



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES February 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Greg Hopkins called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. at Greene County Fairgrounds Building 10, 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA.

Those in attendance were as follows:

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Greg Hopkins-Vice Chairman; Dan Bazzoli-Treasurer; Glodenna Halstead-Secretary; Jared Edgreen-Commissioner Representative, Dave Shipman, Rebecca Trigger and James A. Cowell, Jr-Chairman via phone. Associate Directors: Dominick Barbetta, George Scull, Jerry Day, Doug Willis, Jim Willis, Ryan Wise, Matt Robison, Becky Salosky, Carol Adamson and Kevin White.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Zachary Basinger-Environmental Permitting Manager; Tiffany Stewart-Watershed Specialist; Theresa Prochaska-Agricultural Conservation Specialist; Heather Yorke-Fiscal Officer.

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Benjamin Gilberti-HRG Group Manager | Civil Municipal, Nick Hepfl-HRG Engineering Technician AG Services HRG and Jordan Witmer-HRG Engineering Technician I AG Services-HRG Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. Engineering & Related Services.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve January 16, 2024 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 checks to transfer funds to Dirt & Gravel and Low Volume Roads accounts as well as checks to pay the County invoices and a couple of expense check that were reflected on the updated Treasurer's Report. Ms. Yorke also stated

that the county invoicing was UpToDate so that the check written was for January invoices and new software purchased for computers being installed in the Conservation District office.

A motion was made by Glodenna Halstead 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

Appalachian Grazing Conference 2024- "Managing the System: Land, Water and Livestock" March 7-9, 2024 at Morgantown Marriott – the district will cover the cost to attend conference for board members, please let the office know if you would like to attend asap as the date is quickly approaching.

State Ethics Forms for the directors were included in the Meeting Packets, please complete and return to Ms. Yorko as soon as possible the submission deadline is the end of April.

Updated Contact Information forms -please return as soon as possible.

March 13th Hay Meeting with Penn State Extension from 6-8:30 at the Greene County Fairgrounds Building 9.

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

EQB February 13, 2024 Environmental Quality Board Meeting – Petition for Rulemaking: Fletcher Run, Greene County (25 Pa Code 93.9v) – canceled due to inclement weather and has not been rescheduled at this time.

West Greene FFA Together with Their Advisors Invites You to our FFA Community Night- February 22, 2024.

Ralph K Bell Bird Club Thank you for 2024 Donation Letter. This club offers two good scholarships submissions must be made by the end of March if board members know anyone that would be interested, please forward the information.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski stated that the Envirothon is April 17, 2024 at Hunting Hills. Ms. Kozlowski applied for a grant through the EQT Foundation to make enough resource boxes for all of the school districts so that we don't have to keep rotating the boxes. Ms. Kozlowski should hear next month if GCCD received that grant or not and will update the board at that time.

Ms. Kozlowski has one DGR project out for bids and one DGR project under construction.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger stated that permits are picking up due to the time of year and he has been catching up on filing and inspections.

For West Nile Virus Mr. Basinger stated that DEP is going to come down before April and help him locate new tick sites, because our numbers for the last two years have been below average and he knows that there are more out there.

Mr. Basinger received a West Nile Newsletter from the State and for the second year in a row Greene County has collected the most tires in the state with 2,940 tires.

The Tire Recycling Event is May 15, 2024 behind our building at the fairgrounds with a tire collection fee of \$1.00 per tire.

Tiffany Stewart – Ms. Stewart stated that the Winter Newsletter went out and she has a few extra copies with her if you did not receive one.

Ms. Stewart presented on the Willis Project to the Southwest PA Literacy Coalition Meeting which was two weeks ago and from that she was invited to speak to the Environmental Education students at PennWest at the end of March.

Ms. Stewart has been speaking with DCNR about possibly doing a riparian buffer site with a landowner out in the Quiet Dell area.

Ms. Stewart is meeting with US Fish and Wildlife in two weeks to look at a potential Growing Greener Grant site.

The EQB February 13 meeting which included discussion of Fletcher Run was canceled due to inclement weather and has not been rescheduled at the time of this meeting.

Ms. Stewart brought and passed around photos from the Cree Farm project showing the progress made at this point.

Tess Prochaska—Ms. Prochaska stated that 3-4 GRACE applications have been received.

Heather Yorke – Ms. Yorke did not have anything to add to written report.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider stated that Penn's Corner Charitable Trust has been dissolved; Ms. Snider notified the Commissioners this morning of the dissolution at the department head meeting.

