



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

October 17th, 2017

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Trader at 10:00 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

Archie Trader-Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Director; Mike Belding-Director; Bill Wentzel-Director; Bill Cree, Jr.-Associate Director; Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director; Dave Shipman-Associate Director and Gay Thistle-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Chuck Kubasik-PA DEP Field Representative; Brooke Clutter-NRCS

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Assistant Manager/Environmental Program Specialist; Zack Basinger-Environmental Program Specialist; April Brummage-Environmental Program Specialist; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

Ms. Kozlowski, Mr. Basinger, and 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 September 19th, 2017 meeting. Greg Hopkins 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

Individual Nutrient Management Certification Training & Exam – Allegheny County Conservation District

This certification includes two days of training, November 8th and 9th, 2017, with the exam on November 17th. The registration deadline is November 1st and the cost is \$30.00 per person. Mr. Cowell noted that it may be beneficial for Ms. Brummage to attend these sessions.

Project Grass Quarterly Meeting – November 9th – Somerset, PA

Due to another commitment, Ms. Brummage will not be able to attend this meeting.

DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Lindsay Kozlowski – Several complaints, most involving stream disturbances, were received. The National Pollutant Elimination System Permit (NPDES) Non-Point Source general permit, that is required for areas of disturbance over one acre in size, will expire on December 7th, 2017. The conditions of the permit are agreed to by PA DEP and the EPA. After December 7th, 2017, no general permits can be issued, and currently, there is no replacement. PA DEP is estimating that a replacement permit may not be available until December 2018, but they are hopeful that it can be done by April 2018. Failure to develop a replacement permit could result in the delay of construction projects and affect the number of projects GCCD will review. The only alternative would be to apply for an individual permit through PA DEP (these permits cannot be processed by conservation districts). On November 1st, PA DEP will hold a regional meeting to discuss this issue. Notification of the expiration of this permit is being sent to consultants GCCD works with on a regular basis. To obtain permits prior to the deadline, an influx of applications may be received.

She is working on letters requesting donations for the 2018 Envirothon. Also, she is working with Ms. Snider on the Dirt and Gravel Roads program, as the deadline for applications is October 31, 2017.

Zack Basinger – Trapping and sampling mosquitos for the West Nile Virus (WNV) program ended on September 29, 2017. For the season, a total of 33 mosquitos tested positive for WNV (less than 1 percent) and no cases of WNV was found in humans or animals.

April Brummage – She has been busy preparing contracts for Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost Share (GRACE) program.

Jared Zinn – He recently attended the annual watershed specialist training that he found to be very beneficial.

Lisa Snider – She has been contacting municipalities and visiting potential sites for funding under the Dirt and Gravel Roads program. She completed the grant application, and received approval from the regional office, for funding for next year's WNV program. The application now must be submitted to the state for their approval.

The complaints that were included in her report were further discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road

No additional information has been received regarding the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

Dominick Barbetta – Morgan Twp. – 81 acres

Kim Eisiminger – Whiteley Twp.

Gene Saurborn – Perry & Whiteley Twp. – 201 acres

Cheryl Semonick – Morgan Twp. – 85 acres

John Simpson – Franklin Twp. – 83 acres

Brian Swartz – Cumberland Twp. – 110 acres

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

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to accept these requests for assistance. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

**Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost Share Enhancement (GRACE) Program
Applications for Fencing and Pipeline for Water Supply**

Ms. Brummage reviewed each application for interior fencing under the program as follows.

Steve Apperson	1,800' of Pasture for Sheep
Josh Garner	1,750' of Pasture
Jeff Mooney	1,900' of Pasture
John Simpson	670' of Streambank
Denise Scott	2,170' of Pasture/Exclusion
Suzy Trublood	400' of Pasture for Horses
Michael Wood	1,820' of Pasture for Horses

The total amount of fencing is 10,510 feet at \$1.60 per foot (this amount was approved for cost share at the GCCD meeting on June 20th, 2017 with a maximum of \$4,000) brings the total cost to fund the above projects to be \$16,816. The applicants were provided NRCS fencing specifications which require a minimum of 2 strands of wire for pasture and a minimum of 4 strands of wire to streambank and exclusion fencing.

One applicant, Jan Cox, was presented for consideration for cost sharing for a waterline to run water from the barn to a field. The cost share amount approved at GCCD's June 20th, 2017 meeting was \$2.26 per foot. A total of 850 feet of pipeline is needed for a total of \$1,921.00.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Bill Wentzel to fund the above projects for fencing and water supply. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

Mini Grant Extension Request from Gene Saurborn

Mr. Saurborn is working with NRCS to construct a heavy use area and a waste storage facility. A delay in the design work has set them back on the project and he is requesting an extension of his mini grant.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to grant a one-year extension of this mini grant. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

Annual Awards

Nominees for the outstanding cooperator award were discussed at our last GCCD meeting on September 19th, 2017. Those three people were Ryan Edgidi, Glenn Whipkey and Ethan Virgili. It was noted that recently Ryan Edgidi received an award from GCCD and Glenn Whipkey no longer farms. The staff has been trying to schedule a visit to the Virgili farm, but his schedule has been full and it may be November until a visit can be made. For the last few years, the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year has been presented with a framed aerial photo of their farm, but if a visit can't be made until November, when all the leaves are down, it may be too late to capture a nice photo of the farm and a plaque may have to be presented.

A visit to the Fence Row Farmers Market, a nominee for the Agri-Business of the Year award, can be made on any Thursday or Friday.

Dirt and Gravel (D&G) Roads

This year's deadline for applications for the D&G roads program is October 31, 2017. Tentatively, November 2nd, 2017 was scheduled for the Quality Assurance Board (QAB) to visit and rank the sites. The applications can then be presented to the GCCD board for consideration at their November meeting.

Budget Committee Meeting

Even though the state budget remains uncertain, a budget for 2018 is needed. If cuts are made that affects funding to CD's, an amendment can be made. A meeting will be scheduled in November with the budget committee members, Tom Headlee and Mike Belding and any other directors wishing to participate.

Reports from Cooperating Agencies and Guests

Brooke Clutter-NRCS – They have been busy completing the first round of applications under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Anyone interested in signing up for their programs, should contact their office.

Chuck Kubasik – Many concerns have been voiced regarding the state budget. A PACD Regional Roundtable meeting will be held on November 3rd, 2017 at the Westmoreland County Conservation District office.

Ms. Thistle noted that the Southwest PA Woodland Owners group and Save Our Airport Resources (SOAR) will be hosting a workshop regarding unmanned aerial systems (drones) and woodland management on November 8th, 2017 at the Greene County Airport.

Mr. Cowell noted that the state is considering leasing the farm show facilities which may affect some of the upcoming agricultural shows. The Greene County Farm Bureau is holding their annual banquet tonight at Thistlethwaite Vineyards.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

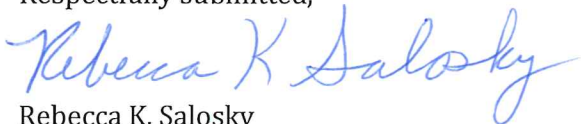
There was no need for an executive session.

The Next Regular Meeting will be November 21st, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT+

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,



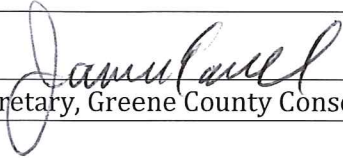
Rebecca K. Salosky
Fiscal Officer

<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>Nov. 21</u> , 2017.
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Chairman, Greene County Conservation District



Secretary, Greene County Conservation District
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