Greene County Conservation District
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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2020

Ms. Lisa Snider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
Mr. Jim Cowell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at Greene County Fairgrounds 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA Building #10 upstairs.

Those in attendance were as follows:
GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS
Jim Cowell-Chairman; Commissioner Belding-Vice Chairman; Greg Hopkins-Treasurer; Bill Wentzel-Secretary; Glodenna Halstead; Melissa Adamson; and Dave Shipman. Associate Directors: George Scull; Dominic Barbetta; Jerry Day; Becky Salosky and Keith Golden.

STAFF
Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Officer Manager; Zack Basinger-Environmental Permitting Manager; Ben Schweiger-Agriculture Conservation Specialist; Sara Hlatky-Nutrient Management Specialist; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist and April Morris-Fiscal Manager

GUEST AND COOPERATING AGENCIES
Jeremy Kelly-Greene County Planning and Community Development (GCDPCD); Phil Evans-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); and Sofia Arthur-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A correction was made to the minutes on page six in the motion Commissioner McClure was listed as Commissioner Rohanna.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the September 22, 2020 minutes with correction. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Ms. Snider addressed the upcoming maturing of one of the Certificates of Deposit (CD) the district has with Community Bank. This is the CD the Act 13 Funding will be deposited into. In order to add the ACT 13 funds to the current CD a new CD will be opened with all funding deposited at once. Current CD rates: 12 months at .20%; 24 months at .25%; 60 months at .45%. The CD's current interest rate is 1.49%. Ms. Snider emailed Mr. Jeff Bixler, VP Director of Treasury Management of Community Bank, to find out why the rates are so low and if anything can be done to help the rates. Mr. Bixler asked for validation of the rate we are receiving from other banks. First National is currently at .5% and First Federal at .1%. Ms. Snider suggested taking the CD funds along with the ACT 13 payment and deposit into the First National Bank account with the higher rate until the beginning of the year and check the rates at that time. Lisa would like a meeting with Mr. Bixler and the Budget Committee together to go over the rates. Community Bank does collateralize all the district funding above the FDIC amount.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to withdraw the CD funding that matures on October 24, 2020 along with the ACT 13 Funding for the 2019 PUC reporting year reserved for GRACE contracting and move to the money market account at First National Bank with the higher interest rate until CD rates increase. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Senate Bill 619

Ms. Snider received an email regarding Senate Bill 619, which has been put on hold. The bill has been put on hold for now, Lisa will update once more information is available.

The Commonwealth's COVID Comeback Plan

Ms. Snider received information regarding a House Republican Caucus package stating that if Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) receives a permit application it can be deemed administratively complete if accompanied by a professional engineer's stamp.

Strategic Planning Grants

The State Conservation Commission has allocated funding for grants to reimburse up to a maximum of $1,500 in expenses (per district) related to the development of a strategic plan. A letter of intent must be submitted by November 20, 2020.

Secretary Redding Letter to Greene County Conservation District

Secretary Redding sent a letter to the district's office, in response to a large number of local residents that sent letters regarding Greene County Conservation Programs not losing funding.

Pennsylvania Game News-October 2020 Edition

Greene County Conservation District was mentioned in the efforts to help stabilize Burwell Cemetery.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski-Ms. Kozlowski along with Ms. Snider spoke with a representative from First Energy Foundation regarding a grant for the Environthon. The understanding is the foundation with give the funding yearly once the grant application is completed. Lindsay also polled the school districts to find

out if an in-person Envirothon was something the school districts would consider. All districts are on board with having the Envirothon but as of right now field trips are not permitted. Lisa added the First Energy company would be willing to send out some staff to help in areas of the event the personnel may have knowledge in.

Zack Basinger- Mr. Basinger has been out in the field more this past month with a few complaints. West Nile Virus finished up the end of September but there is one trap still being set once every two weeks. Mr. Basinger virtually attended a nine-hour pesticide class. There have been no positive West Nile.

