



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2020

Commissioner Belding led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Jim Cowell called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. at Greene County Fairgrounds 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA Building #10 downstairs.

Those in attendance were as follows:

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS (IN PERSON)

Jim Cowell-Chairman; Commissioner Belding-Commissioner Representative/Vice Chair; Greg Hopkins-Treasurer; Bill Wentzel-Secretary; Glodenna Halstead; Melissa Adamson; and Dave Shipman. Associate Directors: Becky Salosky and Keith Golden.

STAFF (IN PERSON)

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Assistant Manager/Environmental Program Specialist; Zack Basinger-Environmental Program Specialist; Ben Schweiger-Conservation Technician; Sara Hlatky-Conservation Technician; April Morris-Fiscal Officer and Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist

GUEST AND COOPERATING AGENCIES (IN PERSON)

Jeremy Kelly-Greene County Planning and Economic Development (GCPC)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the May 19, 2020 minutes.
Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)*

TREASURER'S REPORT

*A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve the treasurer's report.
Melissa Adamson seconded. (Motion Passed)*

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Direct Results Contract

Ms. Snider stated the County of Greene went into contract with Direct Results to work on social media and advertising products. Commissioner Belding noted each department can make small changes, but in the event a detailed graphic or special project is needed, Direct Results has the ability to work on those projects. The wage will be hourly when products are completed by Direct Results.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski- Ms. Kozlowski stated training for e-permitting has changed to July 1, 2020. Mr. Basinger, Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski are learning how the system works and will attend the training when it goes live. Mr. Hopkins asked how the permitting is impacted now that Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has taken over as far as monthly fees received. Ms. Kozlowski stated some months are higher than others at this point and larger permits have not been submitted as regularly as prior years. Ms. Snider added the district is receiving Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) fees steadily.

Zack Basinger- Mr. Basinger went on a few complaints over the past couple weeks, including a West Nile complaint. On June 9, 2020, the Tick Coordinator from Harrisburg came to Greene County and helped with tick drags while teaching Mr. Basinger and Ms. Chambers-intern about the program.

Ben Schweiger- Mr. Schweiger along with Ms. Hlatky held an agriculture committee meeting, which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Sara Hlatky- Ms. Hlatky is receiving more applications for the GRACE Program and will be making calls this week to set up farm visits.

Mr. Cowell added the Farm Service Agency has a program for cattle and sheep farmers to help with lost revenue due to the COVID-19.

Jared Zinn- Mr. Zinn sent the newsletter to the printer. Jared received an article from the Farm Service Agency but will check to see if the lost revenue program was listed in the article.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider stated the 90% pilot program for REAP passed at the state conservation committee meeting. Whiteley Creek Watershed is one of the watersheds that would be eligible for a 90% reimbursement. Lisa noted the REAP program information will be added in the next newsletter.

Dirt and Gravel Road regarding Creek Road in Monongahela Township is complete and the engineer and Ms. Snider will take a walk through before having the Quality

Assurance Board inspect the site. An 80-foot mud sill was installed along Whiteley Creek to stabilize the stream that is undercutting the road. Ms. Snider has encouraged other township supervisors to visit the site to look at the project, some of the township's projects are regarding the same issue. The majority of the townships with contracts have went out for bid and are working towards hiring individuals for job completions. Freeport Township has fallen behind due to an employee issue within the township regarding money. Lisa is still working with the township to obtain receipts so payment can be issued. Carmichaels Borough has finished the project, it has been inspected and Ms. Snider needs a form completed to issue final payment.

Ms. Snider was called out to a complaint in Freeport area regarding streambank stabilization and building of a pond within the floodplain of Fish Creek with no permits. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), staff, landowner and engineer will be meeting on site for compliance.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

There were two requests for assistance to bring before the board.

Jordan Curry-Spraggs-66 acres

Luke Beebe-Jefferson-125 acres

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve the two requests for assistance. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Lime Spreader and No-Till Drill Rental Agreement Amendment

Ms. Hlatky discussed amendments to the lime spreader and no-till drill rental agreement. One change for both agreements is to list that the equipment is to be rented by only Greene County residents and for use only within the county. There are three additional items added to the Lime Spreader agreement as listed below:

Renter will be responsible for any negligent misuse of the machine. Accessories (pins, wheel chocks, hitch, etc.) included with the lime spreader must be returned, clean, and in the same condition they were in at initial pickup. Misuse of the lime spreader and/or accessories will result in additional fees and/or the withholding of the deposit.

GRACE participants interested in utilizing the lime spreader are encouraged to fill out lime spreader agreements at the time of their GRACE contract signings. There will be no fees associated with their lime spreader agreement, unless there is misuse of the lime spreader and/or accessories. If the lime spreader is returned unclean or damaged and/or missing accessories or damaged accessories, there will be additional fees required.

The table below is the list of accessories that may be included with the lime spreader. The GCCD representative will checkmark accessories included under the included column. Upon return, the GCCD representative and user/operator will initial if the included accessories are returned in good condition.

