



## **Greene County Conservation District**

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# **GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES September 15, 2026**

## **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUES**

Mr. James Cowell 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; Commissioner Jared Edgreen-Commissioner Representative; David Shipman- Director; Rebecca Trigger-Director; Jerry Day-Director. Associate Directors: George Scull, Dominick Barbetta, Lewis Crouse, Ryan Wise, Doug Willis and Kevin White.

## **STAFF**

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-Office Manager; Zachary Basinger-Environment Permitting Manager; Heather Yorko-Fiscal Officer.

## **GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES**

Scott Williams-NRCS; Calvin Livengood-NRCS; Russ Gibbs-DCNR PA Service Forester; Ryan Furrer-PADEP

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the July 21, 2026 meeting minutes with date correction. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Yorko stated that she had written several checks and made several deposits since the meeting packets were mailed out.

ACAP a deposit in the amount of \$162,742.50 for 7.1-9.30.2025 correction and a deposit in the amount of \$139,579.23 for 4.1-6.30.2026 reimbursement.

Chapter 102 a deposit in the amount of \$500.00 for permit fees,

Chapter 105 a deposit in the amount of \$1,175.00 for permit fees.

Community Bank General Fund deposits totaling \$2,400.00 for permit fees.

First Federal General Fund a check to Westmoreland Conservation District in the amount of \$40.00 for lunch at PACD SW Region Meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>, a check in the amount of \$145.00 to Heather Gopen for today's lunch, a check in the amount of \$4,000.00 for the auditor, a check in the amount of \$90.00 to Farm Bureau for dues, a check in the amount of \$675.00 to CASD for transportation costs for SW Project Grass Evaluation, a check in the amount of \$23,164.55 & a check in the amount of \$34,211.61 to the County of Greene for county invoices. Additionally, a deposit in the amount of \$63,604.98 for out CDFAP reimbursement. GRACE deposits totaling \$60.00 for Soil Test Kit payments.

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

### **REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Snider asked to add a new Associate Director to the agenda.

***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to add the discussion of new Associate Director to the agenda. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

2026-27 REAP Deadline is October 30, 2026 get your applications submitted.

New SCC Executive Director-Marty Qually

Executive Order Data Centers

Grazing Field Day October 14<sup>th</sup> at Meadowlark Farm Corsica, PA -if anyone on the board is interested in attending let the district know and we can pay for their registration fees.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – Ms. Kozlowski stated that she has been meeting with township for the next round of Dirt and Gravel Road funding at the end of October. One of our first-place poster participants has won first place at the state level; her poster will now be sent to NACD for judging.

**Zack Basinger** – Mr. Basinger stated that he just wanted to give some West Nile updates and follow up on our tick season. There were 4 positives so far this year which is a good year, last year's numbers were way higher. Mr. Bowser Maintenance Director called to have the Mon View and Waynesburg Pools treated, Mr. Basinger treated both pool and they should be good for the rest of the season.

Tick totals

140 Larvae

32 Nymphs – 25% tested positive for Lime & 6.25% tested positive for anaplasmosis

8 Adults

Our lime percentage is about even with the state average.

**Dan Phillips** – Mr. Phillips was away at training.

**Heather Yorko** – Ms. Yorko didn't have anything to add to staff and treasurer's report.

**Lisa Snider** – Ms. Snider didn't have anything to add to staff report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Request for Assistance

Donna Barone, Morgan Township-35 acres

Karaman Farm, Ally Wilson, Morgan Township-55 acres

Broadwater Farm, Cumberland Township-54 acres

Ms. Snider explained that all of the requests are applying for the GRACE Program.

***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to accept all three farm***

***requests for assistance. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **QAQC Visit**

Ms. Snider stated that the visit was September 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> no report has been received but they were please that we were working to update our policies to include the new state admin policies; it was a couple of busy days, but they seemed to approve of how we are running the program.

### **DGLVR Policy Update-Action**

DGLVR committee meet a couple of weeks ago to review needed updates. One of the biggest changes is that a maximum score was added to allow low-priority projects to be eliminated if there is not extra funding available at the time. Changes were made to the engineering requirements allowing up to 20% of the total contract can be used for engineering up to \$35,000. Also changed the in-kind match from 20% to 10%, the townships are contributing more than needed for in-kind; All of these changes were included in the meeting packets for the board's review.

