Greene County Conservation District
22 West High St. • Suite 204 • Waynesburg, PA 15370
Tel: 724-852-5278 • Fax: 724-852-5341
email: gccd@co.greene.pa.us
Web: www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. James Cowell called the meeting to order at 10:04 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

James Cowell-Chairman; Commissioner Belding-Vice Chairman; Greg Hopkins-Treasurer; William Wentzel-Secretary; Glodenna Halstead. Associate Directors: George Scull; Dominick Barbetta; Jerry Day; Becky Salosky; Lewis Crouse; Sean Hilverding and Dan Bazzoli.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Zack Basinger-Environmental Program Specialist; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and April Morris-Fiscal Manager.

GUEST AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Commissioner McClure; Phil Evans-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

OATH OF OFFICE

Commissioner Belding administered the Oath of Office to Glodenna Halstead. Ms. Halstead was appointed Director for the Conservation District with a term to expire on December 31, 2025.

REORGANIZATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS-CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, TREASURER, SECRETARY-LISA SNIDER

Ms. Snider asked for a nomination for Chairman of the Greene County Conservation District Board.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to nominate James Cowell, Jr. as Chairman of the Conservation Board. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to nominate Commissioner Belding as Vice-Chairman of the Conservation Board. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to nominate Greg Hopkins as Treasurer of the Conservation Board. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to nominate Bill Wentzel as Secretary of the Conservation Board. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve the November 18, 2021 minutes. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Morris noted numerous additions to the treasurer's report and a new version was printed and passed out at the meeting.

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

REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Snider added a new business item for dam work on South Fork Ten Mile.

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve adding Dam Work on South Fork Ten Mile to New Business. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 REAP County Report

Ms. Snider included the report and 2021 applicants showing items and amounts. Mr. George Finnegan, who is a participant in REAP, has a meeting with the district on Thursday to discuss items for upgrades to the farm. Mr. Cowell stated REAP is a great program that includes a lot of paperwork and gives tax credits. Mr. Hopkins recommended the district include the REAP Program in the newsletter for more outreach to local farmers.

Appalachian Grazing Conference-March 10-12-Morgantown, WV

Ms. Snider stated anyone looking to attend the conference let the district staff know.

Conservation District Insurance Coverage

Ms. Snider received an email from Marsha Elmer of C Cap regarding insurance coverage for the Conservation District. Ms. Snider had questioned if the coverage provided by the County was enough to cover the District. This question was brought before P Corp at the January 21, 2022 board meeting and the board voted that the Conservation District be covered under the County Insurance policy.

House Bill 2020

Ms. Snider stated the bill is to increase the funding for the Growing Greener Grant Projects to 500 million.

Nutrient Management Review
Ms. Snider received the draft of the Nutrient Management Plan review from Laurel Rush, State Conservation Commission (SCC). Ms. Snider spoke with Ms. Rush regarding the Nutrient Management (NM) Plan for the district and received the draft delegation agreement. Ms. Snider asked that someone from SCC attend the March Board meeting, a supervisor will attend to discuss the NM Plan. Districts within the state receive grants for the NM program and the district's portion is a quarter of a grant. Lisa stated the district has one NM plan in Greene County. New delegation agreement coming out in June for the next fiscal year. Manure Management (MM) still needs completed whether the district is involved with NM or decides to drop the program.

STAFF REPORTS
Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski- Ms. Kozlowski was not in attendance.

Zack Basinger- Mr. Basinger noted permits are steady this year. Currently, Zack is working on two projects with Regional Permitting Coordination Office (RPCO) in Harrisburg and the process has been manageable. BioQuip is used for West Nile Virus (WNV) supplies and is going out of business as of March 11, 2022. Mr. Basinger is buying the items needed now for the program. On Friday, Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Basinger are going to Connellsville with the Planning Commission to tour the recycling facility to get ideas for the tire-recycling program this spring.

