



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES APRIL 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

James A. Cowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at Greene County Fairgrounds Building 10, 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA.

Those in attendance were as follows:

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

James A. Cowell, Jr.-Chairman; Commissioner Mike Belding-Vice Chairman; William Wentzel-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Treasurer; Dave Shipman, Dan Bazzoli, Lewis Crouse and Glodenna Halstead. Associate Directors: Jim Willis, Jerry Day, Doug Willis, Dominick Barbetta, Kevin White, George Scull, Ryan Wise, Rebecca Trigger and Becky Salosky.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Zachary Basinger-Environmental Permitting Manager; Jared Zinn – Watershed Specialist, Tiffany Stewart-Conservation Technician and Heather Yorko-Fiscal Officer.

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer - Regional District Rep Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).
Sophia Arthur – Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).
Tom Headlee-former district director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the February 21, 2023 minutes. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

February and March reconciliation statements, Budget vs Actual spreadsheet dated April 3, 2023 and an updated Treasurer's Report were provided to the board for review.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM

There was no request for additional agenda items.

CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Envirothon is Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at Hunting Hill in Dilliner, PA, testing generally starts at 9:00am and ends at 12:00pm with a grilled lunch and awards to follow. Ms. Snider let everyone know that golf carts are available to enable everyone to get around to the different stations should board members decide to attend. West Greene is not participating in this year's Envirothon due to too many conflicts and not enough teachers to help.

The updated 2023 GCCD Committee list was included in the meeting packets.

PACD Southwest Regional Directors Meeting is Wednesday, April 19, 2023 from 10am to noon at Westmoreland Conservation District Office, Greensburg, PA. Ms. Snider stated that she will be attending virtually and can provide the login information to any member(s) interested in attending virtually.

Thank You letter from the Wildlife Leadership Academy included in meeting packet.

Ms. Snider, Mr. Cowell and Mr. Hopkins received an invitation for visioning session for Penn's Corner RC&D; Ms. Snider is attending the meeting on May 8 and will have an update at the next GCCD Board Meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that Penn's Corner RC&D was a tremendous help in the past before Conservation Districts added more staff, but has become a redundancy at this point.

State Water Plan, which is looking for committee members and directors for committees. 2027 is the State Water Plan Year that is in the works right now. Mr. Zinn suggested that it would be a good idea to get a voice for Greene County on a committee that can bring to light issues that affect Greene County that need consideration. This plan drives some of DEP priorities, which makes it even more important to have someone advocating for our issues including Ms. Snider is encouraging members to consider and revisit at the next board meeting to do a nomination letter from the board, if anyone is interested.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reclassified the northern long-eared bat from threatened to endangered, which has made some changes to permitting. In regards to Chapter 105 DEP wants any project that is not completed, construction is pending, or new permit comes in has to have an updated PNDI on or after March 31; those are all our stream and wetland crossings permits. Regarding regular construction permits that have already been issued there are not going to require a new PDNI unless there are going to require additional land disturbance. If the permit is in the office and not approved, they are going to require a new PDNI to see if anything changes for the endangered bat habitat.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Preparing for Envirothon, voting today for coloring and poster contests, QAQC DGR review seemed to go well. Working with Zack and Lisa on tire recycling event in May. Tire recycling event will be the same day as Planning's Electronics Recycling event; we will be advertising this event for 2-weeks in advance so that participants can preregister.

Zack Basinger- Started tick drive last week and will go on until the end of August. Still receiving paper and electronic permits at a steady pace. Tire recycling – Jefferson Twp. has already received a dumpster for tire recycling – notified by Ryan Wise of Jefferson Township that the dumpster was already filled and picked up.

Jared Zinn- Updates on current projects – Finalized all of the paperwork on the Willis project and work should be starting in the next couple of months involving stream stabilization, stream crossings, fencing and a couple of water developments. Still working with DEP to get the finalized contract on the Growing Greener Grant for the Cree Farm and should be going to construction very soon. The Jefferson bridge removal project, funding has been secured for the project; next step is bid advertisement.

During discuss with Mr. Willis Jared was made aware of black vultures in the area harassing livestock, which is a common issue south of us; however, there have been reports of black vultures moving into southwestern Pennsylvania. Jared will be writing an article to help identify the difference between the black and turkey vultures. Willis' are obtaining a permit to eliminate black vultures on their farm; the question was asked if you have a permit could you eliminate black vultures on neighboring farms; Mr. Willis is going to enquire if that is permitted.

Tiffany Stewart- Working mostly on G.R.A.C.E., which is in full swing. Outreach for GRACE includes ads on Facebook, WANB and GreeneScene. Additionally, we did have to order 300 soil test kits, which increased significantly in price; however, we will recoup that expense.

