



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MAY 16, 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.

Justin Brackenrich, Penn State Extension, introduced himself as the Agronomist for Greene County as of May 1.

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; Dan Bazzoli and Glodenna Halstead. Associate Directors: Dominick Barbetta, Keith Golden; Kevin White, Ryan Wise, Rebecca Trigger and Matt Robison.

STAFF

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

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

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

Justin Brakenrich – Penn State Extension Agronomist.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Mike Belding to approve the April 18, 2023 minutes. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM

There was no request for additional agenda items.

CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Press release for Carmichaels winning the Envirothon was included in meeting packet.

Ms. Brenda Shambaugh, Executive Director Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) sent a Thank you email for the board's donation to the PACD Salary Study for Conservation Districts.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski took Mr. Wentzel out on Friday, May 12 to rank projects for DGRs, but not everyone could go on that date. Ms. Kozlowski is taking Dorian Seibel out at the end of the month; DGR's rankings will be on June's Agenda. Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski went out with Center Township to survey Quiet Dell and get the project moving forward from the last round. Tire recycling event is tomorrow from 2pm to 6 pm.

Zack Basinger- Mr. Basinger has the tire-recycling event tomorrow, expecting between 600 and 700 tires. Already collected 915 tires between Jefferson and Cumberland Townships. One intern started last week, WMV trapping started this week. DEP is pushing more outreach for WNV and ticks, they sent out a template that GCCD has sent out to all the townships; DEP now wants this information on social media and publish in the newspaper. Otherwise, working on permits and a couple of recent complaints. Mr. Barbetta mentioned a tick study in Uniontown that is working towards a vaccine, Mr. Basinger asked him to send the information so that it can be added to the social media and newspaper article.

Tiffany Stewart- Ms. Stewart is moving into the Watershed Specialist position, getting needed documents sorted out for the three projects in the works. GRACE is in full swing, there are around 34 applicants right now.

Heather Yorko – Ms. Yorko is working with Controller's office to clear up all outstanding invoices, received several very old invoices; not sure how they were missed, but working to get them all cleaned up and paid.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider is making sure that all complaints are on a staff report for each month, most complaints have been cleared up though DEP.

Recent farm complaint, farmer is compliant and working with NRCS for grazing plans. Ms. Snider called Washington County and talked to Tom who is going to work with the landowner to get a manure and an Ag E&S plan in place.

The Kovalcheck Road complaint required a county complaint through 911 to make the state helpdesk aware of the issue. Due to that call, state police and the humane officer were sent out and issued violation notices to the landowner. After the violation notices, animals have been removed from the farm and the animals remaining are being monitored weekly by GCCD. Ms. Snider will keep the district updated. Thanks to Jeff Marshall and Richard Policz for their knowledge and assistance in calling to the complaint to the state.

Three interns are hired. Adam has already started and the other two will be out of school soon; we should have three interns on staff by the first week in June.

OLD BUSINESS

Ag Complaint – Update

Update given in Ms. Snider’s staff report.

State Water Plan

Ryan Wise submitted Tom Goughenour of Southwestern Penna Water Authority name as a committee member representing Greene County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to send Tom Goughenour’s name as a Greene County committee member for the State Water Plan. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

NEW BUSINESS

No requests for Assistance.

Interns for 2023

Ms. Snider polled GCCD board members regarding the hiring of a third intern for the summer of 2023. The interns will be Carly Whyte of CGSD, who is a member of FFA and 4-H, Benjamin Shaner of WGHS who also participates in FFA and 4-H and Adam Hobe who is a returning intern from last year.

A motion was made by Glodenna Halstead to hire three interns for the Conservation District for the summer of 2023. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Envirothon State Budget for Carmichaels High School

Mr. Willis emailed GCCD, other organizations and individuals with a request for assistances with the costs of participating in the State Envirothon on May 23 and 24. Ms. Snider asked for a budget, which estimates his total costs to be \$3850.00. Ms. Snider asked if the board would be willing to pay up to \$3200.00 minus the resources, sweatshirts and other donations received.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to cover remaining balance minus donations received. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

Watershed Specialist Grant Application

Ms. Snider and Ms. Stewart discovered that this application is due on June 15 after the meeting packet was sent out. Ms. Snider is looking for board approval to submit this grant application for the next two years; the amount of the grant will be adjusted to Ms. Stewart's salary and benefits.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkin to submit the Watershed Specialist Grant Application. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road 5-Year Agreement

Ms. Snider sent out the draft agreement a couple of months ago for the board members review, nothing has really changed from the draft, but it is time to sign and submit the 5-year agreement. The letter that was included in this meeting packet is from the State Conservation Commission showing what needed to be signed and by whom.

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve the DGLVR 5-Year agreement. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

Ford Business Copier and Printer Lease Agreement

Ms. Snider gathered information requested by the board regarding the costs of the current printer vs buying or leasing a new copier/printer. GCCD's current copier is not going to receive software updates due to its age resulting in loss of scanning abilities. Ms. Snider reviewed purchase costs vs leasing costs for the board to make a decision on getting a new copier now or waiting until it breaks down to replace it at that time. After discussion, the decision was made to continue to use the copier until it stops working and replace it at that time.

Penn's Corner Charitable Trust and Grigsby Site

Ms. Snider attended May 8 meeting and believes that decommissioning the organization is their only option. Penn's Corner RC&D was a good organization when it was developed it has outlived its usefulness. Conservation Districts have grown in their staff, ability to communication amongst themselves and do their own trainings.