Ben Schweiger- Mr. Schweiger spoke with the three farmers that still had GRACE projects to complete from the 2018 funding round. Those three farmers are still working towards completion of the approved projects.

Mr. Schweiger received a call from a landowner that lives near a GRACE participant that was approved and received funding for interior fencing. The landowner is complaining the participants animals are intruding onto the adjoining property. Ms. Snider added that the landowner can file a civil complaint towards the GRACE participant regarding the fencing issues but there are no real set guidelines regarding fencing.

Mr. Cowell received calls from two GRACE participants regarding pelletized lime. Mr. Cowell spoke with an agronomist regarding this type of lime and was informed this lime is used as a quick fix but needs spread once a year and in the end could cost more.

Sara Hlatky- Ms. Hlatky completed the technical review for the Washington County Nutrient Management Plan. Sara received a letter from Mark Jackson, Conservation Program Specialist 1-State Conservation Commission, that credit was given for the review of Washington County Nutrient Management plan. Ms. Hlatky will need to write a plan in order to obtain the Nutrient Management Public Reviewer certificate.

Jared Zinn- Mr. Zinn mentioned the South Fork Tenmile Creek Watershed Plan is live on the website. The last landowner is working on three spring developments that need completed by December 2020. Once completed the project will have completed 2,500 feet of streambank stabilization, five spring developments and multiple stream crossings. Jared is working with Mr. Schweiger and Ms. Hlatky to obtain certified nutrient management plans (CNMP) for farms throughout the county that can lead to more opportunities like the Browns Creek Project. Jared has worked with Mr. William Cree and Mr. Phil Evans to obtain funding from EQIP for a CNMP. Mr. Cree was approved for the funding has a little over $1,600.00 out of pocket to obtain the CNMP. Mr. Zinn is hoping to get the rest of the funding through the Conservation District GRACE Program. Mr. Cowell suggested REAP Funding to help cover the cost as well.

April Morris- Ms. Morris had nothing additional to add to the report.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider added October 27-28, 2020 are the Dirt and Gravel Road Evaluations. Interviews with board members and QAB. These interviews should be set up as a virtual meeting and once the details are listed Lisa will let all parties involved know.

Jackson Township, Keyhole and Greene Township, Roberts Run are about finished with projects and crossings were installed. Springhill Township is working on Coon Run to complete the crossing project. QAB will meet next month after the application period ends.

OLD BUSINESS

Fairgrounds Building

Mr. Belding stated the building is under engineering review right now and should proceed by the beginning of the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

There was no request for assistance to present to the board.

2021 Poster & Coloring Contest

Mr. Zinn spoke with some local teachers and asked the board for approval to submit the information our earlier to the schools than January. Ms. Snider added the funding is approved through the annual budget.

> ***A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to allow the 2021 Poster and Coloring Contest information be sent to the schools in October so the teachers have more time to prepare and receive more participation. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

2020 Greene County Junior Livestock Sale Association Market Swine Judge, Insurance and Ribbons

Mr. Cowell stated the Market Swine show was Sunday, October 18, 2020. The Association needed funding to cover judging, insurance and ribbons. Since there was funding left from the lamb and steer show Ms. Morris polled the board members if the additional funds could be used towards the Swine Show. Receiving five approvals, a check was issued to the Greene County Junior Livestock Association.

> ***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve funding for the Market Swine Show. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Ms. Snider asked for the 4-H students to put together a few articles for the Lamb and Steer Show and the Swine Show to use in the Annual Report for the District.

2020 Staff Funding Resolution

Ms. Snider had a meeting with Commissioner Belding, Commissioner McClure, Mr. Jeff Marshall, Chief Clerk, Ms. Cara Cox, Human Resource Director, Mr. Cowell and Mr. Hopkins regarding funding for staff and title changes. Ms. Snider also discussed entering into a Staff Funding Resolution, and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Funding Resolution explains where the funding for each position for the district will come from. This is an annual agreement stating that 100% will be paid by the district for all positions except the District Director, where the county will pay 25% and the district 75%. Lisa will add a line to the funding agreement stating, "If such agreement of funding cannot be

established yearly, by September 30, then both parties will pay 50% of each positions salary and benefits until such agreement is made."

