



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES September 17, 2019

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Cowell called the meeting to order at 10:01 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; Mike Belding-Secretary; Bill Wentzel-Public Director; Dave Shipman-Farmer Director. Associate Directors-Greg Hopkins; Becky Salosky; Glodenna Halstead; and Gay Thistle.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Assistant Manager/Environmental Program Specialist; Zack Basinger-Environmental Program Specialist; Ben Schweiger-Conservation Technician; Sara Hlatky-Conservation Technician; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and April Morris-Fiscal Officer.

GUEST AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Phil Evans and Mike Hamilton-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Michal Roup-Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Bobbie Bailey and Gene Saurborn

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) August Report and Dates

Ms. Snider stated anyone not receiving the PACD Rewind emails, and would like to, can give Lisa an email address to be signed up. The report has contact information along with dates of upcoming events. Lisa noted the Southwest Chapter 102 Fall Regional Session is October 2, 2019 in Westmoreland County and Mr. Zinn will be attending the Watershed Specialist Meeting October 2-4, 2019.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) terminates Beaver County Conservation 102 Delegation.

Ms. Snider printed out information regarding Beaver County's termination from 102 and 105 Delegation Agreement. Lisa spoke with Aileen Evan, Environmental Group Manager from Department of Environmental Protection, since Ms. Evan was part of the review process. Ms. Evan sent Lisa a copy of the evaluation. Ms. Snider stated according to the evaluation Beaver County was not complying with the procedures that are required in the delegation agreement. Lisa stated, after reviewing the evaluation, Greene County Conservation District office is completing 80% of the responsibility that is required correctly and needs improvement on the other 20%. Ms. Snider will email a copy of the evaluation for board members to look over.

JLCC Weekly Newsletter

Ms. Snider included the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation weekly newsletter that shows different events happening throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Ms. Snider stated an article called "Measuring Conservation Tilling Yields" may be of interest to the board.

1972 Clean Water Act

Ms. Snider received an email from Brenda Shambaugh, from the Trump Administration, regarding Revoking Wetlands and Streams regulations that were proposed from the Obama Administration. Lisa wanted the board to be aware of this change and how it may impact 1972 Clean Water Act that regulates the Chapter 105 program. This could affect small ponds, drainage areas, and intermittent streams.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Notice

Ms. Snider received a notice from DEP of a reevaluation on Bacon Run, Glade Run, Bell Run, Meadow Run and unnamed tributaries to Dunkard Creek in Greene County. A possible reclassification may occur once the evaluation is complete. Dunkard Creek is currently listed as a warm water fishery.

PACD Southwest Chapter 102 Fall Regional Meeting-October 2-Greensburg, PA

PACD Regional Meeting will be held October 2 at Westmoreland County Conservation District in Greensburg, PA. Greene County Conservation District employees will be attending this meeting.

2019 Hands-on AG Day-Morgantown, WV

Ms. Snider along with Ms. Kozlowski, Ms. Hlatky, and Ms. Morris will be attending this event tomorrow. Lisa is interested in what is available and if the event would be a benefit to Greene County. Mr. Saurborn stated there are different stations that groups of fifth grade students will participate in.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski stated the 2020 Envirothon donation letter will be sent to a current list of companies on file. Anyone with suggestions where to send the letter please let Ms. Kozlowski know. Also, Lindsay will be attending the Dirt and Gravel Roads Conference next week with Ms. Snider, Mr. Basinger, and Ms. Hlatky.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger received a total of 93 plans of which 76 are approved, and 17 are in the approval process. Zack noted there have been two positive West Nile Virus mosquitos confirmed. One in Crucible and One in Mt. Morris, this is better than last year when there were 31 confirmed cases. Mr. Basinger attended two pesticide workshops this past month to continue his pesticide certification.

Ben Schweiger - Mr. Schweiger worked most of the month on compiling data for the GRACE Program.

Sara Hlatky - Ms. Hlatky has attended several farm visits and worked with Mr. Schweiger on gathering data for the GRACE Program.