Heather Yorko – Working with Controller's office to complete the audit of 2022.

Lisa Snider- Road clean up tentatively moved to May 2, 2023, usually starts around 9:00am.

OLD BUSINESS

Penn's Corner RC&D Update

Ms. Snider visited the site with Jeff Spar (Watershed specialist for underground coal) of PADEP last week, showed the layout of the land, explained ownership and obtained water samples. PADEP plans to review the consent order and agreement, because Twilight Industries is still in business and may still be responsible for the site; PADEP may be able to revise the consent order to take GCCD as being the responsible for building an AMD facility and put the onus on Twilight Industries. Revision will let everyone know who is responsible and how the monies will be utilized.

ACAP

Ms. Snider and Ms. Stewart would like to have a committee meeting to make decisions on the ranking list and other criteria.

Funding was received so GCCD now needs to open a new Community Bank account for ACAP funds and interest income can be tracked.

After discussion, a decision was reached to have an Agriculture Committee meeting on May 16, 2023 at 8:00am prior to the regular GCCD meeting at 10am.

AG COMPLAINT UPDATE

Mr. Zinn stated that we have been trying to work with this farmer since October with follow up visits in January, February and March in an effort to get the farmer in compliance without much success. Pastures are overgrazed to the point that they can barely support grass; animal concentration areas are a mess and located right on a stream. DEP has moved to the point of issuing a notice of violation, which would force the farmer into compliance with civil penalties if compliance were not met. The farmer was involved in a farm accident and has been in the hospital due to the severity of his injuries so Mr. Zinn has asked the DEP to hold off on sending the notice of violation due to his injuries. The hope is that the animals will be moved to another farm to make it easier for others to tend the animals while the farmer is recovering from his injuries. After discussion, the decision was made to wait a couple of weeks on the NOV and to monitor the animals that are on the farm as this time.

NEW BUSINESS

No requests for Assistance.

PACD Conservation District Salary Project Voluntary Donation

PACD hired a consultant to complete a salary study for Conservation Districts. The information has been compiled and presented to the managers recently. They are reaching out now to see if the Conservation Board would be willing to contribute up to \$500.00 to offset the costs of the study.

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to donate \$500.00 to the PACD Conservation District Salary Study Project Voluntary Donation. Commissioner Belding seconded (Motion Passed)

FORD BUSINESS COPIER AND PRINTER LEASE AGREEMENT

Ms. Snider met with Ford Business recently, maintenance agreement and fees are costing GCCD more than a new copier agreement would cost. Ms. Snider is going to do more research on lease costs and report to the board at the next meeting. Additionally, the information on a large format printer that GCCD will need in the future to print digital plans was discussed.

ACAP BANK ACCOUNT

Ms. Snider explained that we need a motion by the board to open a new bank account for ACAP; Ms. Yorko will prepare a letter requesting the new account and Mr. Cowell to sign.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to open an ACAP bank account at Community Bank with our Executive Board Members as signors. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

AG COMMITTEE MEETING

After discussion, the board determined that they would prefer to meet before the regular meeting on May 16, 2023 at 8:00am.

WATERSHED SPECIALIST RESIGNATION

Mr. Zinn expressed how much he is going to miss the office staff, board and the support of the commissioners.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ryan Furrer -- DEP -- A lot of Mr. Furrer's report was regarding ACAP, which was covered in discussion. Additionally, the Growing Greener Plus Grant opens on April 21 and closes June 24 -- new this year applicants are able to apply for storm water management planning under Act 167.

Watershed Restoration, Bureau of Watershed Management and the Bureau of Clean Water came up with FAQ on their website.

There is going to be Model My Watershed virtual training by Drexel University is a virtual two-part, mandatory training for Watershed Specialists June 12 & 15, invite will be sent out soon.

Sophia Arthur -- NRCS -- Sole conservationist in Lemont Furnace, Bill retired last month. Sophia is working on preselection of EQUIP general. In the month of March NRCS had the Inflation Reduction Act Fund, which does streamline general similar to EQUIP that gives new rankings based solely on climate smart practices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to go into an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to go back into the regular meeting. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Watershed Specialist

A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to ask the Commissioners to move Tiffany Stewart, Ag Tech to Watershed Specialist and advertise two Ag Tech. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be May 16, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)


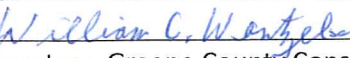
Respectfully submitted,



Heather Yorko
Fiscal Officer

MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on May 16, 2023.


Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District