



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JUNE 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. 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. Alissa Pilkington is going to be the new NRCS soil conservationist for Fayette and Washington Counties; she is replacing Sofia Arthur who is relocating to Florida.

Those in attendance were as follows:

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

James A. Cowell, Jr.-Chairman; Commissioner Mike Belding-Vice Chairman; Dan Bazzoli, Dave Shipman, Glodenna Halstead. Associate Directors: Dominick Barbetta, Jerry Day, Lewis Crouse, George Scull, Ryan Wise, Rebecca Trigger and Carol Adamson.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Zachary Basinger-Environmental Permitting Manager and Heather Yorke-Fiscal Officer.

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer - Regional District Rep Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP); Justin Brakenrich – Penn State Extension Agronomist; Sofia Arthur and Alissa Pilkington – NRCS; Dorian Seibel – PA Fish & Boat WCO.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Mike Belding to approve the May 16, 2023 minutes. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Yorke distributed an updated Treasurer's Report to the board before the start of the meeting and explained that she had written two additional checks to the County of Greene out of the First National Bank General Fund totaling \$33,560.08.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approve the treasurer's report.

Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM

There was no request for additional agenda items.

CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Ms. Snider announced that on June 28 Greene County Conservation District & Farm Bureau are cosponsoring the Business Connection Luncheon at Waynesburg University Benedum Hall spotlighting Agriculture in Greene County. Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski will be presenting to the Chamber of Commerce members there is a \$20 lunch fee for members and \$25 lunch fee for non-members.

New updated Manure Management Manual that was send out for comments to all Conservation Districts. The email was forwarded to board members the day before this meeting.

2023 Permit Improvement Plan from Acting DEP Secretary Richard Negrin was included in the packets and will have to see how it influences the processing of permits.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski stated that there have been further permitting meetings for Wisecarver regarding the development of recreation area. One softball field, trail and parking are pretty much completed, but the softball field cannot be used until next year. Currently working on permitting with the new consultants on two new kayak/canoe launches, playground and restrooms.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger had West Nile Virus updates. Tire collection total so far for this year is 1,617 tires with possible funding to do one or two more collection events; working out which type of collection would be the most effective public or townships. New interns started Mr. Basinger and returning intern Adam Hobe have been getting them trained.

High numbers of mosquito larvae at the Mt. Morris sewage treatment plant last week so Mr. Basinger treated their chlorine tanks. Crucible Sewage treatment plant also had high numbers of larvae, scheduled to meet H & H Water Treatment on Thursday at 2pm to treat. If these sites require adult spraying that would be done next week.

Commissioner Belding asked if coordinating the electronics and tire collection was affective if so, the next electronics collection date is scheduled for September 20. Mr. Basinger said that it is still undecided if there will be another public event or if monies will be used to collect from the local townships, he is trying to decide which will be most cost effective.

Tiffany Stewart – Ms. Stewart had Model My Watershed training and was unable to attend the meeting, however, she had asked Ms. Snider to let the board know that the Willis project will be starting later this week or the beginning of next week. Starting to work on the streambank stabilization, fencing and watering systems.

Mr. Cowell asked about the Cree project and Ms. Snider informed him that we are waiting for a contract from the state.

Heather Yorko – Ms. Yorko stated that the outside audit is completed and Maher Duessel will be presenting at the next board meeting on July 18, 2023.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider will forward the auditor's final draft as soon as she receives it. IT is ready to set up for the Zoom presentation by Maher Duessel at the next meeting so that the auditor can show the board anything that is needed.

Dirt and Gravel Road QAQC was send out for the board's review; Preliminary review of GCCD QAQC is on June 30 and Ms. Snider will have that on the July agenda.

Ms. Snider forwarded the Manure Management Manuel to all board members for their review.

New complaint received yesterday about a pond on Greene Valley Road that Lindsay and Zack will be going out to look at; there has been complaints at this location is the past.

ACAP account interest rate was not the same as all of the Greene County Conservation District's other money market accounts so Ms. Snider had Ms. Yorko reach out to Community Bank to get it corrected. Ms. Yorko received the call yesterday that the interest rate is corrected. Now Ms. Snider has tasked Ms. Yorko to get the interest that we were not given from Community Bank or an explanation of why we are not being compensated.

OLD BUSINESS

Penn's Corner Charitable Trust and Grigsby Site

Ms. Snider received an email from DEP concerning the Grigsby fund saying that they have found somewhere to house the money. Ms. Snider requested that they rewrite the consent order and agreement that holds the Greene County Conservation District responsible for building a facility that we should never have been GCCD's responsibility. Ms. Snider let Penn's Corner Charitable Trust know that our board had voted at the last board meeting to vote yes for dissolution.

ACAP Update

Ms. Snider and Ms. Stewart have been working on a detailed description and directions to post on the website with the application for the ACAP Program. There will also be a press release ready to go announcing that the ACAP application is on the website.

Ms. Snider is also working to get a newsletter ready with ACAP included.

Mr. Willis may qualify for native planting through ACAP program (name of company doing work on Willis farms) Ms. Stewart is going to work with Washington County Conservation District to write an Ag E & S plan so that everything will be together if Mr. Willis decides to apply for ACAP.

