



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES May 14, 2019

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Cowell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at Greene County Conservation District Conference Room, 22 West High St., Waynesburg, PA.

Commissioner Trader led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those in attendance were as follows:

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Jim Cowell-Chairman; Commissioner Trader-Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Mike Belding-Secretary; Bill Wentzel-Public Director; Dave Shipman-Farmer Director. Associate Directors- Bill Cree Sr.; Dominick Barbetta; Greg Hopkins; Joel Folman; and Gay Thistle.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Zack Basinger-Environmental Program Specialist; Ben Schweiger-Conservation Technician; Sara Hlatky-Conservation Technician; and Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist.

GUEST AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Phil Evans-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve the April 16, 2019 minutes.
Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)*

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the treasurer's report. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Pennsylvania Envirothon – May 21, 2019

Ms. Snider noted the Pennsylvania Envirothon is on May 21, 2019 at University of Penn State, Johnstown Campus (UPJ). Ms. Snider along with Ms. Kozlowski, Mr. Basinger, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Morris will take part in the oral judging component of the event. Lisa added anyone interested in attending is welcome to the event.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski was out of office on vacation.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger stated the interns are working with West Nile Virus and tick surveillance. Mr. Basinger is issuing permits and completing inspections for previously filed permits.

Ben Schweiger - Mr. Schweiger, along with Ms. Hlatky, have been focusing on the upcoming Manure Management Workshops. While working on the training session they are calling all GRACE participants that are required to have a plan in place for future funding so that they have the opportunity to attend. Ben and Sara are hosting a Manure Management Workshop today at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Snider added anytime a participant receives help creating a manure management plan, from conservation staff, it is reported to the state. Reporting it to the state is a new practice through the Nutrient Management program and unknown why this practice has been introduced.

Sara Hlatky - Ms. Hlatky has attended several Nutrient Management workshops this past month with testing at end of June. Sara has also been on several farm visits with Mr. Schweiger.

Jared Zinn – Mr. Zinn stated the Growing Greener Grant is working on a community center site and is nearing completion. Permits are being obtained for local farms that applied for funding opportunities. Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Basinger are working on completing those permits so work can begin. Mr. Zinn along with Mr. Evans and Mr. Hamilton of NRCS are checking the progression of spring developments. Jared received funding for the rain barrel workshops. Mr. Zinn added the CREP grant program is currently on hold waiting on Farm Service Agency (FSA) and farm bill approval. Jared requested feedback on the conservation website.

Lisa Snider – Ms. Snider stated the E&S staff have received 55 plans to date: 41 approved, 12 under reviewed, 2 awaiting DEP approval. Ms. Snider along with Phil Evans, Mike Hamilton and Bill Wentzel are going to visit completed DGLVR projects today in Jackson, Wayne, Morgan, Cumberland, Mon, Dunkard, and Gilmore.

Lisa received a complaint regarding the RES water facility on route 221, where two 126'x39' reservoir tanks are located for a business. Ms. Snider contacted the Morgan Township for permitting information on flood plains. Supervisors have indicated that the facility was built out of the floodplain as directed by their code enforcement officer.

OLD BUSINESS

Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road

Ms. Snider received a contract from DEP regarding the cemetery and will discuss the information in the new business section of the meeting.

GRACE Program

Mr. Schweiger distributed a list of all GRACE participants for the past couple years. The list included name, year(s) applied, if participant is a district cooperator, conservation plan status, and if the participant had a manure management plan. Mr. Schweiger noted based on the list more manure management plans will need written along with conservation plans. Ben stated there are two main types of conservation plans. First, a full plan which follows all of the NRCS restrictions and, second, a progressive plan that does not follow all the NRCS restrictions, due to not receiving money for the practices. The second plan is more about finding out the farmer's goals.

Mr. Evans added the progressive plan follows the steps of a full plan while allowing changes to be made. The full plan is step by step with more detailed regulations being followed.

Ms. Snider noted interns pass out brochures and applications for the GRACE program while working on West Nile Virus and tick surveillance projects. Currently, nine applications have been returned to the conservation office.

2019 Budget

Ms. Snider included an up-to-date budget, in the conservation board's packet, to show the financial situation of the conservation district.

Mr. Cowell added at the previous district board meeting it was voted to draft a letter regarding conservation board members not attending board meetings. Mr. Cowell stated he spoke with Ms. Snider, after the meeting, about the motion and would handle drafting the letter, regarding this issue, to be delivered to the commissioners. Mr. Cowell spoke with Commissioner Zimmerman and an agreement was made to have it handled. As of today, nothing has been done on the matter. Mr. Cowell noted he would draft the letter and hand deliver it to the commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance – Wilbur Courtwright-Aleppo Township 50 Acres

Ms. Snider stated request for assistance was received from Wilbur Courtwright, who is a part time farmer in Aleppo Township with a 49.96-acre farm. Mr. Courtwright needs assistant with grassland management, erosion and sedimentation control, livestock watering facility, surface water control, recreation area development and invasive species management.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to approve assistance for Wilbur Courtwright. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Advertising in Greene County Magazine

Ms. Snider received an email regarding advertising in the Greene County Magazine. Lisa stated the conservation district can advertise for GRACE program to receive more applications.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to approve ½ page advertisement in the Greene County Magazine. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

Engagement Letter for 2018 Audit-Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC

Ms. Snider received the letter of engagement for the 2018 Audit from Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC. Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC started auditing for 2018 and previously completed the 2017 audit. Mr. Wentzel questioned the cost of the audit. Ms. Snider stated approximately \$3770.00, which is reimbursed by the state.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to sign the Engagement Letter for 2018 Audit. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Dirt and Gravel Road Emergency Application Whiteley Township Long Woods Road

Ms. Snider received a call from Whiteley Township regarding a slide on Long Woods Road. After a discussion between Ms. Snider and Whiteley Township, the township contacted Bill Wise for an estimate to have the road repaired. The estimate was \$246,825.00. The township was unable to put in an in-kind amount due to the quick turn-around time and the need to have this project completed. Dirt and Gravel Roads currently has approximately \$606,000.00, of which \$111,000.00 is not committed to other projects. Greene County Conservation District will receive allocation money in July 2019 for the completion of the five-year plan with Dirt and Gravel Roads. Ms. Snider noted the conservation district may receive more funding due to other counties, within Pennsylvania, that have not completed their five-year plan.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to support up to \$111,000.00 upon the QAB inspection and township match. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

Conservation Leadership Scholarship Essay

Ms. Snider stated two scholarship essays were available for the board members to read and vote which student should attend leadership school. The board members agreed both essays were well written.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to send both students to leadership school. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

2019 Envirothon Update

Ms. Snider stated the Envirothon was May 9, 2019. The event was a success and Carmichaels Area School placed first, second and third place. The first-place team scored 461 out of 500 points. Team members for first place were; Christina Adams, Jacob Hair, Joe Kurincak, Ryan Swartz, and Stephen Zacoi. These students participated at nationals in 2018.

GRACE 2018 Application Amendment-C. Ralph Adamson and Rebecca Trigger

Mr. Schweiger stated C. Ralph Adamson's contract was approved for Spring Development with Ben's understanding a trough was already in place. Mr. Adamson is requesting an additional \$600.00 for a trough to be added. Mr. Schweiger noted, if approved, he would like to inspect the property to be sure it is not a wetland.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to amend the application. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Ms. Snider noted Rebecca Triggers amount was higher than expected with Russ Gibbs approval letter for the work completed. Discussion for this matter has been tabled until the next meeting when further information is obtained.

Mr. Cowell added Greer's lime plant was down with production of lime this year. Farmers are unable to obtain lime for their fields. Mr. Cowell noted the lime spreader has not been rented in a few weeks.

Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road

Ms. Snider stated she received a grant agreement from Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for \$20,000.00. The conservation district is listed as the grantee and will be assisting land owners to finish the project. Ms. Snider noted a 48" pipe that is 50' long will be imbedded into stone and covered with fill. Lisa spoke with Greene County Food and Cover Headquarters Supervisor, Tadd Hoy of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Steve Liendecker, Land Manager, PGC of Greene for approval. Mr. Zinn contacted the water authority, due to the land used to access the project being in the water authority's name. Ms. Snider created a release agreement to be completed by the water authority. The DEP contract is for materials and equipment needed to complete the project. June 30, 2021 is the date the DEP set on the contract for completion of the project.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to accept the DEP grant for updating the Burwell Cemetery. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

House Bill 509

Ms. Snider sent an email regarding House Bill 509. Lisa noted this bill was voted in by the house and is now at the senate inter-governmental operations committee. Senator Camera Bartolotta is the vice-chair of the committee. Ms. Snider has drafted a letter she would like to send to the committee. Lisa noted her biggest concern is the third-party reviewer and the specifics on time lines.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to submit a letter to Senator Camera Bartolotta. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Conservation District Week May 5-11, 2019 Proclamation

Ms. Snider stated Greene County Conservation District received a proclamation from the Commissioners for conservation district week. A press release was submitted for Arbor Day with the tree planting, along with GRACE program, the poster and coloring contest winners, and 2019 Envirothon.

Mr. Cowell noted the Farm Bureau helped the Conservation District with clean-up day.

Ms. Snider added the FFA Banquet was May 10, 2019 with staff from the conservation office attending.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Phil Evans of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) stated they are wrapping up the applicants for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Mr. Evans was involved in a teleconference with NRCS regarding DC pulling contracts and data for all offices.

Mr. Barbetta noted the Fishing Derby for kids presented by Izaak Walton League had a great turn out.

Ms. Snider added the Conservation District Ford Explorer is in the shop due to loss of power steering, which is still under warranty. Lisa was not given an expected date of return for the vehicle.

Mr. Cowell noted Rick Patton's Farm along with Mr. Cowell's Farm were nominated by the Greene County FFA as honorary members of the Pennsylvania FFA association held in June at Penn State. Mr. Cowell along with Mr. Patton have sponsored the FFA judging contest for the past several years. Both farms will be presented with the Keystone Honorary Award along with Hildreth and Crouse farms from Greene County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

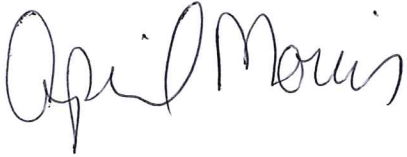
NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next meeting will be held on June 18th, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

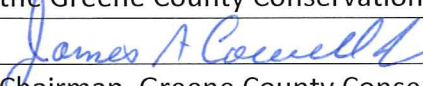
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,



April Morris
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>10-18</u> , 2019.

Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District