



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES June 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. James A. Cowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:03a.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; Glodenna Halstead-Secretary; Jared Edgreen-Commissioner Representative; David Shipman- Director; Rebecca Trigger-Director. Associate Directors: Dominick Barbetta, Carol Adamson, Kieth Golden, George Scull and Kevin White.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Manager; Zachary Basinger-Environmental Permitting Manager; Tiffany Stewart-Watershed Specialist; Daniel Phillip-Agricultural Conservation Specialist; Heather Yorko-Fiscal Officer.

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer-Regional District Rep Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP); Bobbi Bailey-ACAP participant representing herself, Gene Saurborn and Nick Bellicini. Justin Mason-Conservative Energy Network of Pennsylvania -Solar Presenter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the April 14, 2025 meeting minutes. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Yorko stated that she had written two checks since the meeting packets were mailed out. One check from First Federal General Fund to the County of Greene for two invoices totaling \$4,047.57. One check from the Community Bank ACAP account to Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. for two invoices totaling \$1,521.50.

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

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Snider didn't have any items to add to the agenda, but requested that New Business item G be moved to the top due to Ms. Bailey needing leave.

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to move Item G to the top of New Business. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference, July 15-17, 2025 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Ms. Snider is planning to attend and asked anyone else interested in attending please let our office know so that we can get them registered.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski stated that QAB meeting and site visits at the beginning of July, there are application that have been submitted, but the townships have until the end of June to submit more applications.

Envirothon was a success and Carmichaels team went on to place 2nd at the State Envirothon Competition.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger stated that 27 nymph deer ticks have been collected, but the test results have not been received yet. Also 15 tick larvae and 1,074 mosquitos so far and none of them have tested positive for West Nile. Mr. Basinger wanted to thank the conservation staff, because 868 tires were collected at our Tire Recycling Event June 11th which brings our total collection of almost 10,000 tires since 2021.

Ms. Trigger asked about small animals that carry nymphs that cause Lyme's disease; mice, chipmunks and birds are examples of animals that carry Lyme's disease to the deer ticks when they feed on them. Deer ticks can carry Lyme's disease, but it is not passed from mother to offspring. 35% of nymphs carry Lyme's disease, a tick needs to stay on you for 24-36 hours to transmit lymph's disease, nymph are harder to notice since they are so small.

A Lymph's disease rash may not be a classic bullseye or it may take several days to develop into a bullseye so if you have a pink rash, go to your PCP and get Doxycycline within 72 hours; farmers and others that are out daily should reach out to PCP to get Doxy for prophylactic use when you find a tick on you. Athletic, moisture wicking clothing will also assist if you are out in the woods or farm and want to limit exposure to ticks.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Logan Opfer-Waterways Conservation Officer-PA Fish & Boat Commission and Derek Noonan-Waterways Conservation Officer in training from Altoona area.

Tiffany Stewart – Ms. Stewart stated that she just has an updated on the Jefferson Bridge Project that will be discussed later in the meeting.

Dan Phillips – Mr. Phillips stated he has been doing a lot of initial GRACE visits; he will have to return to the farms needing soil samples due to weather limiting ability for farmers to cut their hay. Also working on ACAP trainings that will allow him to develop and certify grazing plans without need for HRG or NRCS.

Heather Yorko –Ms. Yorko stated that she didn't have anything to add to her treasurer's report unless anyone had questions.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider stated that her and Ms. Kozlowski meet with Greene Township, the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads and Envirotech, the consultant hired to do the core samples and drillings for Creek Road. The core samples that they took will not meet the 300 PSI require for a Full Depth Reclamation project so they are sitting down to talk about that and Ms. Snider will have more information at our next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

1. **Heavenly Acres-Scott Pettit-Center Township-300 Acres**
2. **Michael Bohonak-Richhill Township-134 Acres**
3. **John McDougal-Wayne Township-70 Acres**
4. **Michael Cummings-Springhill Township-98 Acres**
5. **Walnut Creek Farm, LLC. -Suzy & Randy Trueblood-Morgan Township-40 Acres**
6. **Woodside Farm-Bret Eisiminger-Whiteley Township-360 Acres**
7. **Kenneth Jones-Jackson Township-50 Acres**
8. **Browns Tree Farm-William Brown-Morris Township-85 Acres**

