

Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES November 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. James A. Cowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:02a.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: Kevin White, Dominick Barbetta, Ryan Wise, Jim Willis, Doug Willis and Becky Salosky.

STAFF

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

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer-PADEP, Matt Hefner-NRCS, Calvin Livengood-NRCS, Russ Gibbs-DCNR PA Service Forester, Logan Opfer-Waterways Conservation Officer,

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the September 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Yorke stated that the following checking account activity since the meeting packets had been mailed out.

Chapter 102 one E&S review deposit in the amount of \$1,500.00

Chapter 105 three permit fee deposits totaling \$1,350.00

Dirt & Gravel Roads I wrote a check to Cumberland Township for final payment of Groves Road in the amount of \$116,710.94.

Community Bank General Fund eight permit fee deposits totaling \$4,500.00

First Federal General Fund five deposits totaling \$76.00 for Tire Recycling Event and Soil Test Kit payments. I wrote several checks for mileage, car wash, postage machine and the new GCCD

vehicle deals totaling \$382.58. A check for the Jefferson Bridge Removal in the amount of \$27,693.00 and a check to the county for invoices received to date totaling \$28,112.66. GRACE account six checks for Lime and Fertilizer totaling \$9,656.20.

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

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

There was no request for additional agenda items.

CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Award Banquet at Valley View Farm, December 10, 2025 at 5:30pm. Please RSVP by December 3, 2025.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski stated that she had a meeting to Community Foundation and EQT regarding the annual grant for Envirothon. Ms. Kozlowski was encouraged to reapply for more money and provided with information about a private school and home-schooling group to reach out to get involved in Envirothon. EQT & Community Foundation are willing to provide additional funds to support these students being added to our Envirothon.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger stated that Enlow and Bailey Mines are currently moving their longwalls panels and when they do that all gas lines above have to expose their line so we have been getting a lot of permits from both mines.

Tiffany Stewart – Ms. Stewart stated that the Jefferson Bridge site was completed November 17th and she had some pictures of the area to pass around for the board. Ms. Stewart stated that starting mid-December until mid-February she would be on maternity leave.

Dan Phillips – Mr. Phillips stated that he had mentioned the possibility that the some of the concrete walls would have to be torn out at Saurborns due to the concrete issues. The decision was made and the walls are being removed, should be finished up today or tomorrow; concrete will be poured next week.

The updated completion date for the Saurborn project is January 30, 2026. The updated completion date for the Bellicini Project is February 28, 2026. This means that they will be using cold weather concrete and using all required precautions.

Bellicini's needed they had to dig across the road and put stormwater drainage in place and now they are starting to dig the footers.

Heather Yorko –Ms. Yorko stated that she is coordinating with the vendors for the banquet, trying to get invoices, so that checks can be written, signed and ready to be distributed at the banquet. Also, there are handwritten checks without dates to be signed for upcoming ACH deposits that need transferred the same day they are deposited. This will alleviate the need to write a check and organize signatures at the last minute in the future.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider stated that Ms. Yorko and herself had a conversation and decided to try handwriting checks without dates to simplify the process of transferring funds in a timely manner when we only receive two to three days' notice before the ACH deposit.

Ms. Snider, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Stewart had a meeting to start organizing the next Farmers' Dinner in March or April of next year. Mr. Phillips sent out emails to directors to see if there was a group of people interested in meeting to discuss topics, speakers, etc. and asked for any suggestions.

There is a meeting scheduled with Justin Brackenrich on December 4th to discuss what we hope to cover at this year's dinner. Ms. Snider stated that the plan is to try to use the Vo Tech again this year, however, she will have to order tables and chair this year to improve the seating. There is a mini grant for educational purposes in place to help with costs of the farmers' dinner.

Ms. Snider and staff had a recent meeting with a gentleman that runs a drone service, she asked him and Justin Brackenrich to see if it was possible to utilize a drone service to fly over a farm to identify invasive plants, figure out what a farm would need for spraying and develop and develop an invasive species management plan. Ms. Snider asked Mr. Brackenrich to try to do a study of drone spraying treatment vs conventional spraying treatment to assist in possibly developing an invasive species management program for GRACE.

