Greene County Conservation District
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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2017

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Eisiminger 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; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Director; Bill Wentzel-Director-Environmental Program Associate; Mike Belding-Director and Dave Shipman-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Phil Evans-NRCS

Staff

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

Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Basinger attended a portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

State Ethics Forms for Director Completion by April 30, 2017

STAFF REPORTS

Lindsay Kozlowski – Preparation for this year's Envirothon is underway. Three new sponsors have been acquired for the event, Dominion, Mark IV and South Side Deli. Mark IV will be printing the t-shirts. Information, regarding the coloring contest, should be mailed to the schools today. Judging for both the coloring and poster contests will be held in conjunction with the April GCCD meeting.

Zack Basinger - He has been training Ms. Brummage to conduct site inspections. Regarding the West Nile Virus Program, he will be working to receive his license for the pesticide program and will be training

the interns regarding trapping, sending samples, etc. Mr. Zinn and he designed this year's Envirothon t-shirts.

Karlie Wright – Her review of the Saurborn nutrient management plan is nearly complete and will soon be sent to the Washington County Conservation District for final review. On March 7th, a successful nutrient management workshop was held, with approximately 17 people in attendance.

April Brummage – Ms. Brummage gave a summary of the tour of the WVU Davis College farm equine facility in Reedsville, West Virginia and the WVU Ag Science Center, she and Mr. Zinn attended.

Bill Wentzel – Waynesburg Borough has received a grant to plant eleven trees in their parks. The plantings will be done on Arbor Day. On behalf of the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club, a tree will be planted in the park in memory of Mr. Bell, who was a longtime director of GCCD and also at the Greene County Museum.

Jared Zinn – Regarding the water monitoring program, the CATTFish Program, Mr. Zinn presented a chart showing the conductivity levels over the course of the program. A few CATTFish devices are still available for use. Laboratory testing has been scheduled for three additional homes. Waynesburg University student, Matt Colalula will serve as a student intern with GCCD, working on the CATTFish Program, the Waynesburg Borough's stormwater management program, etc. To coincide with Soil and Water Stewardship Week, the spring edition of GCCD's newsletter should be mailed the last week of April. GCCD is working with Washington County Conservation District on a walking tour to showcase a stream that has been restored in California, PA.

Mr. Hopkins noted that he contacted Mr. Zinn in February after he and others in the Nineveh area found abnormalities in the stream (the streambed appeared to be dark in color and foam appeared to be on the water surface). Test results of the water samples showed that Bio Foam (organic matter that forms in stream creates the foam) was occurring in the stream.

Lisa Snider – At the last GCCD meeting held on February 21st, 2017, she reported that GCCD would be hosting an Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Training for the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program on March 15th and 16th, 2017. Due to a forecasted snow storm, the ESM training was canceled and has been rescheduled for May 23rd and 24th, 2017. The postponement allowed her to attend the PACD Regional Meeting on March 16th, 2017 where action was taken on the PACD Bylaw Amendments.

Michaela Hildreth will again serve as an intern with GCCD and will begin work on May 8th, 2017. Part of her time will be spent on the West Nile Virus Program, setting mosquito traps, sending samples, etc. Another intern is needed, and if anyone knows of anyone interested, they can log on to the county website to apply.

GCCD's 2016 Annual Report has been completed and should be mailed soon. GCCD is planning activities to celebrate Pennsylvania's Soil and Water Conservation Week, April 23rd-29th.

OLD BUSINESS

Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road

Ms. Snider gave a brief summary regarding this matter. A complaint was received that storm water was washing out part of the cemetery, possibly due to a strip mine above. A PA DEP official, the only one that does these types of projects in the entire state, visited the site and was going to repair it. The last information GCCD received was that a plan was being developed to repair the site.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Watershed Specialist Grant
Information regarding this matter was included in the meeting packets. This grant, of approximately $46,750, will partially fund the salary of Jared Zinn for eighteen months. Approximately $74,000 is needed for his salary and benefits for this period and it was noted that 20% of his salary is funded by the county.

> ***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to authorize GCCD to apply for the grant and allow Chairman Eisiminger to sign the grant when the final copy is received. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Pike Run Walking Tour
Information regarding this matter was also included in the meeting packets. Recently, Ms. Snider, Ms. Wright and Mr. Zinn toured the site of a streambank restoration project on Pike Run near California, PA. They found the tour to be very informative and thought that this site would be ideal to host a tour for municipal officials in partnership with the Washington County Conservation District. The board was asked to consider allowing GCCD to partner with the Washington County Conservation District to host a tour that would require funding for meals, etc. Since Washington County is larger than Greene County, and potentially could have more tour attendees, each conservation district will pay based on the number of participates.

> ***Following discussion, a motion was made by Mike Belding to approve an expenditure of up to $2,000 to host this tour with the Washington County Conservation District. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Ag Enhancement Program
To benefit the agricultural community, the establishment of a program to fund the application of lime and fertilizer on farmland was brought forward for discussion. Conservation districts in West Virginia currently have a program that provides cost sharing to farmers for these, as well as other practices. At her attendance of the Appalachian Grazing Conference, Ms. Brummage spoke to employees of a West Virginia Conservation District and obtained the information regarding the program that was included in the meeting packets. Additional research found, that statewide the program utilizes approximately $3 million dollars, and that conservation districts contribute approximately $80,000 to $100,000 of funding annually. Mr. Phil Evans, District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly worked in West Virginia and is very familiar with their program and could offer his expertise.

> ***After discussion regarding incorporating this program with our current mini grant program, staff time and working with cooperating agencies, Mr. Jim Cowell and Mr. Mike Belding volunteered to serve on a committee to further discuss this matter. Once the meeting is scheduled, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, it will be advertised to allow other directors and agency representatives to attend.***

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS
Phil Evans – He is working to complete contracts under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Applications for approximately $1.6 million dollars have been received for the program in the three-county area (Fayette, Greene, Washington). Twelve contracts, for approximately $500,000, have been awarded in the three-county area, with four of those in Greene County. He will be attending training in Harrisburg for two weeks in April. Many changes, regarding the ranking, etc., have been made in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The hiring freeze is still in effect.

To offer assistance to farmers affected by the wildfires occurring in the various parts of the country, Mr. Cowell noted that he and others are working to deliver several round haybales to the state of Kansas.

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

The Next Regular Meeting will be April 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mike Belding to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca K Salosky

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 April 25, 2017.
Bradley Eisiminger
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Jim Cowell
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District