth

Staff and Guests:

Lisa Snider – District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski – District Office Manager; Bill and Lura Ann Cree

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve January 18, 2023 meeting minutes.  
Richard Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**State Funds Available** - \$81, 509.02 of which \$4,420.83 needs to be encumbered by December 31, 2023. The state contribution was \$77,088.

**County Funds Available** - \$21, 016.32 with the 2023 contribution of \$6,042

**FLP Board Checking Account** - \$21,492.48

*A motion was made by James Willis to approve of the treasurer's report as read. John Hildreth seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Snider requested attorney discussion be added to the agenda.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to add attorney discussion to the agenda. David Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence.

## OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **EQT Corporation Donation for 2023 \$2,500.00 received March 2023**

Ms. Snider stated that a check for \$2,500.00 was received from EQT Corporation and requested permission to send a Thank You letter along with 2024 Donation request.

***A motion was made by John Hildreth to send a Thank You letter and a request for 2024 Donation to EQT Corporation. Jim Willis seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **Greene County Conservation District Board Director Candidate**

Ms. Snider explained that the GCCD needs a Public Director nomination to replace William Wentzel who stepped down from the board this year, his term would have ended in December 2023. This position cannot be a farmer. Currently the only associate board members that would be eligible as a Public Director would be Becky Salosky or Rebecca Trigger. Rebecca Trigger has sent a letter expressing her interest in becoming a Public Director.

Additionally, Greg Hopkins term is up in December was well, however, Mr. Hopkins would like to continue as a GCCD Board Member.

After discussion, Greg Hopkins and Rebecca Trigger were selected as nominees for Farmland Preservation.

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to submit Rebecca Trigger as Public Director and Greg Hopkins as Farmer Director as nominations for the Greene County Conservation District Board . John Hildreth seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **Farmland Preservation Board Member Requests**

The board re-appointments for 3yr. terms that are set to expire December 31, 2023 of W.Cree, R. Belding, J.Willis, and Commissioner Belding and to request the appointment of chairman to Chief Clerk was discussed.

Commissioner Belding noted that his term as commissioner representative will end December 31, 2023 and that the new commissioner board will need to take action to replace his position when they are in office in 2024.

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to recommend that the commissioners re-appoint William Cree, Richard Belding and Jim Willis to a 3-year term and appoint Mr. Cree as Chairman. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. Motion passed.***

### **Approval of Farm Inspections**

Ms. Snider visited the Bell, Harry and Cree farm and everyone is still implementing the same practices, farms look good and Conservation Plans are still being implemented. Mr. Harry did express concern about his age and maintaining the farm. Lisa offered assistance to Mr. Harry and Mr. Bell to help them get in touch with other farmers if ever needed. Ms. Snider recommended that the inspections be approved with no violations and will send letters to each farm.

***Richard Belding made a motion to approve the inspections with no violations; Jim Willis seconded. Motion passed.***

### **2023 LESA Ranking and Farm Selection**

Ms. Snider reviewed the rankings. The Milesky LESA score was 29.31 and the Andrews LESA score was 43.52. She did receive other inquiries about farmland but could not proceed further at this time because there were liens and coal issues on the other farms and she has continued working with Jim Willis on his application. A discussion continued regarding funding and the best way to move forward with applications. Ms. Snider continued to review the rankings and explain how each farm ranked in each section. The Andrews farm is in the target area from the map that was developed by the board and the soils rank very high.

The board discussed the amount of funding received annually and that it would be about 3 years before the funding was enough to ease a farm. Mr. Milesky will be sent a letter that explains the amount of funding and that if he would like to continue with his application the board would hold onto it when the next round of applications are open and rank the new applications accordingly at that time.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to move forward with the Andrews farm and send Milesky's a letter about the lack of funding. Dave Shipman seconded. Motion passed.***

### **2023 GCCD-FLP Annual Banquet**

The annual awards banquet will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Valley View Farm at 5:30pm.

### **2023 Board meeting dates, times and locations**

Ms. Snider provided a list of meeting dates to advertise for 2024 with times to be advertised on the website prior to the meeting.

***Jim Willis made a motion and John Hildreth seconded to advertise the 2024 meeting dates as presented.***

### **FLP Attorney**

Ms. Snider explained the Greg Hook is retired but has been working with his nephew Phil Hook on Farmland Preservation. Philip is willing to continue working with the board and do the necessary work needed to continue the program.

***Dave Shipman made a motion to retain Phillip Hook as attorney. John Hildreth seconded. Motion passed.***

### **OUTREACH**

No outreach.


### **STAFF REPORTS**

**Next Meeting Date:** Will notify if meeting is needed in November

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 2:05pm. John Hildreth seconded. Motion passed*

Respectfully submitted,

<b>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</b>
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Farmland Preservation on <u>November 15</u> , 2023.
Chairman, Greene County Farmland Preservation 
Executive Member, Greene County Farmland Preservation 