Accessories	Included?	GCCD Rep. Initials	User/Operator Initials
Wheel Chocks			
Hitch			
Pins			
Other:			

A motion was made by Melissa Adamson to approve the additions to the Lime Spreader and No-Till Drill Rental Agreement. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

GRACE Committee Report

Mr. Schweiger and Ms. Hlatky held an Agriculture Committee meeting on June 10, 2020 with Mr. Cowell, Commissioner Belding, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Barbetta and Ms. Snider. A general summary was distributed at the meeting. In the meeting, three major items were discussed: Forestry, Fencing, and Large Conservation Project Planning.

The forestry program discussion with Russ Gibbs, Forester proposed Forest Stewardship Plans to the Best Management Practice list. One of the biggest hurdles for participants with the forestry program is obtaining a forest stewardship plan. Mr. Gibbs suggested including the cost of obtaining the forestry plan in with the application. The chart, included in the handout, showed an updated list of costs for each practice when including the forestry plan.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve adding Forest Stewardship Plan cost shares into the application process. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

Mr. Schweiger spoke about adding temporary fencing as a GRACE practice. Ben spoke with Bonita Whalen from Kencove Farm Fence Supplies regarding pricing and what items are needed to complete these types of projects. The fencing company is working on a quote for materials that Mr. Schweiger and Ms. Hlatky will bring for the board at the next meeting as to have a better idea of the cost share rate.

Additionally, the committee spoke about Large Conservation Project Planning such as: Heavy Use Areas (HUA), winter feeding pads, manure storage facilities, etc. The projects would use both the GRACE program cost share funding and possibly Growing Greener and/or EQIP Programs funding. To apply with Growing Greener the applicant needs a 15% match to obtain the Certified Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). The committee talked about adding the 15% match for the CNMP as an item the applicant can apply for under the GRACE Program. Mr. Schweiger believes this will help alleviate the upfront cost for an applicant, who would like to add conservation-based operations to the farm.

The CNMP would be completed by a consultant rather than Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Mr. Schweiger added including the match portion would be for farmers who already have a project in mind and the CNMP is needed to obtain funding from another organization to complete the project.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve allow Large Conservation Project Planning projects the ability to obtain cost share funds to write CNMP to the GRACE Application, if they are planning on entering the Growing Greener program. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

E-permitting items required

Ms. Kozlowski spoke with Matt from Alleghany County regarding what items are needed to correctly work on e-permitting. All technicians will need a second monitor; size will be dependent on user. Permits will be sent in PDF format and there are two programs that can accommodate this format. Adobe Pro is the best choice of the two based on user knowledge. Lindsay stated there are costs associated with upgrading to this program due to license purchases per user. Another possible item is Google Drive, which costs \$12 per month; this is accessible for everyone with the drive. Other items may include printers, electronic signatures and approval stamps. July 1, 2020 is when NPDES permits will begin submitting electronically and ESGCP permits will be sometime in September. Additional monitors will need purchased for Ms. Kozlowski, Mr. Basinger and Mr. Schweiger. Lindsay mentioned public review of files will be done via DEP e-fax system. Mr. Cowell suggested obtaining costs of items, needed, for the board to give approval and if something is needed before the next meeting to do a poll for approval.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Ms. Snider stated Mr. Zinn finished the next newsletter and sent for printing. The Greene County Fair and Waynesburg's Rain Day are cancelled. Jacktown Fair is still scheduled. Lisa will look into outreach opportunities with the county since our delegation agreement states the conservation district must present so many outreach items.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Mr. Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning and Economic Development, stated Dollar General in Dunkard Township is heading towards final approval. The store will be located on Holbert Stretch. Dollar General is looking in Mt. Morris, PA for land to build. The BFS in Mt. Morris began talking to the planning commission in 2012. There was a problem with the lease agreement. The plans never moved any further until recently when the store was approved to replace the building and update the gas station with convenience store. The Mt. Morris Tabernacle is having issues building a community center due to a roadway. A subdivision plan will be on the July agenda for Planning. It has been in legal battle for about six years. Tax abatements are a little behind due to current situations. There have been two new submissions since February 2020. So far for 2020 six agricultural structures and 29 tax abatements. The recycling program has

received complaints from individuals who are holding onto glass products, hazardous materials and tires. Mr. Kelly is working to find a program to take the above mentioned products. Including working with Washington County Planners to see if Greene County Residents can take products there. Jeremy worked with Carmichaels Borough to have zoning approved for hens within the borough.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

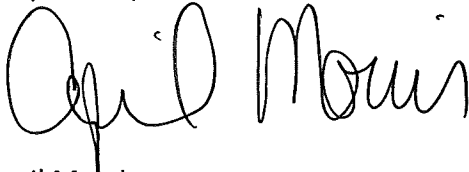
NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Next Regular Meeting will be July 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

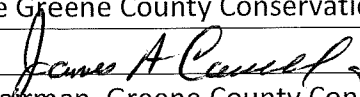
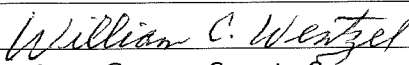
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,



April Morris
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 <u>July 21</u> , 2020.	
	
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District	
	
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District	