



Greene County Conservation District

22 West High St. • Suite 204 • Waynesburg, PA 15370

Tel: 724-852-5278 • Fax: 724-852-5341

email: gccd@co.greene.pa.us

Web: www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES October 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. James A. Cowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. at the Greene County Fairgrounds Building 10, 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA.

Those in attendance were as follows:

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

James A. Cowell, Jr.-Chairman; Greg Hopkins-Vice Chairman; Dan Bazzoli-Treasurer; Jared Edgreen-Commissioner Representative; Glodenna Halstead-Secretary, Rebecca Trigger-Director and Dave Shipman-Director. Associate Directors: Dominick Barbetta, Jim Willis, George Scull, Kevin White and Becky Salosky.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Zachary Basinger-environmental Permitting Manager; Tiffany Stewart-Watershed Specialist; Heather Yorke-Fiscal Officer.

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Justin Brackenrich-Penn State Extension Agronomist; Ryan Furrer-Regional District Rep Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michal Roupe-Washington County Farm Service Agency – via phone explained the drought relief available to farmers in our area and what the farmer needs to do to sign up. Disaster Assistance Program, the Livestock Forage Disaster Program which makes livestock and/or pasture owners eligible. Greene County was declared eligible on September 26th. Call the office at 724-222-3060 extension 2 they will get you set up for an appointment due since both Washington and Greene are currently eligible to sign up for this program.

Payments are based on a per head basis as follows:

1. Beef cattle Adult bulls & cows paying at \$52.56
2. Beef non adult cattle 500lbs or more at \$39.42
3. Beef non adult cattle under 500lbs at \$26.28

There are different categories for dairy, goats, sheep and alpacas or llamas. If you have livestock and pasture and you're not sure about eligibility, call the office and they will assist you.

You do have to have your farm registered and eligibility done with some paperwork which the Farm Services Agency will assist you with completed needed documents. If your pasture has never been recorded there is a \$46 fee per farm due to it being passed the July 15th registration deadline; one farm with two tracks would be \$46. Additionally, a 5.7% tax will be charged on these payments.

If you have never been registered before, bring your deed so they can make a copy or a copy of your deed to help with registration. Know your farm so that you can show your pastures on the Farm Services computer.

There is the possibility of a second payment if Greene County will be approved for a second payment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve September 17, 2024 meeting minutes. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Yorko stated that she had written several checks after the original Treasurer's Report was mailed out with the meeting packets. Check written for Chapter 105 account in the amount of \$44.96 and Chapter 102 for \$916.38 to reimburse the First Federal General fund for lodging, meals and office equipment.

Two checks were written to Cree Farms, the Growing Greener check in the amount of \$13,392.64 from the Community Bank General Fund and the ACAP final payment in the amount of \$64,662.08 from the ACAP account.

Three checks were written for mileage reimbursement, one from ACAP in the amount of \$85.76, one from DGR in the amount of \$99.16 & one from LVR in the amount of \$76.38.

One check in the amount of \$452.98 was written from the First Federal General fund for a GRACE participant.

Ms. Snider stated that we are going to have to stop payment and reissue the FFA donation check due to it being lost.

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve the Treasurer's Report. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Cowell requested that Aerator discussion be added to the agenda under new business.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve adding aerator discussion to the agenda. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

No correspondence.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski stated she has closing up some DGR projects, starting new DGLVR projects and meeting with townships for new projects for the round that ends this month. She had a pre-bid meeting with Aleppo township, once the structure comes in the township will be able to start work.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger stated that he is getting caught up on permits now that West Nile season is over.

Mr. Basinger and Ms. Kozlowski are trying to get educated on new NPDS permit that is coming out there are a lot of changes and a lot of courses that they have to take.

Greene County had a 3.1% positive rate of West Nile due to less mosquitos from the drought conditions. The entire state of PA collected almost 7,000 tires; we collected 1,169 tires so even on a down year we collected 17% of the state's tires.

Mr. Basinger and Ms. Kozlowski are Engineer's Workshop with Washington County on November 6th, they will be presenting and helping out.

Mr. White asked about the tire dump in Kirby, Mr. Basinger stated that he didn't have an update, but he would put a call in to find out.

Commissioner Edgreen clarified that at Wisecarver there would be one boat launch and one kayak launch. It was supposed to be two kayak launches, but discussions with the engineer determined that in an emergency situation a boat launch could be needed. The permits that are being reviewed by DEP are for one boat and one kayak launch.

Tiffany Stewart – Ms. Stewart stated that the Fall Newsletter is at the printers and should be sent out next week.

For the Growing Greener Grant Mr. Cree has completed two more spring developments, some mulching and erosion control blankets, a diversion and pipeline and some outlets; NRCS has certified his Nutrient Management Plan. Mr. Cree has also completed his ACAP project.

Jefferson Bridge site is at another halt due to ownership issues in the deceased owner's will. They are working with a lawyer that is opening every piece of property that the mother owned to determine ownership and responsibility. Ms. Stewart spoke with DEP about the circumstances and they are not sure what to do and should be letting her know how that will be handled; Ms. Stewart is working with DEP in Harrisburg, but they are thinking about transferring this to the Southwest Regional Office.