Jared Zinn – Mr. Zinn stated the Burwell Cemetery project is moving along. The pipe has been ordered and should arrive next week for work to begin. Mr. Zinn worked with Waynesburg University Day of Service with about 50 students.

Mr. Zinn worked the fair H2O mobile display and received a great turn out. Last week Jared attended the Abandon Mine Reclamation Conference for two days.

Lisa Snider – Ms. Snider stated the Dirt and Gravel Road list decreased as closeouts and finished projects happened. Ms. Snider along with Ms. Kozlowski spoke with Senator Bartolotta regarding House Bill 509 and changes on program processes that affect the conservation district. Lisa and Lindsay described some problems with communication and Senator Bartolotta asked if Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski would speak with the Secretary of Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. Snider submitted final reports for PUC and CDFAP funding and met all spending requirements for those programs. The next few months are busy for the conservation staff with workshops.

OLD BUSINESS

Doodle Poll Results for District Meeting Times

Ms. Snider received the results from district board and associate members showing most prefer the 10:00am meetings. The second highest option chosen was alternating times from 10:00am one month to 5:00pm or 6:00pm the next month. The district November meeting is when this should be decided so Ms. Snider can let the State Conservation Commission know of the change.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance –

Willie Golden- 24.7 acres- Morgan Township (Action)
Glenn Kerr- 275 acres- Cumberland Township (Action)
Jesse Harrison- 107 acres- Wayne Township (Action)
Robert Woods- 326 acres- Whitley Township (Action)
Jeremy Kalka- 92 acres- Washington Township (Action)
Zack and Kayla Patton- 46 acres- Center Township (Action)
Mark Staley- 104 acres- Washington Township (Action)
Rodney Moyers- 40+/- acres- Greene Township (Action)
Charles Morris- 235 acres- Whitley Township (Action)
Tom Ritchie- 253 acres- Perry Township (Action)
James Stephen Mooney – 60 Acres – Morris Township (Action) Add-on
Bill and Cheryl Almasy Farm–150 Acres–Greene Township (Action) Add-on

Ms. Snider noted two more applications were received and need added to the 10 already listed. James Stephen Mooney and Bill and Cheryl Almasy. All applicants are participating in the GRACE Program and Mr. Schweiger and Ms. Hlatky have visited the farms.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to approve assistance for all twelve request for assistance applications. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

2019-2020 UGWF Funds

Ms. Snider included 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 funding sheets. The sheets breakdown funding for employee's salaries and benefits, administration assistance, easement support, special projects and reserve accounts. Ms. Snider asked for board's approval to add the \$5,000 allocated for a reserve account for the Envirothon education scholarship to the special project funds to help with the GRACE Program payouts. Currently the Envirothon Scholarship has enough funds to cover next year's scholarship payments. Ms. Snider stated the GRACE Program has approximately \$233,000 in applications payable this upcoming year and the additional \$5,000 would be used towards that amount. The amount of reimbursements went down from the prior year about \$50,000 due to a decrease in Administration Assistance funds and well count funds. There was also a change in the amount for salaries and benefits for staff that recently received an increase in pay.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to add the proposed reserve account funds of \$5,000.00 to the special project fund that is for the GRACE Program. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

PUC UGWF Certificate of Deposit

Ms. Snider worked with Community Bank to rollover Certificate of Deposit (CD) funds from the recently matured CD totaling \$419,038.53. Two CD's will be opened to handle these funds. The first will take \$300,000.00 into a 25-month CD at 2% interest. The second will have the remainder of \$119,038.53 into a 13-month CD at 1.5% interest. The bank requested a letter from the board stating Mr. David Shipman is to take the place of Mr. Bradley Eisiminger on the signature card for the CD's.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to rollover CD funds into two CD's. One for \$300,000.00 for 2 years and the other for \$119,038.53 for one year. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Shough and Mini Hill DGR/LV Extension to June 30th

Ms. Snider spoke with Jeff Rode regarding the current projects for Shough and Mini Hill roads. The township is ready to begin the work for these projects and are requesting an extension until June 30th 2020 to have both projects completed

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve extension of Shough and Mini Hill DGR/LV projects to June 30th 2020. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

2020 District Director Nomination

Ms. Snider stated the forms have been sent to the County Chief Clerk, Mr. Jeff Marshall, County of Greene Chief Clerk, has sent letter to the nomination organizations. Mr. Wentzel and Mr. Belding terms expire December 31, 2019. Mr. Wentzel would gladly accept again and stated if someone else would like a spot on the board Mr. Wentzel would not be opposed. Mr. Belding was also amenable to accepting another 4-year term as a director.

