Greene County Conservation District
22 West High Street – Suite 204 – Waynesburg, PA 15370
Phone 724-852-5278 – Fax 724-852-5341
E-Mail: gccd@co.greene.pa.us -- Website: http://www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
September 19th, 2017

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eisiminger at 10:05 a.m. at the Greene County Conservation District Conference Room, 22 West High St., Waynesburg, PA. Those in attendance were as follows:
Greene County Conservation District Directors and Associate Directors
Bradley Eisiminger-Chairman; Archie Trader-Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Director; Mike Belding-Director; Bill Wentzel-Director; Dave Shipman-Associate Director and Gay Thistle-Associate Director.
Guests and Cooperating Agencies
Phil Evans-NRCS and Michal Roup-FSA
Staff
Lisa Snider-District Manager; April Brummage-Environmental Program Specialist; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

Mr. Zinn attended a portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the minutes of the August 15th, 2017 meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT
A motion was made by Mike Belding to approve the *treasurer's report. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)*

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS
PACD Southwest Regional Meeting – Oct. 12th, 2017 – Westmoreland County
Ms. Snider plans to attend this meeting, with a registration deadline of October 6th, and invited all directors to attend. There is a charge of $18 to cover lunch.

DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS
Ms. Brummage, Mr. Wentzel and Mr. Zinn offered no additional comments.

Karlie Wright – Ms. Wright's report was distributed at today's meeting. If the board desires, she can participate in GCCD meetings, via conference call. On her behalf, Ms. Snider noted that she has been working, approximately 17 ½ hours a week, and has completed work for the Bell easement under the farmland preservation program.

Lisa Snider – To offset the shortfall in the state budget, legislation has been proposed that could reduce funding to conservation districts (CD). Recently, she sent an e-mail to Senator Camera Bartolotta expressing our concern this action could have on conservation districts and the Senator's office staff responded with a phone call. During that phone conversation, Ms. Snider explained that the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) provides funding for the manager's and first technician's salary and Growing Greener that provides funding for the watershed specialist's position, could be affected.

If approved, CDFAP program funding could be reduced by approximately $37,000 and the watershed specialist funding by about $33,000. Also, during that conversation, she discussed some of the duties of GCCD and the development of the Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost Share (GRACE) Program to assist farmers with conservation practices utilizing Unconventional Gas Well Funds (UGWF).

The board was encouraged to call their legislators regarding this matter. Also, Ms. Snider noted that most likely she will delay hiring anyone to replace the full-time position held by Karlie Wright.

It was also noted that the county could also see a reduction in their state funding.

OLD BUSINESS
Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road
No additional information has been received regarding the project.

NEW BUSINESS
Request for Assistance
Jan Cox – Greene Township – 125 acres
Harley Joe Gapen - Willow Tree Farm - Greene Township – 116 acres
Dorothy & Jeff Mooney – Morris Twp. – 229.18 acres
Patsy R. Morrow – Whiteley/Greene Twps. – 470 acres
Denise A. Scott – Center Twp. – 46 acres
Walnut Grove Farm – Jefferson/Morgan Twps. – 30 acres
Kevin White – Greene Twp. – 27 acres

It was noted that the majority of these requests for assistance are a result of applications for the GRACE program.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to accept these request for assistance. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost Share Enhancement (GRACE) Program Applications
A total of 28 applications, many for the application of lime, were received for this year's program. All but one of the soil test results have been received, so the staff were able to determine how much lime and fertilizer is needed. A spreadsheet and maps were drafted to include the amount of lime and fertilizer needed and the estimated cost. The acreages of these fields need to be verified with the landowner, so they could slightly change. A detailed spreadsheet, that includes the practices and the amount to be funded under the program, is attached. Ms. Snider and Ms. Brummage reviewed each application. Following is a list of the applicants.

Steve Apperson	Patsy Marrow
Dominick Barbetta	Jeff Mooney
Tim Courtwright	Rick Patton
James Cowell	Gene Saurborn
Jan Cox	Cheryl Semonick
Bradley Eisiminger	Ronald & Denise Scott
Kim Eisiminger	David Shipman
Lewis Fox	John Simpson
Rodney Fox	Brian Swartz
Harley Jo Gapen	Suzy & Randy Trueblood
Josh Garner	Ethan Virgili
Curt Hughes	Kevin White
R. Janine Mansell	Michael Wood

It was noted that a cap was not set on the amount of funding GCCD will provide for watering hydrants and if they are allowed under this program.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Mike Belding to include cost sharing of hydrants for city water under this program and to exclude cost sharing for portable fence. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

Below are the estimated costs to fund the above applicants, excluding fencing projects. A total of $116,000.00 was budgeted for these projects.

