Greene County Conservation District
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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
August 15, 2017

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Trader 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

Archie Trader-Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Greg Hopkins-Director; Mike Belding-Director; and Dave Shipman-Associate Director.

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

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; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

Ms. Kozlowski, Ms. Wright, Ms. Brummage, Mr. Basinger and Mr. Zinn 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 July 18th, 2017 meeting. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

District Nomination Process Notifications

The nominating process for district directors has begun. The terms of Tom Headlee and Greg Hopkins will expire on December 31, 2017. Both gentlemen would like to continue to serve as GCCD directors.

HB 542 Correspondences

Information regarding this matter was included in the meeting packets. This proposed bill includes a severance tax, in addition to the current impact fee, on natural gas drilling and changes to the oil and gas permitting process. It also includes a provision which could allow the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) to hire outside entities to complete permit reviews, however, this does not include permit approvals. If passed, it is uncertain how it will affect conservation districts, but it was noted that it could have a huge impact. Also included in the bill, is a provision regarding the review time and approval

by default after a 30-60-day review period and an increase in consumers natural gas bills. Commissioner Trader suggested that we write to PA Senator Camera Bartolotta and PA Representative Pam Snyder regarding the proposed bill.

DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS

Lindsay Kozlowski – Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control plans have been received for two waterline extensions. One along Route 18 to Holbrook and the other to the Nineveh area. Jason Neighbors is in the permitting process to develop a subdivision on approximately 10 acres in Monongahela Township, along Route 88. He plans to construct small houses to possibly rent.

Zack Basinger – On behalf of Mr. Basinger, Ms. Snider noted that since the interns are finished working for GCCD, he will now be conducting the West Nile Virus (WNV) monitoring that includes setting traps, sending samples, and treating areas. He will be completing these tasks in addition to his regular duties, and from time-to-time, it may be more efficient to begin his day setting traps, etc. from his home. Consequently, Greene County Chief Clerk, Jeff Marshall has granted approval to Mr. Basinger to take a county vehicle home for this purpose.

Karlie Wright – She has decided to work part-time with GCCD to continue her education at Penn State University. This will be her last week as a full-time employee.

April Brummage – She continues to work on the Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost Share Enhancement GRACE Program, scheduling field visits, etc.

Jared Zinn – Once the video of the Pike Run Walking Tour is completed, he will forward a copy to Mr. Hopkins.

OLD BUSINESS

Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road

No additional information has been received regarding the project.

Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost Share Enhancement (GRACE) Program

Ms. Wright distributed a spreadsheet that includes all of the applicants, to date, a total of ten, and the practices they would like to complete. Ms. Brummage noted that while the fair was a good place to promote the program, she believes that the radio was the most beneficial.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance – Joshua Garner – Aleppo Township – 98 acres

> ***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to accept this request for assistance. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

CDFAP & UGWF Allocation for FY 2017-2018

Information regarding this matter was included in the meeting packets. GCCD's total UGWF allocation for fiscal year 2017-18 is $210,819. A copy of a spreadsheet was distributed showing the projected salary and benefits for GCCD staff, including a new technician, and the amount of cost share that is expected to be received through CDFAP and UGWF for staff salaries. It is estimated that approximately $152,006.06 will be needed for staff salaries, and approximately $40,000 for administration. This should leave a surplus of approximately $20,000, and the board was asked to consider how they wish to use these extra funds. Ms. Snider noted that they could be used for a special project, such as funding toward this year's GRACE program.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Tom Headlee to allow Ms. Snider to use her judgement and use these extra funds for a special project, such as the GRACE program. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

In addition to this $20,000, at a previous GCCD meeting, the board agreed to earmark approximately $56,000 of funding received from UGWF through the Public Utility Commission (PUC) for the GRACE Program.

Agricultural Conservation Technician Agreement (ACT)
This agreement will provide approximately $16,219 toward the salaries of Ms. Wright and Ms. Brummage. The board tentatively approved the agreement through a text message, but official action is needed.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mike Belding to approve this agreement. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

West Nile Virus (WNV) Grant Funding Request
GCCD will be receiving a grant application for funding for next year's program. The grant application, with a due date of September 30th, 2017, will most likely be brought before the GCCD board at the September meeting. The grant will help fund the salaries of two interns as well as offset the salary of Mr. Basinger, who will also be working on the program. This year, funding through a PA DEP grant, the first in several years, was received to conduct monitoring.

It was noted that mosquitos, testing positive for the virus, have been found in the following areas; Rices Landing, Greensboro, and Carmichaels. These areas, as well as frequently visited areas, have been treated.

Unconventional Gas Well Funds (UGWF) Resolution
Information regarding this matter was included in the meeting packets. The Armstrong Conservation District is seeking support of a resolution they drafted regarding the distribution of UGWF by the State Conservation Commission (SCC). Currently the SCC takes funding "off the top" to complete special projects (the Ombudsman Program, Leadership Development, maintaining software etc.) which decreases the amount available to conservation districts in the gas producing counties.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mike Belding to support this resolution. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS
Michal Roup-FSA – At the last GCCD meeting held on July 18th, she discussed the need for individuals to serve on the county committee for Greene County. Since that time, two nominations were received for this year's election, to be held in December. She thanked GCCD for distributing FSA information at the Greene County Fair. Their office has seen an increased number of phone calls in regard to GCCD's GRACE program (landowners requesting their farm number, etc.). She noted that it would be beneficial for their office to be able to utilize Greene County's GIS system and parcel maps to overlay on farm fields, etc. Commissioner Trader asked that she submit a letter to him requesting the use of this system. The deadline is approaching for the end of acreage reporting. Most likely, she will be losing her temporary employee by the end of September, which will leave one full-time employee at the Washington office, in addition to herself. This may curtail her attendance of future GCCD meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
There was no need for an executive session.

The Next Regular Meeting will be September 19th, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Greg Hopkins 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 Sept. 19, 2017.
Bradley Eisiminger
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
James Caudill
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District