Ag Complaint – Update

Pettit Complaint is located in West Greene is working with Tom from Washington County Conservation District to develop an Ag E & S and Manure Management Plan. Ms. Snider sent out a request for the grazing plan from NRCS so that Tom can use it on the Ag E&S plan.

Kovalcheck Road animal numbers are down. Ms. Snider has not heard from DEP if they have sent the violation notice yet. No update on whether the farmer is still in the hospital due to his injuries from farm accident or not.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance—Vitolo Farms, Center Township 112 acres. Ms. Snider went out on a GRACE visit, they are applying for lime, fertilizer, fencing and one watering system located just south 11of the West Greene High School on Route 18.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve Vitolo Farms request for assistance. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Road Contracting

Ms. Kozlowski had a QAB meeting this morning at 9:00 a.m. to review the six contracts; the QAB recommended funding all contracts:

Richhill Township – Smokey Row – Streambank stabilization areas – Requested \$22,046.64
Richhill Township – Raymer Road – Drainage and base improvements – Requested \$35,207.84
Richhill Township – Smokey Row – Slip repair – Requested \$65,552.96
Aleppo Township – Quiet Dell – Slip repair – Requested \$21,694.66
Aleppo Township – Palmer Road – Streambank stabilization – Requested \$15,718.62
Cumberland Township – Long Hill Road – Drainage and base improvements – Requested \$109,500.00

After discussion regarding funding and spend-by-dates the decision was reached to approve all six contracts.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approve the six recommended DGLVR projects to be contracted. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

Staff Salaries

The board approved paying employees up to 40 hours a week, as needed, due to lack of staff. The only people working 40 hours a week are Ms. Snider, Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Basinger at this time as the other employees in the office are in training or the positions are open. GCCD is working to find employees by reaching out to local universities with Ag programs. After discussion of grants that help cover employee's salaries, it was decided to approve extending the 40-hour workweek for employees as needed. The suggestion was made to reach out to Frostburg State University with our two open Ag positions.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to continue to supplement employees working up to 40 hours a week due to lack of staff. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

2023-2024 (year 2 of delegation agreement) Salary Proposal

Ms. Snider is applying for funding for the Nutrient Management position in the amount of \$20,000.00. The request is due by June 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to submit the 2023-2024 delegation agreement for the Nutrient Management position. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

Greene County Fairgrounds Nutrient Management Plan

Included in the packet is Plan Update Acknowledgement Letter from Laurel Rush, which was required due to the addition of a manure hauler to the existing plan. The Greene County Fairgrounds Nutrient Management plan will need a complete update in January of 2024. Discussion on some issues that need to be addressed in the next Nutrient Management Plan that impact the ability to utilize.

DGLVR QAQC Preliminary Report

As discussed in Ms. Snider's staff report the QAQC was emailed to board members for their review. The final report should be ready for the July meeting.

2022 Audit

As discussed in Ms. Snider's staff report the final draft will be sent out as soon as it is received from Maher Duessel and they will present at the July 18 meeting via Zoom.

Greene County Chamber of Commerce Business Connection Luncheon June 28, 2023

As discussed in correspondence and upcoming events the Conservation District and Farm Bureau are sponsoring the luncheon related to Agriculture in Greene County. Ms. Snider is asking the board for approval to pay \$250.00 to cosponsor this event.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approve the payment of \$250.00 to sponsor the Business Connection Luncheon. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Working on 2023 Summer Newsletter

Updates coming to the County website regarding the ACAP program.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Sofia Arthur & Alissa Pilkington – NRCS – Working with one active contract in Greene County. Ms. Arthur is leave to move to Florida and Ms. Pilkington has moved from Somerset County to the Lemont Furnace location to take over Fayette and Greene Counties.

Dorian Seibel – PA Fish & Boat Commission – wanted to make everyone aware that the landowner requested and received approval from the Fish & Boat Commission for a drawdown of the water in the Wisecarver Reservoir to aid in the search during the fatal boat accident.

The Fish & Boat Commission and DCNR worked with Carmichaels Senior High School & Gateway to Green to do a meaningful watershed educational experience on Muddy Creek. Students looked at the riparian buffer, micro invertebrates, did some electro fishing and came up with a development action plan that the school will continue with future classes. Additionally, the students went on a kayaking trip with the F&B Commission education specialist and did work with DCNR forestry to study trees and plants at Muddy Creek.

New state record for a flathead catfish caught in the middle of the state – around 60 pounds and beat the past record by a little over 10 pounds.

Ryan Furrer—DEP – Mr. Furrer had sent DEP Talking Points to Ms. Snider which were well covered in discussion during the meeting. Agricultural Compliance Implemental Pool, which is an effort to discover how districts are handling agricultural compliance outside the Chesapeake Bay Regional with 10 questions to get a baseline. Once all of this data is collected, there will probably be added policies put in place.

Justin Brakenrich—Penn State Extension— Mr. Brakenrich is getting settled and a lot busier now that the area is getting a little more rain.

Questions about the handling of poison hemlock led to a discussion on how to eliminate it and who is able to spray for it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session not needed.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be July 18, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.
Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Yorke
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 _____, 2023.
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District