***A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve the updates to the DGLVR Policies. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **2026-27 CDFAP UGWF Funding for Salaries, Benefits and Administration**

Ms. Snider stated that she summarized all of the information in the spreadsheets in the meeting packets to make it easier to understand. Salary increases were approved for Mr. Phillips, Mr. Basinger and for the new Watershed/Nutrient Management position. Ms. Snider stated that this position has been advertised, 22 applications have been received and Ms. Snider would like to interview 11 of the applicants. Ms. Snider wants members of the hiring committee to be involved in the interviewing process; This position going to be more Watershed with some Ag the applicant needs a good handle on the environment, stormwater problems, grant writing and understands what is going on in the world of conservation.

Ms. Snider directed board members to the two large spreadsheets that showed a breakout of all of the funding used to cover the conservation district's salaries and benefits. It will require \$469,000 to cover all salary & benefits for the 2026-27 year. Already have approved \$30,000 for the manager, \$20,000 for the tech & \$20,000 for ACT. Our financial assistance

is split between \$35,000 administrative assistance through CDFAP and \$85,000 was received by every conservation district received for the gas well funds, giving us \$120,000 for administrative assistance. Our well count average from 2011-25 was 91 wells that gave us \$246,000 in extra gas well funds-these funds are to be used mostly to cover salaries, benefits and administrative expenses. The district receives \$40,000 for the Nutrient Management position and \$50,000 for the Watershed Specialist, those two funds cover portions of Mr. Phillips and the new employee salaries and benefits.

There will be a \$77,000.00 that still needs to be spent, this is the monies that in the past went into a special project, but the State Conservation Commission asked Ms. Snider to do a reserve account instead. Reserve account monies can be utilized forever; these funds are able to be carried over for future needs. Mr. Scull stated that it was good that we can use reserve account monies in the future if and when the funding that we currently receive diminishes. Ms. Snider stated that we will be receiving \$51,000.00 any day for last years funds; which have already been spent in the GRACE program and will be deposited into the account to reimbursement the district.

Mr. Bazzoli asked if we were able to invest the Reserve account funds and Ms. Snider stated that at this time, we receive better interest rates than are received through CDs.

There were discussions of salary increases and new hire starting salaries vs current employees' current salaries.

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the 2026-27 CDFAP UGWF Funding for Salaries, Benefits and Administration. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **Reserve Account Approval (Special Project Funds)**

This was discussed as part of the 2026-27 CDFAP UGWF Funding, but Ms. Snider stated that she estimated the reserve amount at \$78,000 to be put into the GRACE account. Mr. Hopkins asked if we had done this in the past and Ms. Snider confirmed that it was done in the past as a Special Project meaning that the monies had to be spent in a certain time frame. Now we are able to move into the GRACE account and the monies can be held in that account into the future if not needed.

Ms. Snider explained that the GRACE account is a way to track our funding and be accounted for in a different class to show what is being spent each

year by running QuickBooks reports.

***A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve moving \$78,000 into the GRACE account. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **GRACE 2026 Funding**

Ms. Snider stated that there her and Mr. Phillips discovered error in the GRACE spreadsheet so the 2026 GRACE Funding request is \$256,049.89. That will change the need from our district accounts to \$99,195.85.

***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve all 2026 GRACE contracts excluding GCCD Directors. Dan Bazzolid seconded. (Motion Passed)***

***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve Jim Cowell's 2026 GRACE application. Dan Bazzoli seconded. Mr. Cowell abstained. (Motion Passed)***

***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve Rebecca Trigger's 2026 GRACE application. Dave Shipman seconded. Ms. Trigger abstained. (Motion Passed)***

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve Dan Bazzoli's 2026 GRACE application. Rebecca Trigger seconded. Mr. Bazzoli abstained. (Motion Passed)***

Ms. Snider stated that the dates for GRACE contract signing at the Conservation District's building at the fairgrounds was scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 6:00pm. Postcards will be mailed out in the next week or so.

### **Washington Township LVR Application Polling Approval**

Ms. Snider stated that she needed official vote on the Washington Township LVR application which she had sent out a poll in email.

***A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve the Washington Township Low Volume Road project. Greg Hopkins seconded. Mr. Shipman abstained as a resident of Washington Township.***

### **Banquet-Cooperator and Forester of the Year**

Mr. Gibbs stated that the Forester of the Year is based on progression, this award is not a participation award there is a level that needs to be obtained to receive the award. This year there will not be a Forester of the Year award given.