Ms. Stewart was informed at the virtual Watershed Conference that the DEP Watershed Mini Grant has been approved; that was the funding used for the invasive workshop and now Ms. Snider and Ms. Stewart are working on another workshop in March.

Heather Yorko –Ms. Yorko stated she is working with Ms. Gooden to get all issues in QuickBooks sorted out.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider stated Farmland Preservation Board meets tomorrow to do annual inspections on four farms. Farm visits are scheduled at the Gapen, Willis, Barbetta, Phillips/Snyder farms. The FLP Board will meet following the farm visits at the Carmichaels Grange to discuss the easement for the Andrews farm’s preservation. Ms. Snider believes that she has all the needed documentation to make an offer on the Andrews farm. Ms. Snider has the Budget ready for the Budget Committee meeting following the GCCD board meeting today.

OLD BUSINESS

DGLVR Fall Site Visits—Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski stated that they are still wanting for applications so please keep November 7, 13 or 14 open if applications are received by the deadline.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

No requests for assistance.

Approval of Greene County Fairgrounds Nutrient Management Plan—ACTION

Ms. Snider stated that the approval letter for the Greene County Fairgrounds Nutrient Management plan from Laurel Rush was included in the meeting packet from member’s review. Ms. Rush reviewed the plan due to the district not having a nutrient management tech at this time. It is a two-year plan in in which everything is exported from the site. Ms. Snider has a letter ready to be sent to Mario Barchiesi if the board approves the Nutrient Management plan for the fairgrounds. Marianna Outdoorsman Association owns the property on Morey Road where manure from the fairgrounds is spread by Mr. White.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the Greene County Fairgrounds Nutrient Management Plan. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

County of Greene Copier/Scanner Lease—ACTION

Ms. Snider stated that the county is getting ready to enter a new copier lease with Ford Business Machines, Inc. It will give us a better rate if we join the county’s lease agreement. They priced the same model copier we currently have with the county it’s \$224.74 a month without the county it’s \$240.00 a month; saving us \$15.26 a month. Unlimited black and white, maintenance on the machine and .05 cents a page for color copies with a 5-year contract. Ms. Snider also had them price a wide format printer for plan drawing, scan plan drawings and get them uploaded to clean out closets. It scans in color and black & white, it can be used to make some signs and posters for outreach. Ms. Snider could print ACAP designs and Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Basinger can use for Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 permitting.

The wide format print is 379.00 for 5 years includes maintenance.

The total for both printers with the 5-year county lease would be \$603.74 a month; the same lease on our own would be \$647.00 a month.

Ms. Snider asked for a size related fee for ink so that we can print things and charge people to pay for the ink.

Mr. Hopkins stated that we are moving into a digital age so its difficult to spend so much money for copy machines. Ms. Snider stated that it was necessary in order to make copies of old files and to have plan sheets in hand due to lack of internet in half of the county. If we are purchasing it would have to be through a bidding process or through COSTARS.

***A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to join the county and lease both copiers.
Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Aerator

Mr. Cowell has researched the aerator and seeder and found that they are expensive. An aerator without a seeder is around \$30,000 and with the seeder its \$40,000. This would change our estimated costs if the board is still interested in purchasing an aerator with seeder. Ranch Works has been the most responsive and they are built in the USA; the have a lifetime warranty for as long as the district owns the aerator.

Mr. Cowell would like to continue to research, but wanted to be sure that the board was still interested at the increased cost.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Fall Newsletter should be out soon

Working on the Annual Banquet

Manure Management Workbook Workshop for March with Washington & Fayette Counties

Township Supervisor's Convention Thursday October 17th

Washington Greene County Engineering Workshop November 6th

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer—PAPED stated that we had covered a lot of his information including the PAGO2 and the SPEED Program; regarding the SPEED Program he can take any questions back to get answers.

Justin Brackenridge-Penn State Extension stated that there was a recent switch from hay to beans and corn; there has been a lot of shatter loss in beans.

Sheep meeting in Washington next week if anyone is interested let Justin know and he will get you on the list.

Southwest Projection Grass Meeting in Greensburg on November 14th which will cover stockpiling, winter feeding and heavy use.

George Scull-Greene County Farm Bureau stated that there had been a Zoom call regarding crop damage with Guy Reschenthaler's office with Westmoreland, Washington, Greene and

Fayette. They were asking how they can help the farmer with drought conditions; the big push was to get the Farm bill passed which has taken far too long to pass. Another issue that the Farm bureau is trying to address is deer damage and how that needs to be addressed; working with the game commission to see what can be done. EHD-Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease is starting to affect the deer population in Pennsylvania.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

Mr. Cowell mentioned that Agway in Eighty-Four is working to get hay to the farmers in North Carolina so if you have extra bails that you can donate, please think about it; they will also take monetary donations as well.

Make sure to complete and submit your drought reports.

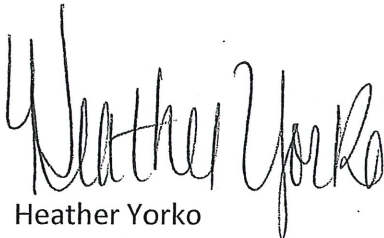
NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be November 19, 2024 at 10:00am.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 am. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Yorko
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 November 19, 2024.	
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District	
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District	