Greene County Conservation District
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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 18, 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; Archie Trader-Vice Chairman; Jim Cowell-Secretary; Greg Hopkins-Director; Mike Belding-Director; Bill Wentzel-Environmental Program Associate/Director; Glodenna Halstead-Associate Director and Dave Shipman-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Kate Daugherty-Greene County Controllers Office; Phil Evans-NRCS; Michal Roup-FSA

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Environmental Program Specialist; Zack Basinger-Environmental Program Specialist; Karlie Wright-Ag Technician; April Brummage-Environmental Program Specialist; and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

Mr. Basinger attended a portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mike Belding to approve the minutes of the June 20th, 2017 meeting. Greg Hopkins 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

GCCD staff will be promoting our new program, Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost Share Enhancement (GRACE), the CATFISH program, the instream monitoring program, and the West Nile Virus (WNV) program at the Jacktown and Greene County Fairs.

DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Lindsay Kozlowski – There has been an increase in the number of review plans and complaints we have received in comparison to this time last year. To date, approximately 61 plans have been received for review, 15 complaints have also been received, with 6 of those occurring in the last two weeks. With all the rain Greene County has been receiving, many of the complaints are regarding storm water issues. The

approximate fees received for the last month include $11,100 for disturbed acreage, $1,200 for accelerated fees, and $14,200 for Chapter 105 (stream crossing) fees.

Zack Basinger – Recently, he was informed that he had passed the pesticide applicators test, to become a certified applicator. Upon receipt of all the paperwork, he will be certified to apply pesticides, if needed, for the West Nile Virus (WNV) Program. This week, he will be trapping and collecting mosquito samples for the interns, while one is on vacation and the other is working at the Jacktown Fair.

Bill Wentzel – Progress is being made on two logging sites he has been working with to reach compliance.

Karlie Wright – Several farm visits were made this month, some of which were made to landowners who applied for funding for farming practices under GCCD's Mini Grant Program. During these visits, they were informed that the GRACE program will now be the funding source for farm related practices and they will be completing applications for that program.

April Brummage – She continues to work on the GRACE Program, revising the brochure, applications, etc.

Lisa Snider – Upon inquiry by Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Snider noted that the Pike Run Walking Tour, held on June 22, 2017 in conjunction with Washington County Conservation District, went well, with three Greene County municipalities participating. A total of six municipalities had registered to attend.

OLD BUSINESS
Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road
No additional information has been received regarding the project.

NEW BUSINESS
Request for Assistance – There were no requests for assistance to bring before the board. The new GRACE program is expected to bring many new request for assistance applications. To clarify this process, the board was asked to consider how farm visits should be made, i.e., if we know that a landowner is a cooperator and is completing a request for assistance as an update, is it necessary to make a visit to these farms? Following a brief discussion, it was decided that it is not necessary to visit every farm in which a new request for assistance is received. It was noted that most of these farms will be visited as part of the GRACE program.

Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost Share Enhancement (GRACE) Program
This matter has been discussed as the Agricultural Enhancement Program at several previous GCCD regular and committee meetings. A program summary, the landowner/operator agreement, applications for each practice and the cost share rates have been established.

Prior to final approval, the following items were brought before the board.

A question regarding the signatures on the application recently arose. In one case, the farm owner is different than the farm operator. It was noted that this may also occur on leased farmland. After a brief discussion, the board decided that both the owner and operator should sign the application. The application will be revised to provide the signature of both.

Under the program, lime and fertilizer application is to be applied on pastureland. A question arose regarding the ranking of pastureland in which the first cutting of hay is taken. Following a brief discussion, it was decided that these fields will be ranked as pastureland. It was noted that we may try to

enlist the assistance of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) to do a before and after comparison on fields that lime and fertilizer have been applied.

At the last GCCD meeting held on June 20th, 2017, the board voted to proceed with the advertisement of the program, pending the review of Greene County Solicitor, Cheryl Cowen. Since that time, Ms. Cowen reviewed the program documents and offered her comment via e-mail; which was included in the meeting packets.

She suggested that we add in section 2, paragraph 6, of the Landowner/Operator Agreement the following. At the decision of the GCCD, any monies advanced may be filed as a lien against the land in the event of failure of the landowner to honor this agreement. Although, GCCD rarely advances money for these projects, the board agreed to add this language to the agreement.