The State budget has passed so we have some state employees back with us at today's meeting and the Federal government has started their budget so the quarterly reports have been submitted and the district is waiting on payments.

Farmland Preservation has been wrapped up, inspections were done in October, we will have a farm under easement next year and will be starting the application process again.

Ms. Snider hired someone who quit before they started.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

DGLVR QAB Recommendations

Ms. Snider stated that Jackson Township has two projects, Cumberland Township and Dunkard Township each have one project, they are all Dirt and Gravel Road projects. The QAB visited all of these sites and had there QAB Meeting this morning; Dave Shipman and Logan Opfer went out on the site visits; however, Calvin was unable to attend due to state budget.

Cumberland Township's project is a medium sized project and Dunkard Township is Phase 2 of a previous project which is completed so they are ready to start on the other side. Ms. Kozlowski just received all of the invoices to process for payment on the first half of this road and should be paid soon.

Jackson Township Mount Zion Road there is a culvert pipe that has been dropping water and has eroded the road. The township needs to fill the culvert with stone to stop the erosion and replace the culvert pipe and stabilize the road. The Keyhole project is a base problem with draining issues that will require French drains and possibly a small French mattress to get the water draining properly.

Cumberland Township is a lack of cross drains on a slope with a soft spot at the bottom requiring a French mattress to get the water drained out of the road.

Dunkard Township is an extension of the project they have already done, there are not enough

cross pipes in the road so the road washboards; there's a lot of water hitting one or two pipes with huge places where things are blowing out on the banks and going straight into the stream. There is a breakout in the spreadsheet in the directors' packets.

Logan and Dave both recommended that the board approve all four projects and the funding is available to do all four projects. Mr. Opfer stated that this was the second time that he has participated in the QAB, but in his opinion these projects definitely needed to be done. Mr. Shipman agreed that these projects definitely needed to be done. Ms. Snider explained to the board that there is plenty of funding to pay for these projects.

A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve all four Dirt and Gravel Road projects in Cumberland, Dunkard and Jackson Townships. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)

GRACE Cost Share Rates Discussion

Ms. Snider stated that there was a GRACE Forestry Practice sheets distributed to everyone then turned the discussion over to Russ Gibbs.

Mr. Gibbs stated that he has a three-part request proposal. First, a cap increase per contract, second if allocated some rate allocation changes and third contract limits; there are 20 Forestry contracts for next year and that is a lot.

Mr. Gibbs would like to increase the cap per contract from \$8,000 to \$15,000.

Mr. Gibbs suggested eliminating the Herbasish Woody Control and integrating that into the Vegetation Management Practice when you put them together in does cause a slight decrease of \$100 an acre with that and a few slight increases proposed and the increased cap the idea is to get more quality projects on the ground; the plans and the planting will stay the same.

Crop Tree Release has a proposed reduction in price of \$100 per acre, it doesn't cost more than \$400 an acre to do Crop Tree Release.

Low Shade Trimming costs have increased over the last few years so Mr. Gibbs would like to increase that from \$300 to \$500 per acre.

Mr. Gibbs would like to limitations and plans to 15 per year, 13 implementations and 2 plans per year if we don't get 2 plans, we can substitute another implementation on a first come first serve basis. Applications cannot be submitted until the previous year's contract are fulfilled and certified.