2020 District Associate Directors

Ms. Snider noted the Greene County Conservation District board members should think of anyone new the board would like to add as an associate board member. Those individuals will be sent letters and asked to accept or decline the position.

Weed Wiper

Ms. Snider received an inquiry from a resident asking if the district would consider purchasing a weed wiper. Mr. Cowell stated this type of equipment would not be feasible for purchase by the district based on liability issues, maintenance and effectiveness for county residents.

PACD Director Listserve

Ms. Snider spoke about obtaining names of directors and associate directors with contact information to update the PACD system. Anyone interested will receive information regarding news and events happening in PA.

PACD Conservation District 2019-2020 Dues

Ms. Snider noted the district dues are now available for payment submission in the amount of \$2,040.00.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to pay annual dues for PACD in the amount of \$2,040.00. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

2019 Cooperator of the Year

Ms. Snider requested names of cooperators or forester by the first week of October to be considered as cooperator of the year. The plane will need scheduled as soon as possible to get a picture of the farm. Lisa noted Mr. Schweiger and Ms. Hlatky can put in names of GRACE applicants. Ms. Snider added the AG committee may get together with Russ Gibbs, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR), to include a forester. Lisa stated anyone that has a name of an outstanding person or farm can be added.

Ms. Snider needed suggestions on a location to have the annual awards banquet. Orndorff Farm was mentioned along with Wilson Wood Products.

GRACE Program Contract Approvals

Mr. Schweiger handed out a list of 2018 applicants showing who was approved and the status of the practices. Some participants in the program were granted a rollover to the 2019 GRACE Program year to finish practices that were not completed by the deadline for payment. These participants are listed below:

Applicant	Total Approved	Applicant	Total Approved
Bill Hildreth	\$ 1,515.99	Richard Phillips	\$ 5,398.14
Carl Biddle	\$ 2,200.00	Tom Brookover	\$ 3,171.82
Charles Ralph Adamson	\$ 4,241.82	Tom Willis	\$ 8,394.74
Chuck Knisell	\$ 2,612.25	William Renner	\$ 2,515.12
Ethan Virgili	\$ 4,100.00	Bill Cree	\$ 7,100.00
Greg Kime	\$ 6,784.58		
John Simpson	\$ 7,144.18		
Ken Headlee	\$ 5,058.59		
Kevin White	\$ 2,202.12		
Paul Braddock	\$ 4,025.15		
Ralph Adams	\$ 2,272.02		
Richard Patterson	\$ 5,750.00		

Total amount rolled over from 2018 \$53,021.37. \$24,014.83 of funds approved for last year's practices are not being used and will also rollover into the 2019 GRACE funds.

2019 GRACE Applicants are listed below with total amounts approved:

Last Name	First Name	Total Approved
Almasy	Bill	\$ 2,247.49
Burns	Walter	\$ 3,820.60
Cowell	James	\$ 13,985.93
Crouse	Lewis	\$ 600.27
Davison	Richard	\$ 1,238.50
Day	Jerry	\$ 1,085.34
Eisiminger	Shirley	\$ 3,140.70
Eisiminger	Chris	\$ 1,243.08
Ellis	George	\$ 7,393.54
Gall	Conrad	\$ 10,673.43
Golden	Willie	\$ 6,980.00
Gordon	Lisa	\$ 2,945.50
Graham	Carl	\$ 15,600.00
Halstead	Glodena	\$ 13,060.00
Harrison	Jesse	\$ 7,086.12
Huffman	Sandra	\$ 4,054.64
Kalka	Jeremy	\$ 7,773.85
Kerr	Lance	\$ 9,158.31
Kerr	Glenn	\$ 7,638.32
Knepp	David	\$ 1,677.39
McNeely	James	\$ 2,167.00
Mooney	Barbara	\$ 10,763.59
Mooney	Jeff	\$ 8,665.00
Mooney	Steve	\$ 2,865.80
Moore	Patricia Darlene	\$ 5,814.16
Morris	Charles	\$ 958.40
Morrow	Patsy	\$ 2,420.88
Moyers	Rodney	\$ 1,558.78
Orndorff	Corbly	\$ 2,450.00
Patterson	Rob	\$ 9,974.95
Patton	Kayla	\$ 442.03
Pettit	William	\$ 1,789.56
Phillips	Mary	\$ 992.51

