



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES January 21, 2020

Commissioner Belding led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ms. Lisa Snider called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. at Greene County Conservation District Conference Room, 22 West High St., Waynesburg, PA.

Those in attendance were as follows:

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Jim Cowell-Farmer Director; Commissioner Belding-Commissioner Representative; Bill Wentzel-Public Director; Greg Hopkins-Farmer Director; Dave Shipman-Farmer Director; Melissa Adamson-Public Director. Associate Directors: Jerry Day; George Scull; Chuck Kubasik; Bill Cree Jr.; Spencer Johnson; Raymond Stockdale; Keith Golden; Glodenna Halstead; Gay Thistle; and Dominick Barbetta.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Assistant Manager/Environmental Program Specialist; Zack Basinger-Environmental Program Specialist; Ben Schweiger-Conservation Technician; Sara Hlatky-Conservation Technician; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and April Morris-Fiscal Officer.

GUEST AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Jeremy Kelly-Greene County Planning and Economic Development (GCPC); Michal Roup-Farm Service Agency (FSA); Stuart Demanski-PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)

OATH OF OFFICE

Commissioner Belding administered the Oath of Office to William Wentzel (Bill), Greg Hopkins, and Melissa Adamson as directors of the Conservation District.

William Wentzel-Public Director, term to expire on December 31, 2023.

Greg Hopkins-Farmer Director, term to expire on December 31, 2023 and will take the position held by Michael Belding, Farmer director

A vacant position, being discussed by the commissioners, to fill the remaining term of Jim Jones.

Melissa Adamson-Public Director, term to expire on December 31, 2021 to fill the remaining term of Thomas Headlee.

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

The floor was opened for the election of officers.

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to nominate Jim Cowell as Chairman. Commissioner Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

Ms. Snider turned the meeting over to the newly appointed Chairman, Jim Cowell.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to nominate Greg Hopkins as Treasurer. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to nominate Bill Wentzel as Secretary. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

The 2020 officers are as follows:

- Jim Cowell-Chairman
- Commissioner Belding-Vice Chairman
- Greg Hopkins-Treasurer
- Bill Wentzel-Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the November 19, 2019 minutes. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

A motion was made by Melissa Adamson to approve the following board members as check signatures for Greene County Conservation District. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Mr. James Cowell
Commissioner Mike Belding
Mr. Greg Hopkins
Mr. William Wentzel

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

State Ethics Forms for Director Completion by April 30, 2020

Mr. Cowell noted the Ethics forms will need completed by the Board of Directors and returned to the conservation office staff. Associate directors received the form in their meeting packet in error and do not need to complete.

2020 District Directors and Associate Directors Contact Information

Mr. Cowell stated this form was also included in your meeting packet and all board and associate board members will need to complete this form and return to the conservation district staff. Ms. Snider added the form includes if a board or associate board member would like to donate their mileage, for attending meetings, to the Envirothon Scholarship fund.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate Change – New Rate \$.575

Ms. Snider noted the decrease in mileage rate from last year of \$.58. This follows the county and state mileage reimbursement rates.

Soil Health Conference – Latrobe, PA – Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Ms. Snider included the brochure for the soil health conference happening next Wednesday in Latrobe. Mr. Shipman along with Mr. Schweiger and Ms. Hlatky will be attending. Lisa added anyone else interested in attending the conference let the conservation staff know today to be signed up.

FFA Jacket Awards and Keystone Degree

Ms. Snider received information from Ms. Karlie Wright, Agriculture Science Teacher/West Greene FFA Advisor, regarding four members of West Greene FFA receiving signature FFA Jacket at the PA Farm Show. Also, three members of the West Greene FFA Chapter earned a Keystone Degree.