Ms. Snider stated that Mr. Phillips had been out to all the farm and met with the owners who are applying for GRACE. If approved all the individuals will be added to our district cooperators list/ mailing list.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve the eight farms listed requests for assistance. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

ACAP Contract Revisions and Amendments -ACTION

Ms. Snider stated that bids have been advertised for the Nick Bellicini and Gene Saurborn projects, the first time the bids were advertised one bid was received for the Saurborn project and none for the Bellicini project; the Saurborn bid was over \$200,000 of what we had estimated the bid to be. Six contractors have visited the sites which is a requirement for bidding on the projects both local and from across the state. Ms. Snider believes that the reason local contractors aren't bidding is due to the prevailing wage rates issues which are a lot of paperwork and a lot of things they don't want to do.

The second bids that were opened last week, 3 bids were received one for the Saurborn project which includes a Heavy Use Area (HUA), Manure Storage Structure (MSS) and fencing, second bid was for the Bellicini project which includes a HUA, MSS, fencing and watering systems and the third bid for some generalized fencing. These three bids were what the engineer had estimated costs should be, however, there was one item in the Bellicini project, a high-pressure water system that was going from the Bellicini barn to the top of the hill that would be gravity fed down the hill. The cost for this item was \$100,000, way more than anticipated so the decision was made to request that item be removed from their contract, because there are other avenues for water available.

During the review of these bids Ms. Snider noticed that there was an error in the property boundaries causing a watering systems which should have been included in the Saurborn project

was mistakenly added to the Bellicini project.

Ms. Snider's first request of the board is to amend both contracts to be corrected, first by removing the high-pressure water system and stream crossing (\$8,700) from the Bellicini contract and adding the stream crossing and designated monies (\$8,700) to the Saurborn contract.

Ms. Snider's second request of the board is to increase the Bellicini project by \$75,000 and the Saurborn project by \$85,000. The contracts written with these farmers were written on Inventory & Evaluation estimate. Then work began on actual final engineering plans which show additional needs and land conditions not noted in an I&E; additionally, the contract was signed a year ago and costs keep increasing especially for concrete.

Ms. Bailey stated that she believes that the reason for the deficit request for funding was that the original costs were calculated based on the Inventory and Evaluation (I&E) numbers and not the actual surveyed as built numbers.

Ms. Snider stated that our contracts were based on the I&E numbers

Mr. Cowell asked if there were available ACAP funds to cover the increased funds requested and Ms. Snider stated that there were funds available with no other ACAP contracts in the works at this time.

A two-part motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to first remove the high-pressure water system from the Bellicini contract and move the stream crossing from the Bellicini contract to the Saurborn contract along with the designated funds. Second to increase the contract with Bellicini by \$75,000 and Saurborn by \$85,000 to meet the total costs that are needed to complete the approved projects. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

Ms. Snider clarified that we must contract based on Inventory and Evaluations (I&E) but in the future the board might want to add 20% to the I&E estimates to offset the final engineering plans; better to overestimate and have additional funds designated, farmers are only paid for receipts and certifications received.

Greg and Cheryl Andrews Conservation Plan for Farmland Preservation-ACTION

Ms. Snider stated that Matt Heffner from NRCS created a conservation plan for the Andrews farm which the district needs to approve their conservation plan which includes a grazing plan, tillage and hay crops.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve Greg and Cheryl Andrews conservation plan. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

2025-2028 PACD Dues Proposal-Discussion

Ms. Snider included this in the meeting packets for the boards review showing that PACD plans to increase their dues by \$300 this year, \$200 next year and \$200 the third year and justification of the reasons that the increases are necessary. This year we will pay \$2,665 and \$3,065 by the third year. PACD put on our trainings and assist PADEP with Clean Water Academy.

PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference Basket-Discussion

Ms. Snider stated that PACD was requesting a local basket from each participating conservation

Lippencott Alpaca item, Gloria's Ceramics, Kiln to Table pottery, etc. as well as Visit Greene and Fair information. Ms. Snider will take the basket to the conference with her.

