Greene County Farmland Preservation
22 West High Street, Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA 15370
724-852-5278

Greene County Farmland Preservation
Board Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2020 at 1:00 PM
GCCD Conference Room (Masks Required)
22 West High Street, Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
The meeting was called to order by David Shipman at 1:05 PM in the GCCD Conference Room

Those in attendance were as follows:
GREENE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARD (GCFLP) MEMBERS
Members Present- David Shipman- Vice Chairman; Richard Thistlethwaite- Treasurer; Mike Belding- Commissioner; Richard Belding; and Chris Eisiminger

STAFF AND GUESTS
Dominick Barbetta; Kimberly Barbetta; Lisa Snider-District Manager; Ben Schweiger-Conservation Technician; and Sara Hlatky-Conservation Technician.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
No public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was made by Richard Belding to approve August 19, 2020 meeting minutes. Chris Eisiminger seconded. (Motion passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT
A motion was made by Mike Belding to approve the treasurer's report. Chris Eisiminger seconded. (Motion passed)

CORRESPONDENCE
Environmental Review for Whites Ridge Water Line Extension- Franklin Township
Ms. Hlatky explained the District received a request from Greene County Planning and Community Development for the District's input regarding prime farmland or farmland of statewide or local importance as regulated under the Farmland Protection Act. This request is required as part of the G.C. Community Development Block Grant Program. Ms. Hlatky reviewed the project maps and determined the project will not interfere with prime farmland.

OLD BUSINESS
Mr. Schweiger explained the District is waiting on the check from the state for the William A. Cree, Jr. and Lura Ann Cree #3 farm to move forward with the closing.

Board of Directors: William Cree III, Chairman; David Shipman, Vice-Chairman; Richard Thistlethwaite, Treasurer; Charles Day, Secretary; Richard Belding; James Willis; Corbly Orndorff; Chris Eisiminger; Commissioner Mike Belding

NEW BUSINESS

Dominick & Kimberly Barbetta #1 (79.175 ac.) – LESA score: 50.97

Mr. Schweiger explained the offer letter was revised to include a signature page and was sent to Mr. and Mrs. Barbetta. Mr. and Mrs. Barbetta are in attendance of the meeting and intend on signing the letter this day. Mr. and Mrs. Barbetta chose Option A ($1,500/acre based on the plotted acreage). Mr. Schweiger explained the clear title has not been completed and Mr. Hook is actively working on it.

William A. Cree, Jr. & Lura Ann Cree #3 (83.029 ac.)- LESA Score: 59.47

Mr. Schweiger explained the District has not heard back from the state and they are processing on their end. Mr. Schweiger stated Ms. Hlatky has documented some of the incidentals and those will be completed soon once confirmed.

Request to Suspend the 2021 Application Period

A motion was made by Richard Belding to send a temporary application suspension request letter to the PDA Bureau of Farmland Preservation. Richard Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion passed)

Farm Inspections- October 21, 2020

A brief discussion was held in regards to farm inspections. Those attending will meet in the field at 10AM to conduct inspections for the following operations: J. Willis #1, H. Gapen #1, Cree #1, and Phillips #1. The FLP Board meeting will be held afterwards at 1PM in the GCCD Conference Room.

2021 Directorship recommendation to Greene County Commissioners

A brief discussion was held in regards to the upcoming 2021 directorship recommendation to Greene County Commissioners.

A motion was made by Chris Eisiminger to recommend reappointment to the expiring members: Richard Belding, James Willis, and Mike Belding. Richard Belding seconded. (Motion passed)

A motion was made by Chris Eisiminger to recommend reappointment of William Cree III as Chairman. Richard Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion passed)

Agreement of Sale- Barbetta

Mr. and Mrs. Barbetta agreed on signing the Agreement of Sale installment option. A brief discussion was held in regards to the interest rate to be offered for the purchase of Dominick and Kimberly Barbetta's easement. Interest rates were discussed last year with comparison of the interest rate of local banks.

A motion was made by Richard Thistlethwaite to pay 1% interest to the Barbetta's annually. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion passed)

Advertise to suspend 2020-2021 application period

A motion was made by Richard Belding to advertise to suspend 2020-2021 application period. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion passed)

Surface coal preliminary screening

District staff explained the importance of keeping potential applicants in mind while the application period is suspended. A discussion was held regarding the process of conducting

preliminary surface coal screening to determine eligibility once the application period resumes. With the application period suspended, applications will not be suspended but files would be kept on inquiring applicants with preliminary screening to determine eligibility.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to conduct preliminary screening to determine eligibility of future applicants. Richard Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion passed)

OUTREACH
No outreach.

STAFF REPORTS
Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider announced the Annual Awards Banquet was discussed at the District Board meeting and is tentatively scheduled. The status of the ceremony will depend on covid developments and restrictions. However, preparations are underway.
Ben Schweiger- Mr. Schweiger stated he has been compiling GRACE data for the District board meeting and processing required Farmland Preservation documents. He has been checking in on the status of the clear title for the Barbetta's.
Sara Hlatky- Ms. Hlatky stated the district received a Nutrient Management Plan from Allegheny County Conservation District for an operation in Washington County. She will be completing the administrative and technical review for the plan.

Next Meeting Date: October 21, 2020 at 10:00 AM- Farm Inspections; 1:00 PM meeting in GCCD Conference Room

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by David Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 AM. James Willis seconded. (Motion passed)

MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Farmland Preservation on October 21, 2020.
Chairman, Greene County Farmland Preservation
Executive Member, Greene County Farmland Preservation