PADEP is in the process of more analysis of the stream on the Grigsby Site; Twilight Industries is still in control of the property and DEP is mostly likely going to rewrite the consent order with Twilight Industries and reclaim the monies from the account that Penn's Corner has been managing. GCCD will have to open a checking account to hold the funds until and decision is made or Penn's Corner will write a check back to DEP.

Ms. Snider wants the board's recommendation for how to vote regarding closing or reorganizing of Penn's Corner RC&D.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli that the Conservation Board empowers Ms. Snider to opt out if given the option at the next Penn's Corner Charitable Trust meeting. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

ACAP Greene County Program

The ACAP draft policy packet was distributed to members that were not in attendance at the special Ag Committee meeting for their review. At the Ag Committee meeting, it was decided that ACAP funds would only be used for landowners not leased property and a 90/10 ratio cash or in-kind match for the landowner. Gazing, manure management, nutrient management, conservation, and Ag E&S plans are that are needed to apply for ACAP. The BMPs for these plans would have to be listed out on the application and shown in those plans. Any project with a total of over \$25,000, including in kind, will have to pay prevailing wages to finish your project.

Additionally, any project over \$250,000 will have to be bid publicly through the Controller's office with sealed bids being opened at GCCD Meetings. The landowner has the contract with the contractors so the onus is put on the landowner to consult with the Conservation District about changes to the project for approval before proceeding with the work. Landowners will receive 50% upfront monies allowing them to start the project with capital. Once the 50% has been spent and receipts approved by the Conservation District an addition 30% of the project will be issued to the landowner, however, the landowner will be responsible for paying the final 20% to their contractors to be reimbursement after the project is inspected and certified. The Ag Committee added an item at the bottom of the scoring sheet verifying that the farmer is in compliance with Ag related issues. If a farmer has had compliance issues that have been resolved, they would then be eligible for ACAP.

Local Area Work Group will consist of a District representative from GCCD staff, one person from NRCS and three Conservation District approved members to do reviews. The applications have to be reviewed and approved within 90 days. Every quarter there will need to be a meeting before the board meeting to rank applications and present to the board for approval. Looking to get board approval of the application, 90/10 ratio, policy and the Local Area Work group.

Dan Bazzoli, Dominick Barbetta and Jim Cowell volunteered to be on the LAW work group.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approve the ACAP Greene County Policy and Application. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve the appointment of James Cowell, Dominick Barbetta and Dan Bazzoli to the Local Area Work (LAW) group for the Greene County Conservation District Board participants. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

SCC Engineer Housing

Ms. Snider spoke up in a PACD meeting and offered available office space to house an engineer for the Southwestern Pennsylvania region for the ACAP program. PACD sent out an email asking if districts are willing and have space available to bring on an engineer to provide regional support for ACAP projects. Ms. Snider wanted approval from the board to offer the conference room or the empty back office to a SCC Agricultural Engineer from the State Conservation office for ACAP. The board discussed the pros and cons of offering available office space and what that offer would mean for the southwest region.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to relay an offer to utilize extra office space to house an Agricultural engineer for ACAP projects. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

Vehicle Lease

Ms. Snider stated that the Conservation District has a need for two new vehicles, but one new vehicle would be great. The plan is to retain GCCD's current vehicles, which are a 2013 Chevy Silverado and 2016 Ford Explorer, the truck has to be used for West Nile Virus by the interns due to the chemicals they are hauling in the cap. Through Enterprise, GCCD would be leased at a lower book value due to being a government agency with the option to sell back the vehicle after 3 years at an auction to gain equity in our fleet or purchase the vehicle after 5 years. Ms. Snider asked for information on a smaller truck and the only vehicle available at this time is a 2023 Toyota Tacoma with a \$4,000 cap that is needed for the hauling of West Nile chemicals. There are three interns, five regular employees with only two Conservation District vehicles causing staff to have to use their own vehicles on District business. After discussion of the pros and cons of buying new, used or leasing, the decision was made to lease the Tacoma so that GCCD employees will not have to use their own vehicles to service the community.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to lease the 2023 Toyota Tacoma. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

No outreach

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer—DEP—Mr. Furrer stated that the Growing Greener Applications opened April 21. The Model My Watershed virtual training with Drexel University, which is mandatory, is June 12 and June 21. Chapter 102 Program Basic Technical training is May 23-26 at the Red Lion Hotel in Harrisburg includes how to conduct yourself in the field, E permit reviews, field exercises, site inspection of active land disturbances and final NOT inspections. The rest was about ACAP, which Mr. Furrer stated that the GCCD board was well versed.

Justin Brakenrich—Penn State Extension—Mr. Brakenrich is trying to get settled in his new position and find out what type of grant writing is needed in this area. Mr. Cowell requested that Mr.

Brakenrich set up a seminar on identifying plants for Farmer in our area and invited him to the Farmer Bureau picnic.

Mr. Brakenrich has already provided the GCCD office with a fact sheet for the GRACE participants and is going to add to GCCD's newsletter in the future.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

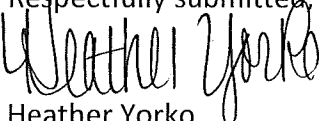
Executive session not needed.

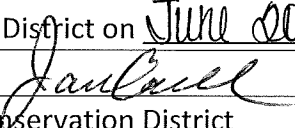
NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be June 20, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am. Glodenna Halstead 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>June 20</u> , 2023.
 Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District