Pierce	Isaac	\$ 9,100.00
Ritchie	Tom	\$ 3,785.18
*Saurborn	Gene	\$ 22,252.00
Semonick	Cheryl	\$ 1,163.06
Shipman	Dave	\$ 646.80
Snider	Edward	\$ 1,577.43
Springer	Deborah	\$ 927.30
Staley	Mark	\$ 2,080.07
Thistle	Gay	\$ 1,974.26
Van Devender	William	\$ 370.11
Watters	Kevin	\$ 3,828.44
Williams	Jeanne	\$ 6,400.97
Willis	James	\$ 800.00
Woods	Robert	\$ 2,426.90
Yost	Larry	\$ 1,495.75
Ziegler	Joe	\$ 1,824.10
Total		\$ 232,918.04

*Gene Saurborn's total amount changed from original handout of \$44,504.00 based on what was approved by the board after Mr. Saurborn and Ms. Bailey's presentation.

The handout Mr. Schweiger presented, along with the total amounts, was broken down based on the applicants needs of either fertilizer, lime, watering system, fence and stream crossing, and other.

Mr. Schweiger stated Mr. Gene Saurborn's GRACE application does not fall under the normal GRACE practices but is a good farming practice. A handout was presented to the board and associate board members to show what Mr. Saurborn is looking to accomplish. Mr. Saurborn and Ms. Bailey have worked very hard on the farm purchased a few years ago and worked with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on a heavy use area (HUA) and waste storage facility for feeding cattle in the winter. The program will only cover a roof over the manure storage facility and not the area used to feed the cattle. This is the portion the GRACE application would cover, if approved. Mr. Evans of NRCS stated Mr. Saurborn and Ms. Bailey have worked on several projects with NRCS cost-sharing program and had some run ins with time being a factor and changes to the program effecting the approval of other items listed on the application. The packet showed a breakdown of the cost for the HUA and Waste Storage Facility with Roofs and Covers listed below:

Item	Total Cost	NRCS Cost Share	Balance
HUA & Waste Storage	\$65,000.00	\$49,498.00	\$15,502.00
Roofs and Covers	\$60,000.00	\$30,998.00	\$29,002.00
TOTAL	\$125,000.00	\$80,496.00	\$44,504.00

Mr. Saurborn requested a review of the items presented by the board with consideration of a partial payment amount to put towards the balance Ms. Bailey and Mr. Saurborn will pay out of pocket to cover these costs.

Mr. Cowell suggested to Mr. Saurborn and Ms. Bailey to apply for the REAP program. This program receives \$10,000,000.00 from the state to fund projects.

Ms. Snider noted the current amounts available to cover the GRACE Program for this upcoming year are: 2019-2020 PUC funds \$59,827.65, 2019-2020 UGWF Funds \$12,758.43, and 2018 amount not used \$24,014.83 for a total of \$96,600.91. The total amount needed to cover this year's applicants is listed at \$232,918.04. Also available for this funding opportunity is \$119,038.53, which is the amount in the second CD being opened that will mature next year.

Mr. Cowell made a suggestion to the board to have Mr. Saurborn and Ms. Bailey apply for the REAP program, see what kind of funding they receive from that program and see what is left.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to hold total amount of \$44,504.00 until participants apply for REAP program.

