



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES July 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. James A. Cowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. at the Greene County Office Building, 93 East High Street, Second Floor Conference Room in Waynesburg, PA.

Those in attendance were as follows:

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

James A. Cowell, Jr.-Chairman; Greg Hopkins-Vice Chairman- via phone; Dan Bazzoli-Treasurer; Jared Edgreen-Commissioner Representative, and Rebecca Trigger-Director. Associate Directors: Dominick Barbetta, George Scull, Jim Willis, Doug Willis, Becky Salosky and Carol Adamson.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Zachary Basinger-Environmental Permitting Manager; Tiffany Stewart-Watershed Specialist; Theresa Prochaska-Agricultural Conservation Specialist.

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

No cooperating agencies

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

General Discussion

Commissioner Edgreen stated that there is an upcoming Large Scale Solar Workshop with Penn State Extension on August 22 from 1-3 at the Greene County Fairgrounds to educate landowners about solar farming.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Snider asked the board to approve adding John Higgins' request for assistance to the agenda.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to add John Higgins request for assistance to the agenda. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approve June 18, 2024 meeting minutes. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Snider stated that she had written a check for \$50,713.77 to transfer funds from the First Federal General Fund to the ACAP account at Community Bank which is the first quarter reimbursement. Ms. Snider stated that Ms. Yorko was out due to having surgery yesterday.

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve the Treasurer's Report. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

Leah Bell, Morgan Township, 123 Acres – Bell's Tree Farm, they grow hay and raise goats and chickens. They are applying for GRACE to get lime for their hayfields.

James Cox, Jefferson Township, 62 Acres – James Cox has beef cattle and he is applying for GRACE, he wants to get some interior fencing to make a grazing plan as well as watering systems for each lot.

John Higgins, Franklin Township, 285 Acres – John Higgins has Scottish Highland cattle and grows hay. He is applying for GRACE; he wants to get lime and fertilizer for his fields.

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve the Higgins, Bell and Cox farms requests for assistance. Commissioner Edgreen seconded. (Motion Passed)

Conard Gall GRACE Application

Ms. Snider stated that Mr. Gall worked with Paul Cinkan from DEP to write his manure management and Ag E&S plans; these plans have not been implemented. Mr. Gall is still not in compliance with DEP so Ms. Snider didn't know how to handle this application.

Mr. Gall has cattle, sheep and geese on his property and in the past has brought in feeder calves in the fall; neighbors have put up round bales of hay to help him out.

Mr. Gall is requesting Stream crossings, streambank fencing, watering systems, pasture management fencing and lime.

The board agreed that Mr. Gall needs to be in compliance with DEP before he is able to participate in the GRACE Program. Stream crossings are part of his compliance issues with DEP, but that alone would not make Mr. Gall compliant.

Ms. Snider will get with the solicitor to help her draft a letter to Mr. Gall and bring it to the next meeting.

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to table the Conard Gall GRACE application until the next meeting. Dan Bazzoli seconded (Motion Passed)

Designation of ACT 13 PUC UGWF Funds for Reporting Year 2023 \$73,159.19

Ms. Snider explained that this is the annual allocation that we receive from the PUC that the board has to earmark use of; since 2013 we have used \$570,000 towards GRACE and spent \$392,000 leaving us a balance of \$178,000. In 2021 the board allocated \$61,921.62 to GRACE/Wisecarver.

After discussion, the decision was made to put these funds towards the GRACE Program.

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger that the \$73,159.19 of ACT 13 PUC Funds be put towards the GRACE Program. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

DEP Delegated Conservation District Responsibilities and the Appearance of Impropriety or Conflict of Interest

Ms. Snider sent this out to the board members to inform them of when the district is able to help or needs to outsource to another district.

Growing Greener Grants are covered as well in these guidelines; in the past the district has sent permits to Washington County so that there is no conflict.

Dirt and Gravel Road-Hampton Road-Jackson Township slide repair-\$22,062.84

Ms. Snider explained that this meeting is our official June round meeting, we called for more application due to flooding and storm damage this spring. This project was reviewed at that time, but the township wanted to finish current projects before they started anything new. This site was reviewed by the QAB through email with pictures and they recommend that the board approve this slide repair; Dorian did go out on his own to look at this slide. This road is closed due to the slide, revealing a culvert that the township didn't know was there before all of the rain caused this slide. In this instance, the township is able to do the work themselves.