> ***Following discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to accept the Landowner/Operator Agreement with the addition of the language suggested by Ms. Cowen. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Mini Grant Applications

At the GCCD meeting held on June 20th, 2017, the separation of the mini grant program, and the GRACE program was discussed, and it was concluded that, the mini grant program would fund streambank stabilization, storm water and education projects.

Annually, GCCD allocates a total of $50,000 for the mini grant program; funding ten $5,000 grants on a bi-annual basis, in January and July. Following discussion, the board agreed to continue to allocate $50,000 to the program and award the grants in January and July.

Since two projects were withdrawn, six mini grant applications were approved at the January 16th, 2017 GCCD meeting. Most of these projects have been or will be completed.

Five applications were received for the July round of funding; however, four of those applications will now be considered under the GRACE Program. The remaining application, from Roger Wentz, for the completion of a streambank stabilization project, located in Franklin Township on Curry Road, was presented for consideration under the mini grant program. Ms. Snider noted that this grant can be paid with Chapter 105 funds.

> ***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the Roger Wentz application for funding under the mini grant program. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Unconventional Gas Well Funding/PA Utility Commission (PUC) Allocation

GCCD received a check for $57,901.51 for reporting year 2016. At previous GCCD regular and committee meetings, the board decided to allocate these funds for the first portion of the GRACE Program.

> ***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mike Belding to deposit this $57,901.51 check in to GCCD's Certificate of Deposit (CD) at Community Bank and use that amount to fund the first portion of the GRACE program. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Most of GCCD's previous allocations were designated to be set aside in a CD for a building fund. To clarify the use of these allocations, Ms. Snider recently spoke to Karen Books, the PA DEP official in charge of the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP), and she explained that UGWF/PUC funds from

prior years can be re-allocated by the District board at any time. All that is required to change the designation is for the board to take official action at a GCCD meeting, indicate which funding year the allocation was received, the amount of funding to be to re-allocated, and the purpose of the reallocation. It is not necessary to report changes to PA DEP.

Audit for year Ending December 31, 2016
A copy of the audit, completed by Maher Duessel, was included in the meeting packets. Ms. Daugherty, who was present to answer questions, noted that it was a clean audit. She also noted that the e-mail addresses of all the Greene County Controller's office staff are included on the county's website, should anyone have questions following today's meeting.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS
Michal Roup-FSA – County Committee Elections are being held this year. County committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and provide grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs. In Greene County, the Local Administrative Area (LAA) open is LAA 4; which includes Cumberland, Dunkard, Franklin, Greene, Jefferson, Monongahela, Morgan, Perry, Washington and Whiteley Townships. Agricultural producers who participate in FSA programs may be nominated by either nominating themselves or others as a candidate. Anyone interested, can obtain nomination forms from her. The deadline for nominations is August 1, 2017. Their meetings are usually held every other month, on the third Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in Washington, PA, with the exception January and December (meetings are always held) and August (no meeting is held). Currently, Mr. Bill Cree, Jr. serves on the committee, however; he has reached the limit of the number of terms he can serve (a maximum of three consecutive three-year terms).

In her office, she has available information regarding the GRACE program. Today, she brought along information regarding FSA programs for distribution by the GCCD at the Greene County Fair.

Phil Evans – Additional funding, should be available for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). There will be a pasture walk, with J.B. Harrold of NRCS and Merl Stutzman, scheduled to speak. A local work group meeting will be held on August 1st, 2017 in Washington, PA.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mike Belding to enter in to executive session to discuss personnel issues at 10:50 a.m. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

RECONVENMENT

Following Executive Session, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to reconvene the meeting at 11:20 a.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to send a letter to the Greene County Human Resources asking that Ms. Lisa Snider's salary be increased to the next level. (Motion Passed With One Abstention - Commissioner Trader)

Mr. Mike Belding and Mr. Bill Wentzel agreed to assist with the interviews for the new position. Ms. Snider will send copies of the candidates resumes to them for their review.

The Next Regular Meeting will be August 15th, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mike Belding to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Bill Wentzel 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 Aug 15, 2017.
Bradley Cisminger
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
James Connell Jr
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District