



## **Greene County Conservation District**

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### **GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### **MINUTES**

**February 20th, 2018**

#### **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; Jim Cowell-Vice Chairman; Archie Trader-Commissioner Representative; Bill Wentzel-Director; Jim Jones-Director; Dominick Barbetta-Associate Director; Greg Hopkins-Associate Director; Kevin Paul-Associate Director; Dave Shipman-Associate Director; and Gay Thistle-Associate Director.

#### **Staff**

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Assistant Manager/Environmental Program Specialist; April Brummage-Environmental Program Specialist; Zack Basinger-Environmental Program Specialist; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and Becky Salosky-Fiscal Officer.

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

Cindy Bailey-Greene Speak Newspaper; Ray Rutan-Izaak Walton League, Harry Enstrom Chapter; Chuck Kubasik-PA DEP; Phil Evans-NRCS; Mike Hamilton-NRCS; Michal Roup-FSA; and Russ Gibbs-PA DCNR.

#### **OATH OF OFFICE**

Commissioner Trader administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Director, Jim Jones (Farmer Director). Mr. Jones was appointed to a four-year term (January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2021).

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Cowell offered comments regarding the recent appointments to the GCCD board.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the minutes of the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)*

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to accept the treasurer's report. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)*

#### **CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

##### **State Ethics Forms**

The board was reminded to complete and return the State Ethics Forms by April 30, 2018. The staff will provide Mr. Jones with a copy of the form.

##### **Western PA Regional Soil Health Workshop**

The meeting will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Prospect, PA.

### **Ralph K. Bell Bird Club**

GCCD received a thank you letter from the club for our recent donation to their scholarship program.

### **Current PA State Sources of Funding Provide to Co. CD**

An overview of the current state sources of funding available to conservation districts was included in the meeting packets.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

**Lindsay Kozlowski** -Erosion and Sedimentation Control (E&S) plans were received for the second proposed gas power plant in Greene County. Construction of the Waynesburg Dollar General is expected to begin in the next week or two. Next week, Mr. Basinger and she will be attending Chapter 102 and 105 training with possible program certification. Work continues on this year's Envirothon.

**Zack Basinger** – Plan review, site inspections, and complaint investigation has kept the staff busy.

**April Brummage** – She continues to work with the Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost Share (GRACE) program. Recently, Dave Shipman, Jerry Day and herself attended the Soil Health Conference in Latrobe, PA. She will be attending Chapter 102 and 105 training at the end of March.

**Jared Zinn** – Work continues on the Growing Greener grant. Recently he participated in a webinar regarding working with landowners. Mr. Zinn was commended by the board for the preparation of the watershed assessment report for the South Fork of Ten Mile.

**Lisa Snider** – PA DEP's Southwest Regional Office recently hired an additional person to handle compliance issues, mainly related to agriculture. PA DEP has drafted a new general permit, an ESCGP-3, for pipeline projects. It is believed that the new permit will be for non-transmission lines, but we await further instruction from DEP. Ms. Snider answered questions from the board regarding the nutrient management plan for the Greene County Fairgrounds and the Low Volume Road Project at Meadowlark Park in Waynesburg Borough.

### **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.

#### **Associate Board Member Appointment**

*A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the appointment of Greg Hopkins to serve as an Associate Director. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)*

#### **Senate Resolution 226 - Directs the Legislative Budget & Finance Committee to Conduct a Performance Evaluation of DEP's Chapter 102 & 105 Permitting Programs**

Information regarding this matter was included in the meeting packets. If the legislation is passed, an evaluation of the Chapter 102 & 105 program could be conducted. Since Conservation Districts (CDs) are delegated through PA DEP to conduct these programs, any legislation enacted could affect us.

### **2018 Envirothon Event and Scholarship**

To date, approximately \$3,400 has been committed to GCCD for this year's event. This includes a donation of \$2,000 from EQT which will be received through the PA Envirothon. This should be a sufficient amount to cover the expenses for the event (t-shirts, food, trophies) with perhaps a little to go toward scholarships. It was noted that additional money would be needed for scholarships that are provided to the winning team.

***Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve the expenditure of up to \$2,500 from the general fund for the Envirothon scholarships. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **Update Dirt, Gravel, Low Volume Road Programs**

Ms. Snider noted that applications are currently be accepted for the program and she hopes to bring those applications received before the board at the March meeting. Potential projects could include a project in Alleppo Township, two projects in Freeport Township, and one in Springhill Township.