A motion was made by Commissioner Edgreen to approve the DGR Hampton Road Slide Repair in Jackson Township. Dan Bazzoli seconded (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2024-25 REAP Application Period has begun – Applications became available July 1 and can be submitted after August 1, 2024. Ms. Stewart has a few REAP applications with her today if anyone needs one.

Invasive Workshop – Farms and Forests – August 29 6-8pm – Ellis Farm in Headlee Heights 136 Colvin Road, Greensboro, PA. Justin Brakenrich and Russ Gibbs will be helping with this workshop which will include identifying plants, discussing treatments, spraying regulations and demonstrating treatment methods. **Registration is required.**

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski stated that she received an email from PACD that one of our poster winners won at the PACD level in the youngest division; PACD is sending her check so that we can present it to her.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger stated that we got our first positive sample at Wana B Park in Carmichaels on July 2nd and there was a meeting there last week. The pool has been closed all summer but still has 2 feet of water in it so Zack treated & notified parks and rec and township know that they were treating. Treatment should last 45 days, numbers were down last week, Zack will continue to monitor and treat.

High mosquito numbers at all the sewage treatment plants

High tick numbers at State game lands 223; on June 26th the interns hit what they call “tick nests”-41 baby larvae at State Game Lands 223, July 10th 113 baby larvae off of Woods Run, and 56 baby larvae on top of Blaker’s Ridge DEP has been notified.

Mr. Basinger is going to be on vacation starting tomorrow, but he has spoken to DEP and he will do a West Nile press release when he returns.

Tiffany Stewart – Ms. Stewart stated that the newsletter went out last week and she has copies with her if anyone didn’t receive theirs.

The DEP Mini Watershed Specialist Grant was submitted on June 28th and DEP said everything looked good but that we will not receive an award letter until August or September. This money will be used for the Invasive Workshop.

Well done Tiffany on the Summer Newsletter very informative and has the GRACE Application for everyone!

Tess Prochaska—Ms. Prochaska stated that GRACE application can be submitted until August 31st; there are 32 applicants at this time.

Ms. Prochaska will be leaving us for Maternity Leave around August 12th.

Heather Yorko – unable to attend meeting due to illness.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider stated that Governor Josh Shapiro approved \$50 million annual transfer to the Clean Streams Fund for ACAP, \$35 million for ACAP and \$5 million for Nutrient Management. We will have to wait and see what each county will receive and the program will run similar to Dirt and Gravel Roads. A meeting may be needed to make decisions about how to handle the ACAP funds and any changes to our policies that the board make want to make now that this program is going to be a yearly program.

A new speed review permit program has started, we are not sure how this will impact us as a Conservation District, it allows a third-party review of air permits, earth disturbance permits and water and obstruction control permits. Earth disturbance and water and obstruction control permits are reviewed and issued by Mr. Basinger in our office. There is an individual 102

permit and a general 102 permit, DEP only issues the individual permit we issue the general permit. Ms. Snider is waiting to see how all of this is going to impact our office. DCNR in lieu of tax payments have increased from \$2.40 an acre to \$3.00 an acre. Line-item funds for Nutrient Management all remain the same from last year.

OLD BUSINESS

None

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Summer 2024 Newsletter went out last week.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

No reports from Cooperating Agencies.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

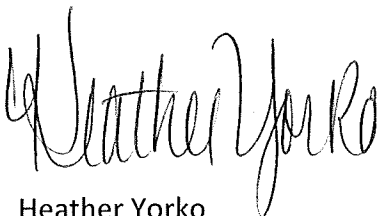
The next regular meeting will be August 20, 2024 at 10:00am.

Mr. Cowell mentioned that there may be some drought relief available so you need to keep track your needs to feed hay and haul/purchase water. It's better to have to information if needed; please let your neighbor farmers know. West Virginia has already announced that there will be a drought relief program.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 am. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,

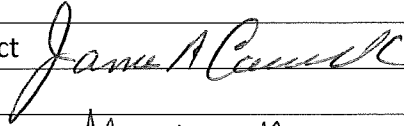


Heather Yorko
Fiscal Officer

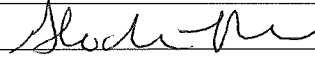
<u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u>

We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the
Greene County Conservation District on September 17, 2024.

Chairman, Greene County Conservation District



Secretary, Greene County Conservation District



CeA