



## **Greene County Conservation District**

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### **GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### **MINUTES**

**JUNE 20, 2017**

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eisiminger at 10:05 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; Mike Belding-Director; Bill Wentzel-Director-Environmental Program Associate; Bill Cree, Jr.-Associate Director; and Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director.

#### **Guests and Cooperating Agencies**

Phil Evans-NRCS; Brooke Clutter-NRCS

#### **Staff**

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Resource Specialist; Karlie Wright-Ag Technician; April Brummage-Resource Specialist; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer; Michaela Hildreth-Intern and Makayla Henary-Intern.

Ms. Snider introduced GCCD's two interns for the summer, Michaela Hildreth, who worked at GCCD last summer, and Makayla Henary. Both will be working with the West Nile Virus Program as well as other duties.

Ms. Kozlowski, Ms. Brummage, Mr. Zinn, Ms. Henary and Ms. Hildreth 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 April 25th, 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**

##### **Dirt & Gravel and Low Volume Road Programs Proposed Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Allocations**

A copy of this information was included in the meeting packets. The Greene County allocations, that have increased from last year, are as follows.

Low Volume Roads Program	\$117,802
Dirt and Gravel Roads Program	<u>\$415,889</u>
	\$533,691

The following events were noted. Anyone interested in additional information or attending any of these events, should contact the office.

**Grazing Management Strategies Farm Field Day – July 21-22, 2017 – Doddridge County, WV**

Ms. Wright noted that this information was distributed by employees from West Virginia Conservation Districts who have been assisting GCCD with our proposed Agricultural Enhancement Program

**Adaptive Grazing/Tall Grass Grazing Evening Pasture Walk – July 11, 2017 – Butler, PA**

**The Future of Ginseng and Forest Botanicals – July 12-14, 2017 – Morgantown, WV**

**South West Project Grass Field Day and Pasture Walk – September 21, 2017 Ligonier, PA**

**PA Grassland Evaluation Contest – October 12, 2017 – Pennsylvania Furnace, PA**

Ms. Wright forwarded information regarding this contest to both Greene County Chapters of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapters.

**DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS**

**Michaela Hildreth/Makayla Henary, WNV Coordinators** – This year, a grant was received from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to conduct West Nile Virus (WNV) surveillance monitoring. Under the grant, gravid traps will be set on ten specific sites in Greene County and, at a minimum, will be checked once a week. Also, sites, containing water, are checked for mosquito larve. Although, the mosquito that carries the Zika virus has not been found in the area, traps to attract the type of mosquito are being maintained at two locations. PA DEP WNV Coordinator, Brian Diehl recently applied larvicide to the Greene County Fairgrounds and Wana B. Park near Carmichaels.

Ms. Snider noted that Zack Basinger, GCCD's Resource Specialist is currently preparing to take the pesticide applicator test to become certified applicator.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – A large number of complaints and the receipt of several plans for review have been keeping the erosion and sedimentation (E&S) control staff very busy.

**Bill Wentzel** – He has been working with a logger to reach compliance at a site near S.R. 218. The site, where water runoff was occurring, was seeded and mulched last week. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, he attended a Gypsy Moth Coordinators meeting. While some areas of the state (Central Pennsylvania and the Poconos area) are experiencing damage from the moth, currently, not much damage is occurring in Greene County. The amount of defoliation over the last couple of years, show the decline in the damages caused by insect, which in part, may be due to the fungus that attacks the moth. In 2015, 700,000 acres suffered defoliation and in 2016, it affected 96, 000 acres. This year, approximately 46,000 acres were treated by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The cost to treat an area has increased over the years, so much so, that the state may need to charge the landowner for the treatment. The program may be phased out in the next few years.

**Karlie Wright** – At the last meeting of the PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation, another parcel of the William Cree, Jr. farm was approved for an agricultural easement. Also, she has been working to preserve a parcel of the David Bell farm, which hopefully can be brought before the state at their August meeting. She has been busy completing a nutrient management plans (NMP) for the Gene Saurborn and the William Cree, Jr. farms. The Saurborn plan was reviewed by Tom Ulrich of the Washington County Conservation

District, and after a few minor changes, was found to be acceptable. This plan will be presented to the GCCD board later in this meeting. Soil samples are currently being taken to complete the plan for the Cree farm. Prior to her departure from GCCD, she is leaving to continue her education at Penn State University, she may prepare a NMP for the Greene County Fairgrounds. Regarding the Mini Grant Program, five projects that were approved in January still need to be completed and two projects that were approved last July are being completed. Five additional projects will be presented to the GCCD board at the July meeting.

**April Brummage** – She continues to work on the Agricultural Enhancement Program, assist with general permits and the review E&S plans.

**Jared Zinn** – He invited all board members to attend the Pike Run Walking tour at California University. The tour is being held in conjunction with the Washington County Conservation District and will showcase a streambank rehabilitation project. He continues to work with Waynesburg Borough regarding stormwater management. The Boro is working to reach compliance with their stormwater and reduce discharges into the system. GCCD is assisting the Boro with their outreach in this effort.