Ms. Snider stated that she had sent out the list of past Cooperator of the Year so that she could get any suggestions. There isn't a farm that has reached the point of being considered for Cooperator of the Year.

Mr. Hopkins asked if we would still have a banquet since there was not Cooperator or Forester of the Year. Mr. Cowell and Ms. Snider stated that we would still have a banquet to honor the other award recipients. Mr. Cowell suggested inviting pasted Cooperators of the Year to our awards banquet this year.

Ms. Snider said that she needed to know by the first of November if there was anyone that the board wanted to give special recognition to at the banquet.

### **Vehicle-Discussion**

Ms. Snider was unable to obtain the information on vehicles prior to the meeting. Ms. Snider asked for number for a heavy-duty truck to allow the district to haul all of our equipment including the new aerators and for Ms. number on a vehicle to replace the Explorer.

Each year that the county gets new vehicles the vehicles being replaced are auctioned or given value based on condition, age, mileage and this total amount is divided among all départements getting new vehicles.

Mr. Scull asked what our yearly expense were for maintaining the truck and explorer and Ms. Snider stated that we hadn't had any big expenses so probably a couple thousand dollars a year.

### **2025 Audit Review and Acceptance**

Ms. Snider stated that there were no finings for our 2025 Audit so she did not ask the audit company to attend the meeting. However, she will make arrangements to answer any questions and or have them attend a future meeting if needed.

***A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve the 2025 Audit. Jerry Day seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **MOU with Municipalities-Discussion**

Ms. Snider stated that the reason for the MOU is several conversations

with Aleppo Township to assist both agencies in doing their mutual duties; this could assist in elevating complaints. This is a volunteer program offered to all municipalities to encourage open communication.

### **Local Advisory Work Group for ACAP (LAW)-Action**

Ms. Snider stated that as policies were being updated, they realized that they did not have a LAW group for ACAP. This type of group would help do assessments of potential ACAP Project, meeting to discuss prior to regular board meeting and then report their findings to help make decision process quicker. Ms. Snider stated that this group would comprise three board members, one staff member and NRCS.

Our Ag committee is Jim Cowell, Greg Hopkins, Lisa Snider, Jerry Day, Dan Phillips, Dominick Barbetta, Dan Bazzoli and Ryan Wise. Mr. Hopkins suggested just makes the Ag Committee members the LAW Committee for ACAP.

*A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to appoint Dan Bazzoli, Greg Hopkins, Dominick Barbetta. Dan Phillips, Lisa Snider as the LAW for ACAP. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)*

### **Associate Director**

Jeff Sholtis is a 5-year Morgan Township Supervisor. Mr. Cowell stated that associate directors contribute my expressing their opinions, joining committees but are not able to vote. Associate directors are reappointed every year.

*A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to appoint Jeff Sholtis as an Associate Board Member. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)*

### **CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

Greene County Association of Township Officials Conference- October 29<sup>th</sup>

### **REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES:**

**George Scull-Farmer Bureau-** Mr. Scull stated that he didn't have anything to report, The Farm Bureau is accepting members.

**Scott Williams-NRCS-**Mr. Williams stated that the NRCS main sign-up deadline for EQUIP and CSP will be October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Russ Gibbs—DCNR PA Service Forester-**Earlier this month Mr. Gibbs

highlighted our collaboration of the GRACE program at a meeting so the district may get some calls for more information from other counties wanting to replicate our program. Mr. Gibbs said that he has been seeing a lot of Polonia in this county, some people call it elephant ear, it needs to be sprayed.

An ACAP meeting follows today's board meeting

Lunch is being served today

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was needed.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be October 20, 2026.

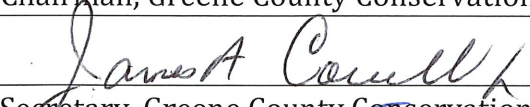
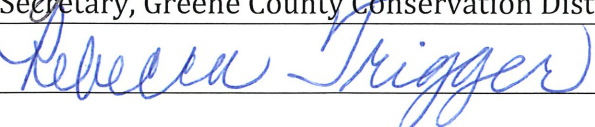
**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Jerry Day to adjourn the meeting at 11:29am. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)*

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Yorko  
Fiscal Officer

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|                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b><u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u></b>                                                                                                             |
| We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on October 20, 2026. |
|                                                                                                                                                         |
| Chairman, Greene County Conservation District                                                                                                           |
|                                                                      |
| Secretary, Greene County Conservation District                                                                                                          |
|  10/20/2026                                                          |