



## **Greene County Conservation District**

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### **GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES September 17, 2024**

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Mr. James A. Cowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. at the 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; Greg Hopkins-Vice Chairman; Dan Bazzoli-Treasurer; Jared Edgreen-Commissioner Representative; Glodenna Halstead-Secretary, Rebecca Trigger-Director and Dave Shipman-Director. Associate Directors: Dominick Barbetta, George Scull, Jim Willis, Doug Willis, Becky Salosky, Carol Adamson, Ryan Wise, Matt Robison, Kevin White, Jerry Day and Keith Golden.

#### **STAFF**

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Theresa Prochaska-Agricultural Conservation Specialist; Heather Yorko-Fiscal Officer.

#### **GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES**

Michal Roup-Washington County Farm Service Agency.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve July 16, 2024 meeting minutes. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)*

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Yorko stated that she had written a check from the Low Volume Road account to Washington Township in the amount of \$18,490.11 for final payment Pisgah Ridge Project. Additionally, checks to the County for July, August invoices and September Enterprise invoice in the amount of \$62,989.29 and an expense check in the amount of \$45.56 from the First Federal General Fund.

Ms. Yorke stated that there were three ACH deposits to the First Federal General Fund, ACT \$14,536.67 on September 13<sup>th</sup>, Mosquito-borne Disease \$14,264.75 and CDFAP \$55,365.64 on September 16<sup>th</sup> all three are program reimbursements April through June 2024.

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

#### **REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Snider asked the board to approve adding Anthony Mega and Robin Archer farms to the Requests for Assistance.

***A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to add Mega and Archer's farms to Requests for Assistance to the agenda. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Thank You letter from Matthew Clayton of Mt. Morris for Wildlife Leadership Academy Scholarship

PACD Southwest Regional Meeting is September 27, 2024 at Westmoreland Conservation District from 10:00am-12:00pm. (Meeting agenda was included in meeting packet for directors' review). Registration is due by September 20<sup>th</sup>

2024 Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Annual Maintenance Workshop October 8-10, 2024 Dubois – Clearfield County. Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski will not be attending as there is not enough new information to justify attending, however, this is open to directors.

Ms. Snider had emailed the Thomas Vilsack letter regarding disaster relief showing that Greene County is listed as a contiguous county; Ms. Roup of the Washington County Farm Service Agency was included in the email and is at today's meeting. Ms. Roup will give further information regarding this letter when she gives her report.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – Ms. Kozlowski stated that she has been working with municipality that are finishing up their DGLVR projects; there is another round for DGLVR that closes October 31.

**Zack Basinger** – Mr. Basinger was unable to attend today's meeting. Ms. Kozlowski stated that there have been seven mosquitos positive for West Nile Virus this year and trapping is done at the end of this month.

**Tiffany Stewart** – Ms. Stewart is on vacation this week. Ms. Snider stated that Ms. Stewart has spoken to the new landowners for the Jefferson Bridge project. They're working to complete the deed transfer so they can sign the landowner agreement and the bridge removal bid process can begin.

**Tess Prochaska**—Ms. Prochaska had nothing to add to her written report.

**Heather Yorko** –Ms. Yorko stated that she has sent an email to Ms. Gooden of the Controller’s office to help with issues in QuickBooks that need to be corrected. Ms. Gooden did come over for five minutes to help specifically with ACAP transfer, but there are several things that need to be addressed so she is trying to a meeting scheduled.

**Lisa Snider**- Ms. Snider wanted to remind everyone that this month is the beginning of nominations for the board, Mr. Shipman’s term is up this year. Ms. Snider asked the board members that are a part of the nominating organizations to start discussing persons that they would like to recommend to the commissioners and noted that she can help anyone that needs assistance with the process of preparing nominations.

In the beginning of August, the Clean Water Academy became available to the public to assist farmers through a manure management workbook series; Ms. Snider is going to send this information to all GRACE recipients.

Randy VanScyoc is a landowner in the county that is concerned about pipelines, how to talk to pipeline companies and how to decide on grasses. Mr. VanScyoc is part of our GRACE program and was asking for some assistance.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Request for Assistance**

**Jeffrey K. McLain, Wayne Township, 88 Acres**

**Pamela & Thomas LoFiego, Perry Township, 75.5 Acres**

**April Brummage, Perry Township, 100 Acres**

**Josh Dains, Morgan Township, 12 Acres**

**Michael Rohrer-Castile Run Farm, Morgan Township, 225 Acres**

**Rick Morris-Kesabe Farm, Washington Township, 70 Acres**

**Ryan Gillogly-Kuhn Hill Farm, Aleppo Township, 51 Acres**

**Anthony Mega, Richhill Township, 78 Acres-small beef operation**

**Robin Archer, Richhill Township, 168 Acres-beef operation**

*A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the above listed farms requests for assistance. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**Carmichaels Area School District Envirothon Team transportation costs for Grasslands Evaluation Contest \$675.00**

The Grasslands Evaluation Contest is September 26<sup>th</sup> and Kevin Willis reached out to ask if the board would be willing to cover the transportation costs for Carmichaels Envirothon team to participate. In the beginning this was only offered to FFA students and then opened up to include Environmental classes, all schools are invited, however, Mr. Willis is the only one that participates every year.

Doug Willis stated that the Carmichaels Environmental classes had been out at the Willis Farm on Monday for a field day, he thanked the Conservation Board and expressed what a great job Tess Prochaska and Justin Brackenrich had done working with the thirty-one students that attended.

***A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to pay for Carmichaels transportation costs of \$675.00 for the Grasslands Evaluation Contest. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)***

## **2024 GRACE Funding**

### **1.D. Conrad Gall GRACE Letter**

Ms. Snider explained that she had drafted a letter to Mr. Gall regarding his GRACE application then the letter was reviewed by the county solicitor and was in the meeting packet for reviewed by the board and approval to be signed and sent to Mr. Gall.