Work is starting on Dam 647, a dry dam in Wheeling Creek which is compromised by sediment and debris that they will be working to remove this spring or early summer. There is another dam in the Wheeling Creek Watershed Commission that will be getting upgraded.

Ms. Snider stated that the Nutrient Management posting is out but there haven't been any qualified applicant.

OLD BUSINESS

AG COMPLAINT-UPDATE

Kovalcheck Road – Ms. Snider stated that the meeting with Mr. Gall had to be rescheduled due to the DEP Representative being ill; meeting is rescheduled to Monday, February 26 at

12:00pm; Ms. Snider, Ms. Prochaska, Mr. Basinger and Mr. Cinkan will be attending the meeting with Mr. Gall. There have been new complaints of dead animals that hopefully can be seen and addressed by the DEP Representative at this visit.

Ms. Snider explained that this is the beginning of the process to getting Mr. Gall in compliance and that time will have to be allowed for Mr. Gall to make any needed corrections to his plans and time to get practices implemented.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

There were no requests for assistance.

2024 GRACE FORESTRY PROPOSED CHANGES

Ms. Snider stated that Mr. Gibbs had sent the proposed changes to her last month, but was unable to attend the January meeting; Ms. Snider asked if she could save it for the February Meeting when Mr. Gibbs was able to attend to explain and answer any questions from the board.

Mr. Gibbs explained that it has been a few years since any changes were made to the payment rates for the GRACE forestry practices. After discussion with a lot of contractors around the state regarding increased labor and materials costs it was determined that it was time to propose payment changes.

Woody Vegetation Management-Practice cap of \$8,000 per implementation contract/Life span of practice is 5 years per treatment unit.

Chemical, ground & foliar treatment – from \$300 to \$400.

Chemical spot Herbicide treatment – no change \$200.

Hand Tools, Chemical treatment—from \$400 to \$500.

Herbaceous Non-Woody Invasive Control-Practice cap of \$6,000 per implementation contract/Life span of practice is 5 years per treatment unit.

Forest Herbaceous Chemical Ground – from \$150 to \$200.

Chemical Spot Herbicide Treatment – from \$80 to \$100.

Riparian Forest Buffer-Practice cap of \$6,000 per implementation contract/Life span of practice is 10 years per treatment unit.

Bareroot with Tree Tubes – from \$2,900 to \$3,000.

Tree Establishment

High Density with Tree Shelters – no change \$3,000.

Timber Stand Improvement-Practice cap of \$8,000 per implementation contract/Life span of practice is 10 years per treatment unit.

Single Stem Treatment – no change \$250.

Grapevine Control – from \$50 to \$75.

Crop Tree Release – no change \$400.

Low Shade Removal, Thinning – from \$250 to \$300.

Forestry Stewardship Plan

10-20 acres \$900.00

21-100 acres \$1,100

101-250 acres \$1,700

251-500 acres \$2,400

501-1000 acres \$2,900

1001+ acres \$3,600

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to adopt new payment caps within the GRACE Forestry Program. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

ACAP ENGINEERING HRG

After introducing themselves, Nick Hepfl, Engineering Tech stated HRG is working in 32 counties across the state with Conservation Districts regarding all aspects of the ACAP program including engineering, implementation, administrative assistance, Agricultural and Nutrient Management planning assistance, I&Es and Budget tracking. HRG is a certified technical service provider itself, as well as, Nick Hepfl and Andy Hibbs are certified technical service providers with NRCS. Every Conservation District is a little bit different so HRG services are tailored to the needs of each individual district.

Jordan Whitmer, Engineering Technician is the closest HRG employee, he lives 35 minutes from Greene County in the Chartiers area. Jordan is working towards planner's certification and can help out with construction inspections.

Ben Gilberti, Group Manager Civil stated that HRG is a full-service engineering firm used to dealing with complex grant funding situations and very familiar with the bidding processes. After discussion, the decision was made to sign a one-year engineering contract with HRG.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to accept HRG as the Greene County Conservation District engineering company for the ACAP Program for one year. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Working on Annual Report which will be done by the end of March
Winter Newsletter is out

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Russ Gibbs-DCNR Service Forester stated that he had nothing to add to the 2024 GRACE Forestry changes that he had already presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

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GCCDMM_2/20/2024

The next regular meeting will be March 19, 2024.

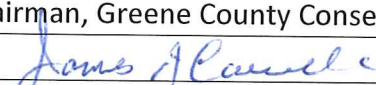
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am. Rebecca Trigger 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>March 19</u> , 2024.
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District

By _____ Vice