Mr. Hopkins noted if the REAP paperwork seems to be too much to handle the applicants may give up on even trying to apply based on time and effort.

Ms. Snider stated a percentage of the total amount needed may be a better option.

Commission Trader Amended his original motion to approve \$24,000.00 for Mr. Saurborn and Ms. Bailey's GRACE Application.

Ms. Thistle asked if making the project 50% of the total amount needed would be easier to figure out in the long run.

Commission Trader Amended his amendment to approve 50% of the total amount needed of \$44,504.00 to \$22,252.00 for Mr. Gene Saurborn and Ms. Bobbie Bailey, along with covering the other GRACE Application costs of \$210,666.04. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

Mr. Hopkins asked if this other category and the amount a participant can receive will be added to the contract for any future applicants. Ms. Snider stated the contract will be updated with the new information.

Mr. Schweiger stated of the 49 applicants, not including the 17 rollovers, 12 are returning. Eight of the 12 have had farm visits with Mr. Evans. 37 are brand new applicants this year. Mr. Schweiger believes word of mouth and advertisements are helping this program spread through-out the county. Mr. Cowell noted he has had several compliments on the program and staff.

Dirt and Gravel Road Project Contract Approvals

Ms. Snider along with Mr. Wentzel and Ms. Kozlowski visited two different Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Road projects that were submitted for the first application deadline. The Dirt and Gravel Road project is in Greene Township on Roberts Run covered bridge road. The road needs additional fill and a drainage pipe for water runoff. The second application is to finish Roberts Run project all the way to the covered bridge. Lisa suggested to tar and chip this road once both projects are finished. Township will pay for oil and conservation to pay for the chips. The road will then be considered a Low Volume Road once completed. The cost of the project is \$74,000.00 and will be bid out.

Sharps Run in Wayne Township is a Low Volume Road project where the hillside is sliding over the road. The township would like to do drainage above the site. The project costs \$20,106.00.

Ms. Snider noted when the QAB went to check these projects there were not enough attendees to make a quorum. Mr. Wentzel stated these are both worthwhile projects. Ms. Snider added there is \$124,000.00 in Low Volume Road account and \$553,000.00 in Dirt and Gravel Road account. Lisa stated she is pushing townships for projects and funding should be available to cover those costs.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to approve funding for both Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Road projects. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Vehicle Lease

Ms. Snider received an email from Mr. Jeff Marshall regarding updating vehicle leases. Ms. Snider asked about obtaining a third vehicle for the conservation district to utilize. Dirt and Gravel Road projects, complaints, West Nile Virus and farm visits utilize the vehicles and, with the two vehicles the district currently have, personal vehicles are being used more often.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to lease a third vehicle for the Conservation District. Commissioner Trader seconded (Motion Passed)

Ms. Snider added the budget committee will be called together within a few weeks to go over the budget that will be drafted by Ms. Morris and Ms. Snider to be presented to the board at the October meeting.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

There was no additional outreach.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ms. Michal Roup of Farm Service Agency (FSA) stated the office has had an increase in participants from the GRACE program registering with the FSA office. The Dairy Margin Protection Program has two farms left in Greene County. Ms. Roup has been attending several trainings within the state due to the new farm bill that passed. FSA is now considered United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as are several other departments. FSA finished the CREP program sign-ups.

Mr. Phil Evans of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) noted the end the fiscal year just finished up for NRCS. Phil stated a new ranking system is being implemented for all programs to be on one system.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

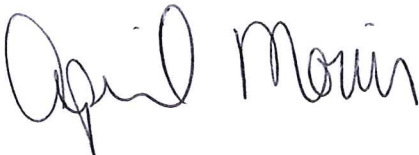
NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

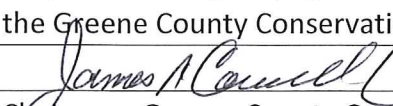
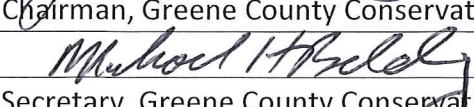
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 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>November 19</u> , 2019.
 Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
 Secretary, Greene County Conservation District