Vegetation Management	Chemicals, Ground, Foliar Treatments	\$100.00 increase.
Vegetation Management	Chemical Spot Herbicide Treatments	\$50.00 increase
Woody Vegetation Mgmt.	Hand Tools, Chemical Treatments	\$100.00 increase
Riparian Forest Buffer	Bareroot with Tree Tubes	same
Tree Establishment	High Density with Tree Shelter	same
Timber Stand Impvmt	Single Stem Treatment	same
Timber Stand Impvmt	Grapevine Control	\$25.00 increase
Timber Stand Impvmt	Crop Tree Release	-\$100.00 decrease
Timber Stand Impvmt	Low Shade Removal, Thinning, Wildlife Harvest	\$200.00 increase
Forest Stewardship Plan	all levels	same

Mr. Hopkins asked what the total increase would be for Forestry practices and stated that the board also needs to review and consider increases to the Ag practices portion of the GRACE Program.

Mr. Cowell stated that the board agrees that costs have increased and that increases need to be evaluated for all GRACE programs, but that do to the rise in the number of participants we may

have to start a ranking system to decide GRACE funding in the future.

Mr. Gibbs stated that the estimate for Forestry would be around \$10,000 per contract.

The decision was made to organize a committee to discuss the GRACE rate changes and bring it to the February meeting for a final decision so that it can be properly explained to applicants about what to expect on cost share rates for the practices.

A ranking system and possible limitations for GRACE Programs also needs to be discussed.

Language Changes to District Fee Schedule

Ms. Kozlowski stated that the State told all of the Conservation Districts that the word review needed to be changed in the fee schedule, because it's not just a review that is being done there are inspections, administrative duties and follow ups and complaints. Everywhere that the word review appeared it has been replaced with service. With the speed program the plan is review by someone else but the Conservation District still has inspections and administrative duties that need to be done for each permit request.

***A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to change the wording in the fee schedule.
Commissioner Edgreen seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Mr. Cowell explained that he had received a call during the meeting from Jared of Ranch Worx regarding the large Aerator. Jared stated that he was waiting for a quote from the Greene County Trucking company, the quote was sent, but Jared stated that he had not received it. So, Jared is now working to get transportation lined up and will get back to Mr. Cowell. Jared has requested the damage pictures be emailed to him.

Mr. Cowell has the pins that need to be replaced for the small aerator and will try to get it on in the next few weeks

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Banquet

Farmers' Dinner

Newsletter

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Matt Hefner-Natural Resources Conservation Service stated that there is a SDC starting in Lemont Furnace on Thursday and he is from the area originally so hopefully he will want to stay.

Mr. Hefner is expecting a decrease in funding in the next year.

Russ Gibbs-DCNR Service Forester stated that there is an intake position opening on November 21st if anyone is interested contact Russ.

Logan Opfer-Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission-Waterways Conservation Officer stated that he wants to clean up Lake Wilma in Blacksville and will be reaching out to Lisa to help organize a clean-up day. CNX cut all of the brush around the lake and over the years people have thrown bottles, tires, etc. out along the road by Lake Wilma.

Ryan Furrer PADEP stated that everything he had was covered already in the meeting. Mr. Furrer had a meeting yesterday that they are back on schedule for Chapter 102 Review/Audit.

Mr. Basinger had a few things that he forgot to mention in his report. The district had its second

tire clean up last week and collected almost 600 tires which brings us to 1,460 tires this year. Mr. Basinger stated that since 2021 9,500 tires have been collected in Greene County which he believes in the most in the state.

The first week of November Mr. Basinger and Ms. Kozlowski had an Engineering workshop that they put on with Washington County which was attended by around 70 engineers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

There is usually no December meeting, however, if a meeting were needed the district will call the director to organize meeting prior to the awards banquet. The next regular meeting is January 20, 2026.

Ms. Trigger reminded everyone of the Legacy and Estate Planning Seminar this Saturday, November 22nd at 11:00 am.

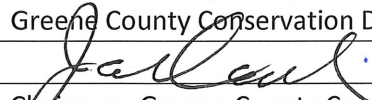
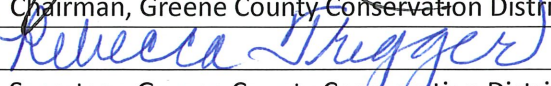
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 11:23am. Commissioner Edgreen 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 January 20, 2026.
 Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
 Secretary, Greene County Conservation District