

Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES January 21, 2025

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; Rebecca Trigger-Director; Jared Edgreen-Commissioner Representative. Associate Directors: George Scull, Kevin White and Lewis Crouse.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Tiffany Stewart-Watershed Specialist; Heather Yorko-Fiscal Officer.

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Joe Walko—Greene Township; Ryan Furrer-Regional District Rep Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

OATH OF OFFICE

The oath of office will be moved to the February 18th meeting.

REORGANIZATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS-CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, TREASURER, SECRETARY-LISA SNIDER

Ms. Snider asked for nominations for Chairman of the Greene County Conservation District Board.

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to nominate James Cowell, Jr. as Chairman of the Greene County Conservation District Board. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

Ms. Snider turned the meeting over to the newly appointed Chairman, Mr. James Cowell, Jr.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to nominate Greg Hopkins as Vice-Chairman of the Greene County Conservation District Board. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

A motion was made by Commissioner Edgreen to nominate Dan Bazzoli as Treasurer of the Greene County Conservation District Board. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to nominate Glodenna Halstead as Secretary of the Greene County Conservation District Board. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Edgreen to approve November 19, 2024 meeting minutes. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Yorke stated that she had she had written several checks since the meeting packets were mailed out. From the First Federal General Fund mileage checks to board members totaling \$181.72, the Envirothon Mileage Donation check totaling \$495.80, GRACE checks to Cree Farms in the amount \$8,855.64, William Hilverding in the amount of \$2,500.00 and Laurel Run Farms in the amount of \$1,454.80; additional checks to MPB for the Winter Newsletter in the amount of \$2,898.77 and Ford Business for the copier contract in the amount of \$816.00. There was an ACH payment made for Cardmember Services the morning of the meeting in the amount of \$4,987.98 for 2 PNDI searches, office supplies and Nature Watch for half of the Envirothon boxes invoice. I will be paying the second half charges for the Envirothon boxes as soon as it's posted.

Two checks were written from the Community Bank ACAP account, one to HRG, Inc in the amount of \$336.50 for technical assistance on the Judy farm and one to GCCD for Qtly ACAP mileage reimbursement in the amount of \$190.95.

Additionally, there were Qtly mileage checks written from Chapter 105 in the amount of \$231.15, Chapter 102 in the amount of \$210.38, Dirt and Gravel Roads in the amount of \$242.21 and Low Volume Roads in the amount of \$37.19.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approve the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Edgreen seconded. (Motion Passed)

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for additional agenda items.

CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 Southwest PA Soil Health Conference Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:00am-3:30pm Fred Rogers Center, Saint Vincent College, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650.

27th Annual Western PA Grazing Conference Thursday, March 13, 2025 Trinity Point Church of God, 180 W. Trinity Drive, Clarion, PA 16214

*If interested in attending either of the conferences listed above, please let Heather know so she can assist in getting you registered; there are funds available to cover board member's attendance fees. *

Sustainable Chesapeake Cover Crop incentive letter

State Ethics forms for Directors completion by April 30, 2025

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski stated that the Conservation District Facebook page is up and running so please like and follow; if there is anything that the board would like to see added to the Facebook page, please let us know.

The Envirothon date is set for Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at Hunting Hills.

Commissioner Edgreen asked and Ms. Kozlowski confirmed that she is the person handling all of the updating for the Facebook page. He asked if Ms. Kozlowski also handles the county website and she said no that Ms. Yorko is the person that takes care of the website updates.

Ms. Snider explained that the district's emails and the website domain has changed as of the first of the year. Commissioner Edgreen stated that the reasons for the change was increased security and legitimacy as a government organization.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger was unable to attend today's meeting.

Tiffany Stewart – Ms. Stewart stated that the Winter Newsletter went out and she has extras with her today if anyone is interested.

Ms. Stewart has been working to schedule a lot of outreach in late winter and early spring, Nutrient Management workshop with Fayette and Washington counties on March 20th at 6:30pm and there is another upcoming workshop with Justin Brackenrich with date and time to be determined.

March 17-21 is Ag Literacy Week for schools to encourage elementary school students' interest in Ag and soil health. Ms. Stewart signed the district up to participate in this program and discovered that *The Soil in Jackie's Garden* by Peggy Thomas is the book selected for this year's readers. The books are sent with a lesson and activities to teach the children about soil health.