**Lisa Snider** – She continues to work with townships to encourage their participation in the Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Roads Programs. Yesterday, Ms. Kozlowski and she met with Morgan Township and visited roads where slips are occurring. Also, she recently spoke to Freeport Township Supervisor, Barb Cunningham, regarding the program, which will hopefully, result in the submission of an application. Officials from Carmichaels Borough, PennDOT and Whiteley Township recently completed Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) training and they are now eligible to apply for funding. Upon completion of a final inspection by Waterways Conservation Officer Eric Davis, final payment can be made to Gilmore Township for projects they recently completed on Six Run and Hagan Creek Roads project.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Zinn gave the following update on this matter. Currently, there is no state funding to complete this project. Bill Kcenich, who works with restoration projects for PA DEP, is working to secure the necessary permits and obtain permission from Mepco, the property owner, to enter their property. Ms. Snider asked Mr. Zinn find out if Mr. Kcenich has developed plans for the project, and if so, other avenues of funding may be explored.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

### **Ag Enhancement Program**

This matter has been discussed at previous meetings. A program summary and the landowner/operator agreement was included in the meeting packets. Ms. Brummage distributed a sheet containing the cost share rates and the maximum amount allowed for each practice. The proposed cost share rates are as follows.

Practice	Rate	Not to Exceed
Exclusion/Pasture Division	\$1.60 acre	\$4,000
Lime	\$22.00/ton	50 acres/\$3,000
Fertilizer	\$40.00 acre	20 acres/\$600
Spring Development		50% up to \$1,200
Pipeline and Trough		50% up to \$1,000
Stream Crossing		\$1,500 ea

One of the practices that will cost shared under this program, will be the application of lime. GCCD staff contacted Greer Industries, Inc., who is certified in both PA and WV, and found that PA does have a lime certification program for all quarries. Greer is certified in both PA and WV and could provide a list of haulers. The charge for lime is \$6.25 per ton. It is the responsibility of the buyer to have the lime delivered and spread. To ensure that a good quality of lime is being used, West Virginia Conservation Districts require that lime with an Effective Neutlizing Value (ENV) of at least 55% be used.

Ms. Snider briefly reviewed the program agreement, which has been sent to Greene County Solicitor, Cheryl Cowen for review. Each practice will have an application form.

Regarding funding for the program, Ms. Snider noted that approximately \$12,264 should be available from the current mini grant program. This surplus, and approximately \$56,000 that is expected to be received from Unconventional Gas Well Funds (UGWF) through the PA Utility Commission (PUC), can be used to fund the program. Also, if needed additional funding from the general fund could also be used. It was also noted that the application period should allow us to reallocate any unused (UGWF PUC) funds.

At a previous committee meeting, the decision was made to separate the mini grant program from this program. The mini grant program would provide funding for streambank stabilization, stormwater, and education projects. The agricultural enhancement program would provide cost sharing for agricultural related projects. Most applicants for the mini grant program have been informed of the new program.

A brochure will be developed and the program will be promoted at the Jacktown and Greene County Fairs, our newsletter, through the Greene Saver, newspaper and radio ads, on the county website and possibly through mailings. It was noted that the program will be advertised as a local program funded through the UGWF PUC.

***Following discussion, and pending approval of Greene County Solicitor Cowen, a motion was made by Mike Belding to move forward with the program through advertisement. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **David Bell – Conservation Plan**

Mr. David Bell has applied for an agricultural easement, for a parcel of approximately 70 acres, under the PA Farmland Preservation Program. In accordance with the program, a conservation plan was presented for review and approval.

***A motion was made by Jim Cowell to accept the David Bell conservation plan. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **Envirothon Scholarship**

Ms. Snider noted that a sufficient amount of donations were received to cover all the costs of the Greene County Envirothon and most of the costs incurred by Carmichaels High School to participate in the state competition. After covering those costs, a surplus of funds remained from the 2016 and 2017 donations, and \$2,500 was transferred to the Continuing Education Scholarship Savings Account.

#### **Conservation Leadership School (CLS) Scholarship**

Via a phone poll, the board agreed to sponsor two students to attend this year's Conservation Leadership School at State College, PA. Peyton Chambers, of Waynesburg Central High School and Kaleb Wilson of Carmichaels High School were chosen to attend.

*A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve these two students to attend this year's CLS. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**Gene Saurborn – Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)**

This item was added to the meeting agenda after it was mailed. Ms. Wright presented this plan to the board for review and approval. Mr. Saurborn has applied for funding under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to install a manure storage and winter feeding facilities and a NMP is required.

*Following discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the Saurborn Nutrient Management Plan. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS**

**Phil Evan** – Mr. Evans introduced Brooke Clutter, from Tyler County West Virginia, who is working at NRCS under the Pathways Program. Ms. Clutter noted that she will be a senior at West Virginia University, majoring in agri-business management/rural development. Funding continues to be received for additional projects under EQIP. He briefly reviewed the cooperative working agreement between NRCS, who provides conservation technical assistance to conservation districts. The mission statement of NRCS and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has been changed to farm production and conservation by the Secretary of Agriculture. He commended Ms. Wright for her work with GCCD.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*A motion was made by Jim Cowell to enter in to executive session to discuss personnel issues at 11:35 a.m. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**RECONVENMENT**

*Following Executive Session, a motion was made by Mike Belding to reconvene the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**The Next Regular Meeting will be July 18th, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mike Belding to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)*

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca K Salosky*

Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer

<b><u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u></b>
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on <u>July 18</u> , 2017.
<i>Bradley Eisinger</i>
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
<i>James A. Council</i>
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District