



## **Greene County Conservation District**

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### **GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**January 17, 2017**

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Lisa Snider called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the 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**

Bradley Eisiminger-Chairman; Archie Trader-Vice Chairman/Commissioner Representative; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Director; Mike Belding-Director; Bill Wentzel-Director/Environmental Program Associate; Jerry Day-Associate Director; Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director; Jim Jones-Associate Director; Dave Shipman-Associate Director; and Gay Thistle-Associate Director.

#### **Staff**

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Karlie Wright-Ag Technician; April Brummage-Resource Specialist; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

#### **OATH OF OFFICE**

Commissioner Trader administered the Oath of Office to re-appointed Director, Bradley Eisiminger (Farmer Director). Mr. Eisiminger was appointed to a four-year term (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2020).

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

*The floor was opened for the election of officers. A motion was made by Mike Belding to retain the same slate of officers as those who served in 2016. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)*

The 2017 officers are as follows:

- Bradley Eisiminger-Chairman
- Archie Trader-Vice-Chairman
- Tom Headlee-Treasurer
- Jim Cowell-Secretary

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve the minutes of the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

The following upcoming meetings were noted. Anyone interested in attending any of these meetings, should contact the office to arrange to share a ride.

**Appalachian Grazing Conference – March 9-11, 2017 – Morgantown, WV**

**Connecting Soils & Profits – No-Till, Cover Crops, Soil Health & Grazing – March 9, 2017 – Danville, PA**

**Soil Health and No-Till Conference - January 25, 2017 – Latrobe, PA**

Mr. Day, Mr. Shipman, Ms. Brummage, and Ms. Wright plan to attend this meeting.

**Northwest PA Grazing Conference – March 16, 2017 – Clarion, PA**

## **State Ethics Forms**

The State Ethics Forms were included in the meeting packets for completion by April 30, 2017 by all GCCD directors.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**Lisa Snider** - Ms. Snider gave an update on the following complaints received by GCCD.

**Thralls Contracting** – They are currently working with PA DEP to reach compliance.

**Shadow Oaks Road** - Reclamation is underway on this project, located near Sugar Run Road. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is needed on this site. GCCD is working with Franklin Township to resolve these issues.

**Morris Logging** – PA DEP is working with their legal counsel to resolve this issue. An order was officially served to the logger to correct the problems at the site.

**Safeco Site** – They have obtained all of the required permits for this site located in Dunkard Township, near Pt. Marion, PA.

**Herman Pond** - Eric Davis, PA Fish and Boat Commission and GCCD staff have met on site to discuss proper earth disturbance best management practices (BMP's) and permitting for this site, located along Route 19 near the Greene/Washington County line.

GCCD is also working to resolve issues in which landslides have occurred on pipeline sites. A slide may occur outside the area of disturbance or encroach upon a stream and may require additional permitting or stream mitigation.

Mr. Hopkins noted that work recently began on a gas line in Nineveh, near the sewage treatment plant. In addition, it appears that a slip has occurred on the site. Ms. Snider will inform Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Basinger of this project.

Regarding the Dirt and Gravel Road Program, all of the year-end reports required by the program, have been submitted to the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads. The reports show that GCCD has adequately used their funding allocations on various county projects.

**April Brummage** – Following maternity leave, she has returned to work, on a full time basis, and has been assisting with erosion and sedimentation (E&S) control and agricultural programs as needed.

**Karlie Wright** – A complaint was received regarding a manure storage area and a waste area on Bedilion Road. The manure site, where manure from the Greene County Fairgrounds is taken, appeared to be mostly in compliance; however, a manure management plan was needed and has since been obtained. A permit is needed for the other waste area and the landowner is in the process of obtaining one.

The Greene County Farmland Preservation Board is moving forward to preserve two additional farms, a parcel on the Bell Farm and a parcel on the Cree Farm. The state funding for these farms was encumbered. Two additional landowners are interested in preserving their farms through the program.

A consultant is preparing a nutrient management plan for the Greene County Fairgrounds. As part of her program certification, she will be reviewing this plan as well as another. She is also working to write a conservation plan, which is also required for certification.

A strain of the Avian Flu was found in a wild mallard duck in Montana. Caution is being advised to those who are exposed to wild birds to prevent the spread of the disease to domestic birds.

**Jared Zinn** – With the assistance of Ms. Wright and Ms. Brummage, the Growing Greener Grant Application for the Browns Creek Watershed was completed and submitted to PA DEP. The grant, for approximately \$300,000, includes a streambank stabilization project in Nineveh and the installation of best management practices on five farms. Ms. Snider noted that additional grant money was requested to fund other projects as well.

**Bill Wentzel** – Excavation work at the Morrisville Bridge project has been completed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road**

No additional information has been received regarding the project.

### **Envirothon Donations**

Last year, the estimated cost to hold the event was approximately \$2,000.00. A balance of approximately \$1,900.00 remains from last year's donations. The following are donations or grants promised for this year.