Jared Zinn- Mr. Zinn spoke about Growing Greener and the Browns Creek Project that closed out last year. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was pleased with how the project turned out. Mr. Zinn submitted six projects with one approved for funding on Mr. Willis' farm. The project will consist of streambank stabilization, stream crossing, and spring developments. Mr. Zinn is completing scope of work, landowner agreements and final budget and will need e-signatures from Mr. Cowell and Mr. Hopkins. Jared is working with Mr. Gary Rush regarding a stream needing stabilized near the home. Mr. Zinn was on the strategic planning committee for Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandon Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR). Jared received a draft of the strategic plan for the next seven years and would like comments from the board regarding this plan. Jared is continuing work with schools and hands on stream projects.

April Morris- Ms. Morris nothing additional to add.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider noted the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) projects are coming together. Coon Run project went out for bid and was awarded last week. Jackson Township needs to submit receipts for final payment for Keyhole Road. Gilmore Township has three projects that final payment is waiting for receipts. Ms. Snider is giving the township until the end of March to submit receipts, if no receipts the contract will be cancelled and any payments will need refunded. Sugar Camp project is complete and Ms. Snider visited the site

last week. A few items need addressed before the DGLVR Quality Assurance Board (QAB) does final inspection. Annual Report items will be submitted to Toby next week.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Technician

Ms. Snider received eight applications for the Conservation Technician of which six were candidates worth interviewing though most applicants are from the Pittsburgh area. After a discussion amongst the board, a few ideas on finding someone to fill the position were given and Ms. Snider will follow up.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance- No Request for Assistance

State Ethics Forms for Director Completion by April 30, 2022

Mr. Cowell mentioned getting the form completed and to Ms. Morris by April 30.

2022 Expense Form Mileage Rate Change from .56 to .585

Informational item.

Associate Board Members

Becky Salosky; Carol Adamson; Tim Neil; Dominick Barbetta; George Scull; Sean Hilverding; Jerry Day; Jim Willis; Lewis Crouse; Keith Golden; Spencer Johnson; Raymond Stockdale; and William Cree, Jr. agreed to remain as associate board members. Dan Bazzoli and Doug Willis were listed as potential new members. Mr. Bazzoli accepted and Ms. Snider has not heard from Mr. Willis.

> ***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to accept the above listed individuals as Associate Board Members. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Lisa mentioned Kevin White was listed on the 2022 director appointment form. Mr. Cowell recommended sending a letter to Mr. White.

2022 Greene County Conservation District Committees

Mr. Cowell stated everyone listed on the 2021 committee list will be reappointed to those committees unless otherwise stated. Anyone who wants added to a committee let district staff know. Mr. Sean Hilverding asked to be included in the Agriculture committee.

2022 GCCD Delegates-PACD and Project Grass delegates

Mr. Cowell asked for a volunteer for PACD delegate that meet quarterly and two annual meetings a year winter and summer. Anyone interested let district staff know.
Mr. Brian Guenin replaced Mr. Eric Davis as PA Fish and Boat Commission representative for Dirt and Gravel Roads delegate.

> ***A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to replace the Fish and Boat Commission representative to Mr. Brian Guenin as a Dirt and Gravel Roads delegate. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

2022 District Directors and Associate Directors Contact Information and Envirothon Contribution

Mr. Cowell stated the information sheet needs completed and turned into Ms. Morris. Ms. Snider added this is done yearly for the Envirothon mileage donation.

Envirothon Donation

Ms. Snider stated according to the State Conservation Commissions (SCC) policy any donations the district receives the board must vote on receiving the money and how the money is spent. The district received three donations recently for the Envirothon. $500 from Black Diamond Equipment Rentals, $100 from Bankson Engineers and $250 from First Federal. The funds were sent as part of the Envirothon Donation request that was sent out to each company.

> ***A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to accept the above listed donations for the Envirothon and to be used as needed. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Ed Michalik 2021 GRACE Applicant

Mr. Michalik was listed as a GRACE Applicant for the 2021/2022 Program year for fertilizer but never had soil tests done due to inability to make contact.