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve the Staff Funding Resolution with additional statement of agreement being reached by September 30 annually. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

2020 Hiring Agreement-Appendix B

Ms. Snider stated the hiring agreement sets forth procedures for the district and county to work in coordination when hiring district staff. District staff are county employees and the county ultimately approve hiring; this document will allow the district to send recommendations for hiring to the county.

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve the Hiring Agreement-Appendix B. Melissa Adamson seconded. (Motion Passed)

2020 County of Greene and District Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The MOU will be a five (5) year agreement with the Greene County Commissioners. The MOU lists out ACT 217 which is Conservation District Law, Staff Funding Agreement, Hiring Agreement, the Greene County policy handbook, the district fee schedule and public officials insurance that covers the board members. Once approved by the board, the MOU will be sent to the Commissioners for approvals and signatures.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the updated Memorandum of Understanding and to submit to the Greene County Commissioners for review and approval. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

2020 District Employee Standard Operation Procedures

Ms. Snider wanted to make the board aware of a conference call with the Greene County Commissioners and Standard Operation Procedures the commissioners are requesting from each department. Lisa created a baseline operating procedures list and will work with staff on more specifics of each job within the district.

2020 Annual Awards Banquet Awardees-Wednesday, December 9th

Ms. Snider stated the banquet is tentatively scheduled for December 9, 2020 at Valley View Farms.

Conservation Farmer of the Year -Ms. Hlatky and Mr. Schweiger met with the Agricultural Committee to check out Carl Graham's operation for Cooperator of the Year. An aerial photograph was taken of the property to present as the award.

Dirt and Gravel Road Municipality of the year-Ms. Snider spoke with members of the DGLVR Committee and suggested Wayne Township due to the project that was completed on Goodwin Hill.

Ms. Snider nominated engineer of the Year-Richard Rush. Mr. Rush has worked on many projects with Lisa, Lindsay and Zack and has a great understand of the programs and the needs for completeness.

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve the listed awardees at the Annual Awards Banquet. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

Mr. Cowell suggested inviting Secretary Redding to the banquet.

November 17, 2020 Meeting Date Change to November 24, 2020

Mr. Cowell asked to move the November District Meeting a week later to November 24, 2020.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve changing the date of the November meeting to November 24, 2020. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

No additional outreach to provide to the board.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Jeremy Kelly, Planning Director-Greene County Department of Planning and Community Development (GCDPCD), has received several questions regarding tax abatements. The county is on track with tax abatements but there has been an increase in the amount for single wide, double wide and modular trailers. With the increase in timber costs, due to Covid-19, this has decreased the amount of new construction in the area. Jeremy has heard of frustrations with Agricultural Security areas and Farmland Preservations at the state level. The frustration lands with the lack of public utilities and public access for areas within these programs. Mr. Kelly mentioned the reduction in traffic will have an impact on funding within the next three-four years

Phil Evans, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), introduced Sofia Arthur in place of Mike Hamilton. Mr. Evans received a few grazing contracts, Glen Kerr and Ike Pierce, cover crops for Mr. Willis and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) for Mr. Cree. Phil is working with a land owner in Wind Ridge regarding future plans for Mr. Finnegan's operation. Conservation Security Program (CSP) is continuing along with Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). A new funding pool was created for EQIP just for pollinators.

Mr. Cowell added the second round of stimulus for animals with Farm Service Agency FSA is open until December 31, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Next Regular Meeting will be November 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,

April Morris

April Morris
Fiscal Manager

MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on November 24, 2020.
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
William C. Wertzel
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District