



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES September 19, 2023

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; Commissioner Mike Belding-Vice Chairman; Greg Hopkins-Treasurer – via phone; Dan Bazzoli, Dave Shipman and Glodenna Halstead. Associate Directors: Dominick Barbetta, Ryan Wise; George Scull, Rebecca Trigger, Lewis Crouse, Jim Willis and Kevin White.

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer-Regional District Rep Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP); Michelle Roupe – Washington County Farm Service Agency; William Cree III-Farmer/ACAP Applicant.

STAFF

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the August 15, 2023 minutes. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Yorko distributed an updated Treasurer's Report to the board before the start of the meeting and stated that she has been working on a system with the Controller's office to obtain invoices timelier for payment and quarterly reporting.

Mr. Hopkins asked about a withdrawal of \$255,847.55 from the First Federal General Fund wanting to know where those monies had gone. Ms. Yorko explained that the check for

\$255,847.55 was to move ACAP funds from our ACH deposit in the First Federal General Fund to the ACAP account at Community Bank.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve the treasurer's report. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM

Ms. Snider requested the addition of Jered Reeves Morris Township 55 acres to the Request for Assistance list, requested the addition of interview discussion to set a date and time for Ag Tech position and addition of the UGWF CDFAP Allocation Worksheet discussion.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to add the three items to the agenda. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Thank you letter from the Greene County Fair Queen Contest for 2023 donation which was passed around for the board to read.

Ms. Snider wanted to remind everyone that she had emailed out a draft letter from Jeff Marshall so that board members can remind nominating organizations that the forms are due the first of November.

Greg Hopkins and Bill Wentzel are the board members whose terms are up this year. Mr. Hopkins has expressed that he would like to remain on the Conservation District Board as a farmer member, however, Mr. Wentzel has already stepped down as a public member and needs to be replaced. Public members are more difficult to replace, but very important since they bring different opinions and points of view. Members are encouraged to suggest many additions to the board to give the Commissioners several people to choose from and additional nominates can be added as associate board members.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski and Ms. Snider have been meeting with townships on Dirt and Gravel Roads that are being put out to bid to have projects completed by June.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger was unable to attend the meeting; he had to write a press release which is being review for release by DEP regarding a positive West Nile Virus in Greensboro. Mr. Basinger spent a day in that area talking to townships and residence about how to limit mosquito habitat in that area and protect themselves.

Ms. Trigger asked what all the mosquitos were being tested, Ms. Snider explained that we are testing for West Nile and Zika in our area.

Tiffany Stewart – Ms. Stewart stated that Willis Growing Greener is basically complete, she is meeting with CALU in the next week or so about when the ACAP portion of the project planting trees and seeds will be done.

DEP had just sent Ms. Stewart a draft of a bid package for the Jefferson Bridge site are hoping to get the project bid out this fall and completed by the end of the year.

Heather Yorko – Ms. Yorko stated that she has been working with the Controller's office to work out a system to obtain invoices in a timelier manner for payment and for our quarterly reporting.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider stated that she signed Phil Judy's ACAP contract yesterday, Mr. Judy is going to have to do an official bid package, he is contacting the engineers. Ms. Snider had four farm visit that were strictly farmers interested in the ACAP program; however, these farmers do not have plans in the works so there will be a lot of development involved.

OLD BUSINESS

Penn's Corner Charitable Trust and Grigsby Site

Ms. Snider stated that there is an upcoming meeting for Penn's Corner next Monday to start the dissolution of the organization which should be completed by the end of the year.

Ag Complaint – Update

Kovalcheck Road – Ms. Snider stated that she spoke to Mr. Gall last week and she spoke with Paul Sincan from PADEP and after discussion of the Conservation District not having a trained Nutrient Management person in place it was decided that it might be a good idea to bring Laurel in to help get the right plans developed for the site. Mr. Gall has expressed that he is ready to start increasing animal numbers and there are many steps that need to be addressed before he adds any animals. It is going to be a large project to get the farm compliant with stream crossing, manure management and E&S plans in place.

2023 Awards Banquet Cooperator and Forester of the Year

Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski went through their emails and site visits for this year and have come up with several names for the Farmer of the Year – Lou Fox, Ike Peirce, Jim Willis, Clinton Butcher, Lance Kerr and the Galings.

Mr. Cowell suggested a committee meeting to determine a name and then pole the board for a final decision so that the pictures can be scheduled.

Mr. Gibb will be contacted for Forester of the Year suggestions as usual.

Ms. Snider has spoken to Corbly about renting Valley View Farms for the banquet the second week in December, but they haven't settled on a date yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance –

Shawn Grushecky – Whiteley Township – 167 Acres – Grushecky/Bell Farm

Gloria Mahin – Dunkard Township – 8.63 Acres

Nicholas Bellicini – Wayne Township – 409 Acres – Bellicini Farm

Jered Reeves – Morris Township – 55 Acres – The Old Farm

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approve all four requests for assistance.

Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

2023-24 GRACE Contract Approvals

Ms. Snider explained that the approval of GRACE has to be separated for each of the GCCD Board members applying for the program. After explaining the GRACE breakout sheet the board voted for the approval of all non-board member GRACE applicants.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve all non-board members GRACE Applications. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

Jim Cowell's GRACE Application

Jim Cowell abstained from voting

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approval Jim Cowell's GRACE Application.

Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

Glodenna Halstead's GRACE Application

Glodenna Halstead abstained from voting

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve Glodenna Halstead's GRACE Application. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

Dave Shipman's GRACE Application

Dave Shipman abstained from voting

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approve Dave Shipman's GRACE Application.

Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

Dan Bazzoli's GRACE Application

Dan Bazzoli abstained from voting

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve Dan Bazzoli's GRACE Application.

Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

Grassland Contest Donation \$500.00 September 28, 2023

Ms. Snider stated that the Grassland Evaluation Contest on September 28th and that Carmichaels is definitely competing. The Conservation District had donated \$500.00 in the past and they were asking for the same donation. If the board agrees it would be simpler to add this

donation as a line item on the budget in the future the same as the Ralph K Bell Bird Club donation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve the donation of \$500.00 as an annual line item in the GCCD budget. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Ms. Trigger asked where the contest was to take place and Mr. Cowell and Ms. Snider stated that it is held at the Ag Progress Days location is State College every year.

Carmichaels Area School District Envirothon Team transportation costs donation \$675.00

Ms. Snider stated that Carmichaels is going to the Grassland Evaluation Contest at State College and are asking for \$675.00 in transportation costs. Ms. Snider sent the Grassland Evaluation Contest Donation to all FFA teachers and Envirothon teams.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to donate \$675.00 to cover transportation cost for Carmichaels. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

William Cree III ACAP Application Review

Ms. Snider explained that Mr. Cree's ACAP Application is an extension of the work done with the Growing Greener grant which covered a manure storage facility, heavy use areas and driveways and the EQUIP contract with NRCS. NRCS has found that the majority of the ACAP work is to focus between the dry cow barn and the milking parlor, driveway for the milk truck and animal trails and walkways for animal safety and reduction of sediment in those areas

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approve William Cree's ACAP Application. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Discussion of Interviewing for the Ag Tech position

Ms. Snider has narrowed down the applicants to be interviewed with a questionnaire and is interviewing the four applicants that attempted to answer the questions. Interviews are scheduled on October 6 from 10am – 12pm at the Conservation Office; Ms. Snider will email out the names and answers to the questionnaire to all board members that are interested in attending the interview in person or virtually.

UGWF CDFAP Allocation Worksheet

Ms. Snider had to submit this application because it was due on September 15, but it was submitted with the understanding that if the board required changes the submission would be updated after the board meeting.

Ms. Snider stated that total amount of this year is \$328,597 from gas well funds which helps cover salaries and benefits for Manager, E&S Tech & Ag Tech. Some of the Administration funds can be used for administration of Farmland Preservation and Ms. Yorke's salary and benefits. Special Project needs request \$57,867.72 for GRACE funds for 2023-24.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve UGWF funds as discussed. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

No outreach

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Michal Roup –Washington County Farm Service Agency County Executive Director – Ms. Roup stated that she was happy to be allowed to start attending meetings again since the Pandemic restrictions have been lifted and hopes that it stays that way in the future.

Ms. Roup stated that there were several programs implemented due to the Pandemic; the Greene County Conservation District had assisted the Farm Service Agency with Corona Virus Food Assistance Program through the pandemic increasing the number of Greene County residents to receive services.

Upcoming event is the county committee elections LEA4 for Greene County, Bill Cree is running for his final term of three years.

There is a low interest youth loan to assist with the purchase or supplies to care for the animal to show at the fair. The loans are up to \$5000, available to children 10 to 20 years old and the youth needs sponsored by FFA advisor or 4-H Leader with the animal providing collateral. This program is overseen by Farm Loan Manager, Amanda Mossholder. There is a seminar on this program October 5th at 7:00pm at the Washington County 4-H Building.

There is a new supervisor DC starting next week in Lemont Furnace to cover Greene, Fayette and Washington County for NRCS.

Ryan Furrer—PADEP—Mr. Furrer stated that we covered a lot of his topics for today. Reminded us of a mandatory Conservation District Watershed Specialist Training October 3-5 at State College; Ms. Stewart is already registered for this training.

Chapter 105 Fall Training Virtual on October 17 for Western PA training.

Ag Compliance Quarterly meeting which is to be announced.

Environmental Education Grants August thru November 15.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session not needed.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be October 17, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 a.m. Dan Bazzoli 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 November 21, 2023.



Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District