> ***A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to send Mr. Michalik notice that for the 2021/2022 GRACE Program year the district will not be able to move forward with the contract and to reapply for the 2022/2023 GRACE contract period. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

2022 GRACE Program Application advertisement

Ms. Snider asked the board if the district should move forward with the GRACE Program and accepting applications along with advertising.

> ***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to advertise and accept applications for the 2022/2023 GRACE Program. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Habitat Restoration Group Monarch Project-Steering Committee

Mr. Zinn met with the group Greene Together regarding pollinating habitats being planted along every gas line within Greene County. The group asked if Mr. Zinn could help with outreach including newsletter, landowner outreach, and project development and implementation along with grant writing. After discussion among the board, it was decided to offer help that does not consist of taking time away from projects currently at the district.

Growing Greener Grant

Mr. Zinn stated the grant for Mr. Willis includes stream stabilization, fencing, stabilized stream crossing and three spring developments total of $111,578.00. Mr. Zinn, with board approval, will accept the project and enter into contract with DEP.

> ***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to accept the Growing Greener Grant and enter into contract with DEP. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

2022 Coloring and Poster Contest

Mr. Zinn spoke about the yearly coloring and poster contests. Cash prizes are given to the winners of the poster contest and bikes and helmets for the coloring contest. Mr. Zinn is requesting up to $1,500.00 for the costs of the prizes and any incidentals.

> ***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to allow up to $1,500.00 for prizes and other costs associated with the coloring and poster contests. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Women's Farm Bureau Conference

Mr. Cowell received a letter from the Greene County Farm Bureau Ladies Leadership Committee asking for donation from the Conservation District so the committee can host the 2022 Regional Leadership Conference. The conference will be held at Valley View Farm on July 13, 2022.

> ***A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve $2,000.00 of funding for the 2022 Regional Leadership Conference. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

GRACE Special Project Proposal

Ms. Snider spoke with Karen Books, Department of Environmental Protection, and Johan Berger, State Conservation Commission regarding Oil and Gas and Agriculture Conservation Technician (ACT) Funding. $27,933.44 was designated to offset the cost of the ACT staff position from Oil and Gas funds. Since no employee is in the position, the $27,933.44 has not been used and Ms. Snider would like to apply that funding towards GRACE Special Project. In the event someone is not hired for the ACT position Ms. Snider and Mr. Zinn can use the time both have spent on the GRACE program to claim the rest of the funds available towards the ACT position.

> ***A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve sending GRACE Special Project receipts to State Conservation Commission to claim $27,933.44 in funding. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Dam Work at South Fork Ten Mile

Mr. Zinn and Ms. Snider are working together on a project involving an old bridge that collapsed in Jefferson Township along Ten Mile Creek. The bridge is causing severe erosion along the stream and could be a dangerous area for kayakers. Mr. Zinn is working with American Rivers to remove the bridge, if the landowners give permission to do so. Along with this project, there is a small dam in Rogersville in the same stream that was declared, by DEP, as a failed dam. The township stated it causes severe flooding issues. American Rivers would like to remove this dam along with the bridge. Ms. Snider stated the districts responsibilities in the removals of the items would be writing support letters to help obtain funding. Then after the removal help with stabilizing the area through Growing Greener Grants. Along with outreach by setting up American Rivers with local partners.

> ***A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to support both of the projects and work with American Rivers. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH
Winter Newsletter went out and Annual Report is in the works.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES
Phil Evans, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) noted the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is in process. A list went to NRCS employees of awardees for a cover crop program; none awarded in six counties on the western side of PA. A third round for EQIP is still taking applications until March 1, 2022. Conservation Security Program (CSP) signups are available until May 2, 2022. A new program is opening up EQIP CIC. Mr. Judy's Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is moving forward. Mr. Willis received cover crop payments. Mr. Virgili had to rework the conservation plan due to a different water source. Cost estimates are in the works for the Cree project and a change to the CNMP is happening with the feeding facility not being included for project purposes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Executive session not needed.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING
The next regular meeting will be March 15, 2022

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 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 March 15, 2022.
James Carll
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
William C. Wentzel
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District