Ms. Stewart is working with the Carmichaels Elementary and Middle schools about coming back to teach a lesson on pollution and stream health.

June 10th & 11th there will be an Environmental Health and Education Summit at Waynesburg University, there are looking for speakers and vendors. If anyone is interested, please contact Ms. Stewart or Mr. Willis for more information.

Penn State Extension is offering a webinar series Planting Forestry Owners and Estates February 19th & March 5th and Forest Health Insect and Disease Briefing & Forest Landowners Conference in State College March 6th and March 7th.

Heather Yorko –Ms. Yorko stated that Ms. Cree is coming over this week to print and mail out all of our 1099s.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider stated that the first Conservation District Advisory Committee Meeting with the State Conservation Commission and one of the discussions that they had was playing the Conservation District Director a per diem rate.

Ms. Stewart and Ms. Snider are working to get a couple of workshops coming up soon. The reason for the Nutrient Management is needed due to changes to the Nutrient Management workbook so everyone needs to update their plans accordingly. This workshop will include Washington and Fayette counties and explain where to find the information for individuals will have an understanding of where to find the information needed to update their plans.

Judy's ACAP project is nearing completion, they have received their 70% of advances and will cover the rest of the costs until the project is completed and inspected; then the district can issue their final ACAP payment.

OLD BUSINESS

Aerator

Mr. Cowell spoke with RanchWorx they are coming out with an upgraded model called the SC series which includes features that the district would like to have on the model that we put out for bid; the brochure was included in the meeting packet. There was a committee meeting following the November board meeting, the decision was made that it would be best to buy a small and large aerator with seeder to accommodate all of the farmers in Greene County.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to obtain the specs for the Aerator that that district would like to order and bid the Aerator. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

District Funding Resolution

Mr. Cowell and Mr. Hopkins meet with Commissioner Edgreen to discuss the funding resolution. The district was asking for ways to enhance employees' salaries and benefits to encourage employee retention.

There was a suggestion to increase work hours to forty hours a week if staff were interested. There are interviews scheduled for Ag Tech and Nutrient Management Specialists in the next couple of weeks.

Discussions will continue to come up with employee retention ideas that fit within county and district requirements, but the decision was made to cover the cost of Lisa's salary and benefits.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to cover all of Ms. Snider's salary and benefits for the 2025 calendar year with continued quarterly discussions of incentives for employee retention. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

1. Covered Bridge Acres – Joseph Walko – 115 Acres – Greene Township

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve Covered Bridge Acres request for assistance. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

Associate Board Members Reappointment and Call for New

Ms. Snider stated that she had sent out an email to all 2024 Associate Board Members saying to let her know if they did not wish to remain on the board. Mr. Hilverding stated that he would like to remain on the board, but that his attendance will depend on his work schedule.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to reappoint the 2024 Associate Directors Board members as the 2025 Associate Directors for the Greene County Conservation District Board. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

2025 GCCD District Directors and Associate Directors Contact Information and Envirothon Contribution

Ms. Snider explained that she needs any changes to contact information noted on, other than that just your name and Envirothon donation question answered.

2025 GRACE Program Application Advertisement

Ms. Snider asked if the board wanted her to start advertising for 2025 GRACE Program, there had been discussion of adding invasive species to the GRACE Program, but Ms. Snider and Mr. Brackenrich had decided that they need to do more investigation before adding that to the GRACE Program; the board agreed.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to start advertising for the 2025 GRACE Program. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

2025 Coloring and Poster Contest

The Coloring and Poster Contest is in our education budget so Ms. Snider is just notifying the board. Funding to cover the two contests are already budgeted for 2025.

2025 Greene County Conservation District Committees and Delegate

Mr. Cowell asked that these two items be moved to the February 19th meeting along with the

Oath of Office.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

2024-2025 Winter Newsletter has been mailed.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer—PAPED stated that PACD is putting on Employment Law Seminar February 18th at Pittsburgh Marriot if anyone wanted to attend. PACD has an upcoming board education meeting in Westmoreland County date and time to be determined.

George Scull-Farm Bureau stated that he will let us know what book the bureau is planning to read to elementary schools in the area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.


NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting is February 18, 2025.

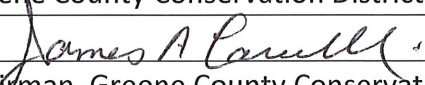
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to adjourn the meeting at 12:07pm. Greg Hopkins 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 February 19, 2025.
 Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District 