A motion was made by Commissioner Edgreen to take a local basket spending up to \$100.00 to the PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

DEP Letter Extension of Project Completion Date-Jefferson Bridge-ACTION

Ms. Stewart stated that herself, Ms. Snider, Bill Kcenich and deceased landowner's son were able to determine how to get this project completed even with all the ownership obstacles. Ms. Stewart and Mr. Kcenich visited the bridge site last month. The Conservation District's agreement with DEP was going to expire at the end of this month so there was an extension letter for that had to be signed and returned as soon as possible so Jim signed the letter and it was returned to DEP. This project must bid out and will now have to be completed by June 30, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Edgreen to retroactively approve the Extension Letter for the Jefferson Bridge Project. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

Ms. Snider stated that the solicitor reviewing the bid documents and worked with PA DEP to make sure that everything was done properly. The sheriff's office will sign the agreement in place of a landowner.

Small Fairground Building Update-Discussion

Ms. Snider distributed the Wayne Lumber quote that Mr. Cowell had obtained to the directors for their review.

Commissioner Edgreen stated that the bid thresholds have changed since January 1, 2025:

Under \$12,900 use your best judgement

\$12,900 to \$23,800 you must obtain three quotes

Over \$23,800 you must obtain sealed bids

Mr. Cowell had also reached out to Mr. Morris who was too busy to take on the project this year, but explained that for the plan to work walls would have to be raised for head clearance to be able to add a roof to the building. Wayne Lumber stated the same thing about raising the walls before adding the roof. This building was originally built by Bill Iams over 20 years ago and used as his fair booth until he decided to donate it to the Conservation District. After obtaining the building the Conservation District added sides and garage door.

Since Mr. Cowell had contacted Mr. Morris and Wayne Lumber and Ms. Snider is going to obtain another quote this week. Ms. Snider stated that she would get a third quote.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to proceed with refurbishing the small fairgrounds building staying under the \$23,800 requirements, with county permission, building permits and three quotes. Commissioner Edgreen seconded. (Motion Passed)

Ms. Snider stated that she was approached by Waynesburg University to see if they were permitted to apply for the GRACE Program for Forestry practices and she needed to see what the board wanted to do. This is for the house and farm that was donated to the Waynesburg University and is tax free property for the university.

Ms. Snider suggested that the Conservation District put in Outreach and Education which will allow us to help but not by changing the GRACE Program.

Mr. Phillips will go out to evaluate the farm to see exactly what is wanted and needed at the Waynesburg site. This discussion will be tabled until the next meeting after visit with the university. Dan Bazzoli suggested that the University be invited to the next board meeting to

university. Dan Bazzoli suggested that the University be invited to the next board meeting to explain their plans and express how the district can assist in that.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Summer 2025 Newsletter

Ms. Stewart attended the Waynesburg University Environmental Summit

Upcoming Greene County Fair

Commissioner Edgreen updated the board on the Greene County Fair and added attractions. The first on is an animatronic milking cow from Allied Producers that talks, moos and kids will be able to milk will be at the Fair with a Dairy Princess. The Pittsburgh Zoo will be at the fair on Monday night for Kid's Night in the Women's Farm Bureau building as animal ambassadors

New indoor/outdoor sound systems are being added to the arena barn and grandstands.

The county has applied for grant to replace the arena barn roof should be notified this fall if they are awarded the grant.

County is looking for sponsors for the Greene County Fair.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer-PADEP- stated that the 102 SPEED Program has interviewed 138 and hired 107 were deemed qualified so they are moving forward with setting up contracts and will in the future be doing the same for Chapter 105.

The SPEED Program speeds up the completion of permits which can take as long as 90 to 100 days currently to 67 days to be completed.

Logan Opfer-Waterways Conservation Officer-stated that he took over for Dorian and currently learning about Wisecarver.

Justin Brackenrich Penn State Extension was unable to attend the meeting, but sent an update for the board to Ms. Snider. He said that a big concern this spring has been planting issues with herbicides, fertilizer and leaching and an inability to plant, if anyone has any questions please call Justin.

Justin is doing a Soy Bean Field Day in Fayette County on July 17th from 10:30 to 1:30 looking at herbicide, plots and management techniques. Also doing a listening session on what Extension can do in the tri-county area to improve research, meetings, education, etc.

If the district is thinking about doing summer field day lets start planning, Ms. Snider stated that fall might be a time for a district field day at Cree Farms.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting is July 15, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 11:27am. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