Back to Basics Workshop-Dates and Locations vary

Ms. Snider added the closest workshop to the area would be the Westmoreland Conservation District event. Lisa stated any board or associate board member that is interested in attending the workshop can be signed up. The workshop will include information about the what and why's of the conservation district. The district will reimburse for mileage and can initiate the sign-up process. Mr. Wentzel and Ms. Adamson stated they would like to attend a workshop.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski stated a revision to the Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control Plan (E&S) fee schedule is being worked on. Lindsay would like to meet with the E&S committee and go over current fees for services in Greene County and other surrounding areas to see if an increase should be implemented. A decrease in

Chapter 105 fees, that were taken over by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), of \$57,000.00 from 2018 to 2019 is the reason behind making changes to the current E&S Permit fee schedule. In December new NPDES changes were implemented. Ms. Kozlowski noted the t-shirt contest information was sent to all school districts with a deadline of March 5, 2020. A total of \$600.00 has been received in donations for the Envirothon from local companies. The Envirothon event costs approximately \$4,000.00 for the district.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger is receiving plans steadily. Zack noted he has a couple minor complaints to check, this coming week, regarding water issues. Mr. Basinger has been working with Ms. Kozlowski on the fee schedule updates.

Ben Schweiger – Mr. Schweiger is working on Farmland Preservation and encumbering Mr. Cree's farm. The process was given an extension to obtain an ASA. Ben is also working on Mr. Barbetta's farm, which is now considered for encumbrment. Ben noted GRACE Applications are coming in and the application period is open. Advertisements for GRACE will begin in early spring via radio and newspaper ads.

Sara Hlatky - Ms. Hlatky is waiting on plan revisions from Washington County for the Nutrient Management plan. Sara will be working on a Nutrient Management plan for Mr. Bill Cree's Dairy Farm.

Jared Zinn – Mr. Zinn is working on grant related projects one being the Growing Greener Grant with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). There is no current time line for approvals on those grants.

Mr. Stuart Demanski added the DEP has received 38 applications and the department is beginning the process of approvals/denials on those applications. Stuart noted the DEP hired a new Watershed Manager, Dr. Will Grogen. Dr. Grogen is working with his former programs and will reaching out to all conservation districts to discuss watershed matters. Mr. Demanski believes the Growing Greener Grant scoring will be completed by the end of February 2020, and that there is a possibility of a second round of grant applications being announced soon.

Lisa Snider – Ms. Snider gave a brief report of activities. Lisa has been traveling to different townships to review Dirt and Gravel Roads. This assessment of Dirt and Gravel Roads within Greene County will help increase the number of worksites which could increase funding. Springhill Township has an increase of about 50% of Dirt and Gravel Roads that were not listed previously as worksites. Ms. Snider will continue this process until all the roads are covered in the county. While traveling, Lisa speaks with the townships to go over the application process.

Ms. Snider sent Mr. Zinn to a meeting with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Waynesburg Girls Softball Association. The organization was

meeting to work on a grant for softball fields at Wisecarver Reservoir. Jared can be a resource for writing grants, in the future, for Greene County.

Ms. Snider asked Ms. Hlatky to put a workshop together for GRACE participants to explain the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP). REAP is a tax incentive program for farmers using best practices. Ms. Hlatky will work with the state to create this workshop. The state is looking to use Whitely Creek as a model for the rest of the state to get a 90% tax credit instead of the smaller amount which is given based on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report used by the state. This report states how much sediment or pollutant is entering a stream. Whitely Creek has a high TMDL for sediment. This credit can also be given to business's or anyone that implements a buffer in a stream that helps with the sediment and pollution problems. Ms. Snider hopes to have this workshop by February or March.

GRACE Program is continuing this year and advertisements will begin in early spring.

Ms. Snider along with Ms. Morris are working on funding to ensure each program is credited the amounts of income and expenses as listed on the budget. This will prepare for the 2019 accounting books to be closed and sent to the Greene County Controllers office and then to the external auditors.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

There were no requests for assistance to bring before the board.