***A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to send the GRACE letter to Mr. Gall. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **2.Jim Cowell GRACE Application—Jim Cowell abstained from voting**

Ms. Snider asked Mr. Cowell to explain the requested change to his GRACE application. He had planned to do a trough repair then found a new spring so he is requesting an adjustment to his GRACE application to include a spring development and trough replacement.

***A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approve the changes to Jim Cowell's 2023 GRACE application. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)***

This year's total GRACE is \$250,985.00 which is our biggest year for funding requests. 62 applicants this year with a third of them coming in the last six weeks before the August 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Ms. Snider attributed that increase to the Fall Newsletter including the GRACE application so this year the GRACE Application will go in the Spring Newsletter to get the information out earlier. Some of the information is estimates because we are still waiting for some soil tests to determine eligibility. There will changes to the applications due to test results. There is a difference due to 80% CCE compared to 100% CCE costs if lime is purchased at Greer which will add \$9,446.05 to total Lime costs. Ms. Snider stated that she expects only 60% of the GRACE applications to be completed.

***A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve the 2024 GRACE Applications excluding the three directors. seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **3.Glodenna Halstead GRACE Application—Glodenna Halstead abstained from voting**

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve Glodenna Halstead's GRACE application. Rebecca Trigger seconded (Motion Passed)***

#### **4. Dan Bazzoli GRACE Application—Dan Bazzoli abstained from voting**

*A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve Dan Bazzoli's GRACE application. Dave Shipman seconded (Motion Passed)*

Ms. Snider will schedule two days at the Fairgrounds to allow people to sign their GRACE contracts rather than dealing with the traffic and parking issues of coming to our office. Anyone who can't make those days will have to make arrangements to come to the office to sign.

#### **UGWF Special Project Funding**

Ms. Snider explained that the total UGWF funds is \$479,145.00 which includes our Manager, First tech and Ag technician grant funding and our PUC funds. Our total available funds are \$335,000.00.

There is \$96,454.67 that needs to be allocated due to Ms. Prochaska's resignation and not knowing when we will find a qualified applicant to hire by next June.

Ms. Snider would like to \$60,000 for GRACE, add \$15,000 towards the Jefferson Bridge Project and \$15,000 towards Kayak launches for Wisecarver. Ms. Cowell mentioned the possible purchase of an aerator which many farmers believe is very helpful especially after the drought that was experienced this summer. After discussion, it was decided that the aerator with a seeder attachment.

*A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve a Special Projects in the amount of \$96,455.67 that need to be allocated. \$60,000 for the GRACE program and split between an Aerator with seeder, Jefferson Bridge removal and Wisecarver kayak launches. Greg Hopkins seconded (Motion Passed)*

#### **2024-2025 UGWF Fund Approval**

Ms. Snider stated that this was covered in the UGWF Special Project Funding with discussion of salaries and benefits.

#### **DGLVR Fall Round**

Ms. Snider stated that the Fall Round ends October 31 so there needs to be a QAB Committee site visit day. Ms. Kozlowski stated that possible dates were November 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>, discussion will need to be had with Dorian to confirm dates that he is available to attend.

#### **2024 Banquet/Awards**

Banquet date was set for December 11<sup>th</sup> at Valley View Farm. A couple of potential award recipients were suggested and the decision was made to have a committee meeting. Any suggestions for awards or special recognitions can be emailed to Ms. Snider by board members.

#### **2025 Budget Committee Meeting**

Ms. Snider stated that it was time to start looking at the 2025 budget and setting up a budget committee meeting. The plan is to have a committee meeting and get everything ready to be presented and approved by the board at the November meeting. October is a very busy month for the office with lots of workshops, meeting, etc.

### **2025 APO (Annual Plan of Operations)**

Ms. Snider stated that it was time to update our APO for 2025, any suggestions please email.

### **Resignation**

Ms. Prochaska is leaving the Ag tech position; Ms. Snider needs approval of update job description and permission to start advertising the position.

***A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to advertise the open Ag tech position. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

#### **REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES**

Michal Roup-Washington County Farm Service Agency, stated that the letter from Thomas Vilsack USDA secretary to the Governor stated that Westmoreland and Fayette Counties were disaster designated areas for Pennsylvania; which makes Greene and Washington also eligible as contiguous counties. The only drought assistance available at the federal level at this time is emergency loans. Farmer need to contact the farm loan team in Somerset County, Amanda Mosholder is the Loan Specialist that can help you start this process. In order to apply for the emergency loan farmers will need to registered with the Farm Service Agency.

Please complete a survey on the US Drought monitor, Ms. Roup has the address if anyone is interested. Mr. Cowell stressed that its important to complete a survey and answer questions about hauling water and needing to feed hay.

County committee elections will go out in November, John Hildreth is the person running for Greene County.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session needed.

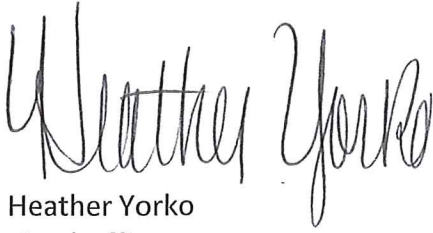
### **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be October 15, 2024 at 10:00am.

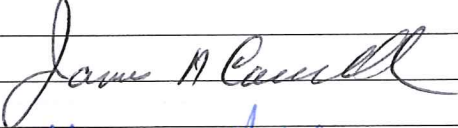
### **ADJOURNMENT**

***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 am. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Yorko  
Fiscal Officer

<b><u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u></b>	
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on <u>October 15</u> , 2024.	
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District	
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District	