EQT Foundation - \$1,500.00

PA Envirothon grant - \$700.00

Dominion Transmission - \$500.00

Additional funds will be needed for the scholarships, given to each student on the winning Envirothon team, and to purchase materials for the resource boxes. Ms. Thistle suggested that donation requests be sent to waste disposal companies.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Request for Assistance**

James M. Henry – Morris Township – 300 acres

William M. Hildreth – Morris Township

*A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to accept these requests for assistance. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)*

### **Associate Board Members**

Associate Directors are appointed annually. The 2016 Associate Directors were as follows: Bill Cree, Jr.; Jerry Day; Glodenna Halstead; Jim Jones; Jim Kenney; Rick Patton; Jeff Rode; Dave Shipman; Gay Thistle and Jim Willis.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Bill Wentzel to appoint all of the above individuals to serve as Associate Directors in 2017. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **2016 Committee Appointments**

Committees require a reappointment by the Chairman annually. A list of the proposed 2017 committees was included in the meeting packets. Chairman Eisiminger agreed to the committee appointments as discussed.

### **Postage Meter Lease**

This matter was tabled until additional information is received from Pitney Bowes.

### **Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) Dues**

***Following a brief discussion, a motion made by Mike Belding to pay the 2017 WPCAMR increased dues of \$100. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **Mini Grants**

Ms. Wright gave the following update on the mini grant program.

- Five applications were approved for the July 2015 round of funding. Three of the projects were completed, one is under construction and one application was withdrawn.
- Five applications were approved for the January 2016 round of funding. Three projects were completed and two applications were withdrawn.
- Six applications were approved for the July 2016 round of funding. Three projects were completed and the other three will be completed.

Ms. Wright briefly, discussed the following applications received for the July 2016-January 2017 period.

- Emil Enoff – Spring Development/Pond Exclusion
- Lewis Fox – Spring Development
- Glodenna Halstead – Spring Developments
- Gene Saurborn – HUA/Winter Feed Facility Roofing
- Ethan Virgili – Spring Developments
- Jeff Rode – Spring Developments

Under the mini grant agreement, only new applicants are eligible for funding in the January period. In 2013, Mr. Virgili received a \$1,000 mini grant for another property through the program. It was also noted that the grant only pays for materials needed to complete a project and does not include reimbursement for the landowner's time or the use of equipment.

Since some of the previous projects were not completed, funding should be available, if the board decides to fund all of the above projects. Unconventional Gas Well Funds/Public Utility Commission (UGWF/PUC) can be used to fund these projects.

***Following discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve funding for all six of the above projects. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **2017 Annual Plan of Operations (APO)**

A copy of the proposed APO was included in the meeting packets.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve the APO as presented. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **West Nile Virus (WNV) Grant**

A grant of \$10,159.95 was received through PA DEP, to conduct WNV surveillance monitoring in 2017. Ms. Snider noted that the grant would allow us to hire two interns for the summer to work half days to set and retrieve traps, send samples for testing, purchase equipment and for mileage. In addition, it will provide funding for some of GCCD's Resource Specialist, Zack Basinger's time to receive certification for an applicators license, in case spraying would be needed.

***Following a brief discussion, that confirmed that testing for the Zika virus would also be done, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to accept this grant. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **Travel Reimbursement Rate Change**

Ms. Snider noted that the travel reimbursement rate has changed from \$.54 per mile to \$.535 per mile, effective January 1, 2017. This new rate will be used by GCCD to comply with the Commonwealth and Greene County.

It was noted that GCCD directors are reimbursed twice a year, in January and July for their travel to conservation district meetings. Some directors defer their reimbursement and it was thought that maybe these deferments could be donated to the scholarship fund. The staff will check with the State Conservation Commission (SCC) to see if this can be done, and if so, a form will be developed to have on record.

#### **Envirothon Resource Boxes**

This matter was briefly discussed at the GCCD meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. A grant of \$1,000.00 was received from the Community Foundation of Greene County to help pay for some of the materials for these boxes. Ms. Snider distributed a list materials, at a total cost of \$4,735.18, she would like to purchase. If approved, a total of \$3,735.18 of conservation district funds would be needed to purchase these materials.

All five school districts will each receive a box with some of the items included on the list. Two boxes, containing pelts and skulls, will be rotated through all five school districts. To save money, it was noted that, local trappers might trap and donate pelts.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to purchase these materials through the general fund for the resource boxes. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH** – The latest addition of GCCD's newsletter has been completed and should be mailed soon. Ms. Snider will begin working on the 2016 Annual Report. She asked everyone to submit any pictures that they may have that would be suitable for publication in the report.

## REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

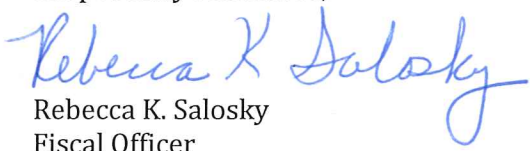
There were no reports presented.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**--There was no need for an Executive Session.

## ADJOURNMENT

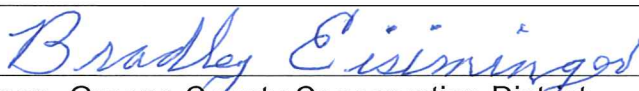
*With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mike Belding to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)*

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rebecca K. Salosky  
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 Feb 21, 2017.



Chairman, Greene County Conservation District



Secretary, Greene County Conservation District