Greene County Conservation District
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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2021

Mr. Jim Cowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
Mr. Jim Cowell called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at Greene County Fairgrounds Building 10 4H Upstairs, 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA.

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

STAFF
Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Ben Schweiger-Agriculture Conservation Specialist and April Morris-Fiscal Manager

GUEST AND COOPERATING AGENCIES
Phil Evans-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the February 19, 2021 minutes. Melissa Adamson seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT
Ms. Morris noted the bank account reconciliations were available to view since the district book keeping is still between the old and new books. This is to show the actual numbers in each account.
A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve the treasurer's report. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS
State Ethics Forms for Director Completion by April 30, 2021
Listed as a reminder. Received all board members forms.

2021 District Directors and Associate Directors Contact Information and Envirothon Contribution
Listed as a reminder.

Envirothon-April 22, 2021 at Hunting Hills, Dilliner, PA 9:00am
Everyone is welcome to attend the Envirothon. Three schools with eight total teams are attending this year.

Washington Township Residents Clean-Up Day April 24, 2021 8-4pm
This event will include a tire clean-up Ms. Snider, Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Basinger will be at the site to help collect tires at the municipal building.

Road Clean-Up April 28, 2021 on Garards Fort Road 9:00am
Road clean-up will begin approximately at 9 and end around lunch time. Meeting at the game commission building if anyone would like to attend. Mr. Scull and members of the Farm Bureau are attending.

Rain Barrel Workshop April 29, 2021 Waynesburg Borough Maintenance 6pm
Mr. Zinn is taking registrations for the upcoming rain barrel workshop.

Tire Clean-Up County Residents May 19 at Greene County Fairgrounds 2-6pm
This event is for everyone in the county. Cost is one dollar per tire and only passenger tires that are off the rim are being accepted. After this event, the district will reevaluate the amount of funding available to see if another tire cleanup will be possible.

Miss Agriculture USA
The district received a thank you from Becky and Abigail Yenchick for sponsoring the competition.

Blood Drive
Mr. Cowell stated the Farm Bureau is hosting a blood drive in honor of Al Deynzer. The drive is Saturday, May 29th at 9am-2pm at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

STAFF REPORTS
Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski- Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Basinger received the second phase of the Goodwin Tombaugh Project, which is a large distribution line for People's Gas.

Ben Schweiger- Mr. Schweiger is working on a GRACE ad for WANB radio station. Ben along with Ms. Hlatky are attending field visits for GRACE applicants. Mr. Cowell set up a meeting with Pierce Wilson to go over the drill along with Ben. This will help with settings and understanding the drill more for any issues that may arise.

April Morris- Ms. Morris nothing additional to include.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider did a reassessment of Dirt and Gravel Roads in March and lost approximately 85 miles of Dirt and Gravel Roads to claim for funding. This reevaluation will help with funding opportunities for the upcoming 21/22 year. The West Nile Virus intern position has been advertised.

OLD BUSINESS

Fairgrounds Building

Ms. Snider stated the pre-construction meeting was on April 13, 2021 Mr. Cowell attended. Mr. Cowell stated the building will be up and usable by the County Fair in August 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

There were no requests for assistance to present to the board.

Barbetta Conservation Plan FLP

Mr. Schweiger stated the Barbetta's easement process requires a signed Conservation Plan Agreement from the district for the final recording of the deed of easement. Mr. Schweiger and Mr. Phil Evans visited the location with no changes needed. The signed form is recorded with the deed.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve and sign the Barbetta Conservation Plan Agreement. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Watershed Specialist Funding Request

Ms. Snider noted this is the budget for Mr. Jared Zinn's Watershed Specialist position and the request shows how funding will be used for the position from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022.

A motion was made by Melissa Adamson to submit the Watershed Specialist Funding Request. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

2021-2022 PACD NPS Mini-Grants

Ms. Snider stated the two mini-grants are projects that Mr. Zinn worked on to obtain funding through PACD.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve 2021-2022 PACD NPS Mini Grants submission. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

Cumberland Township Contract Extension Nesmith Road-Dec 31, 2021

Ms. Snider added the Township submitted the bid package this week and will advertised twice before the end of April 2021. The first part of May the Township should award the contract at the Township meeting. Ms. Snider is requesting an extension on the contract that is currently set to expire June 30, 2021.

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve extension of Nesmith Road Contract to December 31, 2021. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Associate Director

Mr. Cowell spoke with Mr. Lewis Crouse-Sheep Farmer in Greene County about becoming an associate director with the Greene County Conservation District.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve Lewis Crouse as associate director. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Coloring and Poster Contest

Everyone in attendance voted on coloring and poster contest winners. Those pictures with the highest votes were awarded top 1-2-3 in the category based on grade. Coloring contest winners received a bicycle and helmet and poster contest winners received a monetary prize.

Annual Report

2020 Annual Report was printed and mailed to everyone on the districts mailing list.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Phil Evans-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) gave a recap of items completed or are still waiting for items to be finished: Wasilesky's one year is finishing up and will be off the books. Gene Saurborn has yet to do the nutrient management plan. Ethan Virgilli will be up and running with city water. Glen Kerr worked on a water system design. John Robinson was behind due to contractor issues. Willis's cover crops are still growing. Recently announced next round awardees Phil Judy will get a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and Cree's Farm CNMP is close to being finished. Conservation Security Program (CSP) deadline is May 7, 2021. Phil is working with Sara to visit Hilverdings and Henrys farms. The office restrictions have lifted some, where one person is in the office on a rotating schedule and outdoor visits are permitted. Mr. Evans had the annual nondiscrimination clause agreement for NRCS to be signed by directors.

Commissioner Belding along with Mr. Scull sat on a Southwest Regional Agricultural Public Council with Republic Foods a few years ago and is being revitalized. Regional with nine counties involved. Working towards meat processing USDA in Greene County.

Funding from the Federal Government regarding Forgivable Small Business Loan and a grant for Hospitality Funding. The intent is to help make these businesses whole from lost profits during Covid. Less any other funding sources that may have been issued. 7.2 million American Rescue Act funding is coming to Greene County with restrictions. Commissioner Belding noted based on qualifications some of that funding could go towards the Farmland Preservation since it is a government funded program. The other hope is for water, sewage and broadband expansions. The county is looking for a half page initiative stating the need and cost for the program to receive funds.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Next Regular Meeting will be May 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Greene County Fairgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m. Greg Hopkins 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 June 15, 2021.
James A Cunnah
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
William C. Westzel
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District