Ms. Snider noted that any project that exceeds \$25,000 must be advertised and bid. Mr. Barbetta noted that Morgan Township is accepting bids, to be opened on March 5<sup>th</sup>, for the repair of a land slide on Pollocks Mill Road utilizing Low Volume Road funds. A soil nail launcher will most likely be used on this project to stabilize the road bank. Additional information, for anyone wishing to observe it's use, will be distributed in the future.

### **2018 Grace Program – Forestry Additions**

Information regarding this matter was included in the meeting packets. On January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018, a meeting was held with Russ Gibbs, PA DCNR Service Forester, Bill Wentzel, GCCD Director, Gay Thistle, GCCD Associate Director, Lisa Snider, GCCD District Manager, and Lindsay Kozlowski, GCCD Assistant Manager/Environmental Program Specialist to discuss possibly adding forestry conservation and stewardship practices to the GRACE program. The following practices were presented for possible addition to the program.

- Invasive Species Management
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Tree Establishment
- Riparian Forest Buffers

The following criteria must be met to apply.

- Forest Management Stewardship Plan
- American Tree Farm Plan Or
- A CAP 106 Plan

Mr. Gibbs will assist GCCD with these practices by visiting the farms and certifying practice completion. A memorandum of understanding will be drafted between GCCD and PA DCNR to outline the responsibilities of both parties. Ms. Snider noted that the addition of the forestry practices should not increase funding for the program; which currently is approximately \$80,000 per year.

***Following discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to add the forestry practices listed above to the GRACE Program. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Ms. Snider noted that she plans to begin advertising the GRACE Program; the application period, the addition of the forestry practices, etc.

### **2018 Committee Appointments**

This information was included in the meeting packets. Mr. Jim Jones was added to the E&S Control and Compliance and the Water Resources Committee. Once Mr. Barbetta has the opportunity to review the list, he will report back.

### **2018 Voting Delegate updates**

This information was also included in the meeting packets. The only change made was regarding the Dirt and Gravel Program. Mr. Bill Wentzel is now a District voting member and Mr. J. Robert Rice will serve as the alternate.

### **2017 Audit-Axelrod**

This year, Greene County will be using the Axelrod firm to conduct the audit of the 2017 financial records. GCCD's audit is done in conjunction with the county audit. To date, we have not received any paperwork.

### **South Fork of Ten Mile Watershed Assessment**

Mr. Zinn recently completed a draft report of the assessment which was e-mailed to all GCCD directors. The first part of the report includes a description of the watershed, next is a discussion regarding the water chemistry, and third is the recommendations to correct the problems. He highlighted some of the findings of the report, including that siltation and soil erosion is a large part of the problems in the watershed.

All, but about \$4,700, of the total grant of \$13,000, has been used. The grantor has recommended the remaining funds be used to promote resolving these issues. Possible ways to resolve these issues could include stabilizing streambanks, re-establishing riparian areas with forests, and working with landowners to put the best practices on the ground.

The receipt of a Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) designation by PA DEP, could help obtain additional grants to resolve some of these issues.

The use of drones for site inspections, etc. was briefly discussed. Mr. Jones mentioned the Phantom Pro brand.

## **REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS**

**Michal Roup-FSA** – After a problem with the printing of the ballots, the County Committee elections, were held. William Cree, III was elected to serve on the Greene County Committee. Their re-organization meeting will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. At a recent training regarding the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) it was found that Pennsylvania was incorrectly administering the program and officials are working to correct these problems and move forward with the contracts. The problem was mainly with the mid-contract maintenance, as only certain maintenance activities are allowed. In Pennsylvania, with all the warm and cool season grass practices, lime and fertilizer application was incorrectly included in the contract. Since lime and fertilizer is not an approved practice under the program, she is thankful for Greene County's GRACE program.

**Phil Evans-NRCS** – NRCS is currently processing contracts under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); visiting farms and ranking the applications. He thought that Greene County's GRACE program might increase the number of EQIP applications, but that was not the case. The application period for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will begin in March. Mr. Evans introduced Mike Hamilton who recently was hired to fill the soil conservationist position in Fayette County. Mr. Hamilton noted that he has been with NRCS for about eight years; previously at Westmoreland County. He looks forward to working in Fayette and Greene Counties.

**Chuck Kubasik-PA DEP** – A new staff member was recently hired in PA DEP's Waterways and Wetlands section. Sean Bell, who previously retired from PA DEP, was hired to work mainly with agricultural

programs. Ed Farrell, who worked in the West Nile Virus and Black Fly programs, recently retired. A PACD regional meeting, with a registration deadline of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Westmoreland County Conservation District. Currently, there are two staff vacancies in the 10-county area that he covers. