



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES February 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

James A. Cowell, Jr. 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

James A. Cowell, Jr.-Chairman; Commissioner Mike Belding-Vice Chairman; William Wentzel-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Treasurer; Dave Shipman, Dan Bazzoli, Lewis Crouse and Glodenna Halstead. Associate Directors: Keith Golden, Jim Willis, Jerry Day, Doug Willis, Kevin White and George Scull. Potential Associate Directors: Ryan Wise, Rebecca Trigger and Matt Robison.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Zachary Basinger-Environmental Permitting Manager; Jared Zinn – Watershed Specialist, Tiffany Stewart-Conservation Technician and Heather Yorke-Fiscal Officer.

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer - Regional District Rep Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Cowell requested that everyone in attendance introduce themselves to the new associate board members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the January 17, 2023 minutes. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

The January's reconciliation statements were provided to the board for review. The board was provided with an updated treasurer's report.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM

Request to add to the agenda the discussion and approval of an RFQ advertisement with Washington County and Beaver County for ACAP.

Request to add to the agenda the transfer of funds from First Federal Savings and Loan to Community Bank.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mike Belding to add the advertising and transfer requests to the agenda. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCE

All ethics forms that are required of the directors are due by the end of April. This item will remain on the agendas until all ethics forms are received. Updated Contact information forms were distributed to director and new potential associate directors. This form is utilized annually to verify the donation of mileage to Envirothon by those board members that choose to do so and will remain on the agenda until all forms have been received.

Envirothon is April 26, 2023 at Hunting Hill in Dilliner, PA.

See updated list of 2023 District Committee List; Ms. Snider has the most current committee list and details of duties for each committee, which will be emailed to the new associate members to aid in their decision.

PACD Southwest Regional Directors Meeting is April 19, 2023 from 10am to noon at the Westmoreland Conservation District Office, Greensburg, PA. If you are interested but unable to attend in person you may attend the meeting virtually.

DGLVR QA/QC visits April 3-5, they will look over GCCD files, review project and evaluate the work on Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Roads. All committee members and QAB members are encouraged to attend any or all of the visit. The State Conservation Commission will want to interview the QAB members, Chairman and any other committee member interested. Please let the staff know of your availability.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski-working on Envirothon, reached out to EQT regarding their contribution to Envirothon and site visits for DGR which townships.

Zack Basinger- attended the February 14 preconstruction meeting at Hatfield; told that the smoke stack implosion would be Saturday March 4, 2023 so GCCD notified the county, townships and 911.

Lindsay and Zack met with Windstream regarding Fiberoptic project and they now understand that their buried lines that would require permits.

Jared Zinn- nothing to add to report other than Mr. Cowell and Mr. Hopkins should be receiving emails for DEP for Growing Greener signatures.

Lisa Snider- nothing to add to written report.

Tiffany Stewart- G.R.A.C.E. packet for this year will be going out this month. Lisa will be reviewing the ACAP.

Heather Yorko-trying to learn her job and all of the board members.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

No request for assistance

Approval of new Associate Directors

Ryan Wise, Rebecca Trigger and Matt Robison were invited to attend GCCD Board Meeting if they were interested in becoming an Associate Board Member for 2023. Ms. Snider explained that Associate Directors serve a one-year term, participate in discussion, but do not vote. Ms. Snider explained the contact information sheet purpose, explained that attendance is encouraged, but not required at every meeting and that in January of next year GCCD would reach out to see if they wished to continue as Associate Directors. Mr. Bazzoli explained that voting members count on associate directors for feedback and other ideas to assist them in decision-making.

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve Ryan Wise, Rebecca Trigger and Matt Robison as Associate Board members for 2023. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

2023 DGLVR Application Deadline Adjustment

Mrs. Snider is requesting an end of April deadline for DGLVR applications for 2023 to allow time for townships a month or so to get application submitted allow time for QAB review and get application approved. This allows time for Mrs. Snider a month or two to do quick rounds if needed.

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to move deadline for DGLVR Application to the end of April. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Penn's Corner RC&D Dissolution

Penn's Corner is discussing the possibility of dissolving the organization. While looking into that possibility, Penn's Corner RC&D reached out to districts that have funds being held to see what the Conservation Districts plan to do with the funds in their accounts if the organization is dissolved. The Grigsby fund is a fund that was opened approximately 23 years ago for operation and maintenance of an AMD facility that is to be built on the Grigsby property located on Creek Road in Monongahela Township. The accounts current balance as of December 31, 2022 was \$94,736. Ms. Snider would like to ask the state if the funds could be deposited into a passbook savings account to hold funds until a decision can be made. The Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment System that was to be built in 2000 was designed Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the district was the sponsor that received OSM funds to build the system. After GCCD completed the Good Samaritan Act It was discovered that Twilight Industries had been released from a bond by DEP when there was still acid mine drainage/aluminum discharge on the site. Through a Consent Order and Agreement that was between PADEP and Twilight Industries the shortfall of funds for the project was placed into an account at Penn's Corner RC&D to use as operation and maintenance of a facility that the Conservation District would build. The consent order and agreement put the onus on GCCD to build this facility even though the OSM money was returned, because it was not an abandon mine.

A motion was made to send a letter to the State with request to transfer funds to a passbook savings account with ideas as to how to spend the funds by Greg Hopkins. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

District Checking Account Updates

Letters in packet with permissions for Lisa Snider and Heather Yorko to be able to complete internal transfers particularly for First Federal Savings and Loan and request information on GCCD accounts.

A motion was made to approve sending updated permissions letters to all of the GCCD banks by Mike Belding. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

First Federal S& L transfer to Community Bank

GCCD's First Federal General Fund is reaching the maximum amount of \$250,000 for FDIC insurance and only receives 0.05% interest; Mrs. Snider is requesting permission to transfer \$75,000 to Community Bank, which would receive 4.52% with transfer.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve \$75,000 transfer from First Federal to Community Bank. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

ACAP

The Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program is state monies that pay for agriculture practices, which targets nutrients, phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment. Greene County will receive \$500,000 a year for 3 years totally \$1.5 million, which has to be committed and spent by 2026. Program requires that farmers have an engineered design and plan to combat the mentioned pollution issues that the monies are designated to address. The engineer designed comprehensive plans have to list a Manure Management Plan, Conservation Plan or Agricultural E&S plan showing all problems and solutions.

At GCCD's January Board Meeting the decision was made to sign up for ACAP. After that decision, Mrs. Snider received an email asking if GCCD had heard that Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) were refusing to do engineering work on fully funded ACAP projects and that TAG Engineers were not allowed to work on these projects either; there are no engineers to work on ACAP which means that the board or landowners will need to find engineers that work be willing to work with farmers in Greene County to develop the plans necessary for ACAP. Ms. Snider and Ms. Stewart met with the Washington Conservation District to discuss the lack of engineering support for the program. From that meeting it was decided to request that Washington, Greene and Beaver counties request that their respective boards advertise for a RFQ of engineers for agricultural practices.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to "team up" regionally to find engineers for ACAP projects and advertise the RFQ for engineering assistance. Mike Belding seconded (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Working on the annual report.

Working on Envirothon

Updated the Envirothon signs

Working on t-shirt designs

Lindsay has distributed GCCD Apparel

Lisa Snider and Tiffany Stewart are going to do a Podcast explaining the G.R.A.C.E. program.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer -- DEP

ACAP – covered in discussion

State Ethics Forms, which were discussed early in the meeting

Wanted to let us know that the Nutrient Manure Management Delegation Agreement has finally been approved. Mrs. Snider stated that we had received payment.

District Law Seminars are being held – one in Pittsburgh today and one in State College tomorrow.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session not needed.

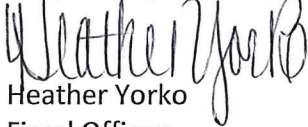
NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be March 21, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 a.m. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

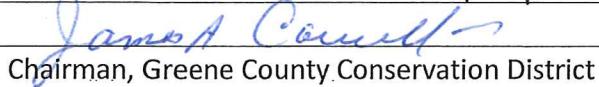
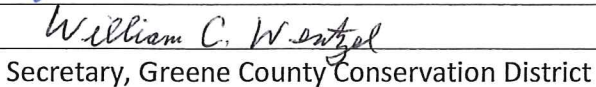
Respectfully submitted,



Heather Yorko
Fiscal Officer

MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on 4/18/2023, 2023.


Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District