Lime	$19,818.36
Fertilizer	$12,466.80
Watering Systems	$28,700.00
Stream Crossing	$1,500.00
Total	**$62,486.16**

Following discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve funding, through the GRACE program, to the above applicants as presented. Those projects include lime, fertilizer and water systems. Cost sharing for fencing will be addressed in the future, possibly at GCCD October meeting. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

Mr. Cowell noted that complaints have been received regarding the size of the hopper on GCCD's lime spreader. It's too small and when it's loaded with lime, some of the lime falls out of the hopper, lands on the belt and burns it up. Mr. Cowell thought that a possible solution would be to attach wings to the hopper.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to allow GRACE program applicants, who will be applying lime, the use of the GCCD's lime spreader free of charge and to allow the modification of the lime spreader, at no charge. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

It was noted that it may be beneficial to have a workshop to discuss the application of lime and fertilizer in accordance with the soil test results, etc. Mr. Cowell offered the use of his farm as a location for the workshop.

WNV 2018 Funding Request
The PA Department of Environmental Resources (DEP) is requesting a budget for a grant to conduct West Nile Virus surveillance monitoring next season. This year, the purchase of dry ice, used to send samples to the laboratory, exceeded the amount of the grant and UGWF were used for the shortfall. Ms. Snider will be meeting with Bryan Diehl next week to draft a request for funding that will include the salaries for two interns, a portion of Mr. Basinger's salary, equipment and supplies, mileage, etc.

Ms. Snider noted that this year, the highest number of mosquitoes were trapped with many of those testing positive for West Nile Virus. PA DEP and Mr. Basinger have applied treatment at several locations.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Mike Belding to approve the submission of the funding request to PA DEP. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

Armstrong Conservation District (ACD)– License Agreement for the Mobile Environmental Display
ACD developed the display, for educational purposes, with funds received from EQT. A license agreement is needed to use the display.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to sign this agreement. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

Nutrient Management and Manure Management Delegation Agreement
The delegation agreement, will provide $14,000 toward the salaries of Ms. Brummage and Ms. Wright.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the delegation agreement and sign the funding request. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

Watershed Specialist Grant Amendment
The amendment will increase the funding by $7,200 for a total of $53,950 a year.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to sign this amendment. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

2017 Awards Banquet
Ms. Snider requested nominees for this year's awards banquet. Suggestions for the outstanding cooperator award included Ryan Edgidi, Ethan Virgili, and Glenn Whipkey. Suggestions for the Agri-Business was the Fence Row Farmers Market, operated by Kevin Paul, and Hopkins Store in Nineveh. The agricultural committee will visit these farms and make a final determination. Regarding the forestry award, Arlen Perkey, and Russ Gibbs were named as recipients. The board agreed to hold the banquet, in conjunction with the Greene County Farmland Preservation Board, in early December, at Thistlethwaite's Vineyard.

Mr. Hopkins noted that Mr. Dan Wagner, culinary arts teacher at Greene County Career and Technology Center, attended a demonstration of a beef being butchered. He wondered if GCCD could partner with Mr. Wagner and have a demonstration in Greene County. Mr. Hopkins will obtain additional information.

PA Farm Bureau Membership

At the request of Mr. Cowell, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to become a member of the PA Farm Bureau, with an annual member fee of $70. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed with One Abstention – Jim Cowell)

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS
Since GCCD is listed as a stakeholder in the Economic Development Proposal, Mr. Belding requested that Ms. Robbie Matesic, Executive Director, Greene County Economic Development, come to a GCCD meeting to further explain this proposal as well as the sheep and goat project.

Phil Evans-NRCS – NRCS has been busy completing contracts for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), by September 30, 2017, the end of their fiscal year. Soon, they will be writing conservation plans for participants in GCCD's GRACE program. A replacement for Dennis Thorne has been made. NRCS will be participating in a land judging contest on October 13th. A workshop to discuss nutrient management, etc. will be held on October 28th at WVU's dairy barn.

Michal Roup-FSA – They are also finishing up things prior to the end of the fiscal year. Payments for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) will be made in October. Most likely, as a result of the GRACE program, their office has seen an increase in phone calls. Following today's meeting she hopes to meet with Ms. Snider and Ms. Brummage regarding the program. Recently, she attended national leadership training in Omaha, Nebraska. At the last GCCD meeting held on August 15th, she noted that it would beneficial for her office to be able to utilize Greene County's GIS system and thanks to Commissioner Trader, they can use this system. County Committee elections for 2018 will be held in November or December.

After approximately 10 years, Mr. Wentzel will be retiring from his position as environmental program associate at the end of September. He will continue to serve as a director with GCCD.

Ms. Thistle noted that she and her husband will be hosting a tour of their woodlands on October 1st.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
There was no need for an executive session.

The Next Regular Meeting will be October 17th, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K. Salosky

Rebecca K. Salosky
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 Oct. 17, 2017.
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District