Associate Board Members

These members would like to remain as Associate Board members for 2020:

Gay Thistle	Glodenna Halstead
Jerry Day	Chuck Kubasik
Becky Salosky	Dominick Barbetta
William Cree Sr.	James Willis
Carol Adamson	Joel Folman
Spencer Johnson	

The following are potential new associate members that were solicited by the board:

Lance Kerr	Keith Golden
George Scull	Raymond Stockdale
Walt Stout	

Ms. Snider has not received a response from Mr. Walt Stout. Lisa added associate board members should not hesitate to ask questions, participate on committees, and bring information to the board to review or consider. Lisa noted associate board members will receive monthly meeting packets with all the information that will be included in that month's meeting. There are no requirements on the number of meetings attended for the year as an associate member, but would encourage participation.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve above listed individuals as Associate Board Members. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

2020 GCCD Delegates

Ms. Snider reviewed again the need for Penn's Corner RC&D and Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) delegates. Lisa stated the Commissioner Representative and Alternate Commissioner Representative for Penn's Corner RC&D are appointed by the Greene County Commissioners. First and Second Alternate positions are open for PACD. Mr. George Scull would like more information on the PACD alternate position.

Ms. Snider included the Wheeling Creek Watershed Commission are positions appointed by the Greene County Commissioners. Lisa tries to attend the meetings every quarter.

West Greene School District STEAM Renovations

Ms. Snider received information on the renovations proposed by West Greene School District to include a STEAM program and West Greene School District is looking for community support. The school district will match any amount that is donated towards the program from an outside organization. Ms. Snider will attend the information dinner on January 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to learn more about the plans for reimagining the future of education for Greene County.

2020 Greene County Conservation District Committees

Mr. Cowell stated the associate directors should get involved with the committees for 2020. Mr. Greg Hopkins will be added to Budget and Audit committee. Ms. Melissa Adamson and Mr. Raymond Stockdale were added to Personnel & District Operations Committee. Ms. Snider stated the Agriculture Committee could use more individuals for anyone interested in participating.

Dirt and Gravel Road QAQC meeting August 5-6, 2020

Ms. Snider has a meeting scheduled the QAQC evaluation of the districts Dirt and Gravel Road program. The Dirt and Gravel Road Committee will be called in for this meeting to acknowledge the way funding is being issued to townships. Lisa is preparing the files with necessary paperwork. This evaluation is to be conducted every other year.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

There was no additional outreach.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Mr. Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning and Economic Development, received a proposal for a Dollar General in Dunkard Township. A compressor station is also in the works for Wayne Township. Two townships have inquired about constructing new buildings. Mr. Kelly also runs the tax abatement program and has received 125 new tax abatements. Twenty-six of those are for agricultural buildings or barns. Mr. Kelly has been made aware of a statewide initiative for the state to take over the UCC requirements for buildings.

Mr. Stuart Demanski, PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), attended a commission meeting in November where there were talks of an advisory meeting. Ms. Snider was not selected to participate in this meeting.

Ms. Michal Roup, Farm Service Agency, stated a new director has been hired. Ms. Roup covers anything regarding the Farm Bill including the GRACE Program and registering farms. Michal works with commodity farmers. Penn State is setting up workshops to help farmers with different available programs. Andrew Sandean from Indiana County is leading the ARC PLC Program for Dairy Revenue protection. The meeting will be held next Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Washington County Conservation conference room. The meeting is regarding the program's farmers will participate in due to direct payments being unavailable. Ms. Roup can also help with registering farms.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Next Regular Meeting will be February 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

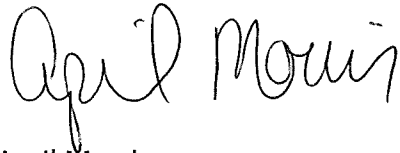
Mr. George Scull brought in a sponsorship form for Ms. Abigail Yenchik, a fifth grader at Central Greene, who is participating in Miss Agriculture USA to obtain Miss Petite. Ms. Yenchik is asking for sponsorships from local businesses.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve \$250.00 sponsorship for Miss Agriculture USA. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

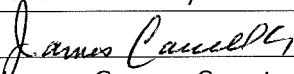
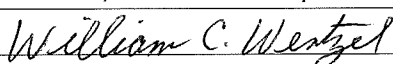
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 11:33 a.m. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,



April Morris
Fiscal Officer

<u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u>
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on <u>February 18</u> , 2020.

Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District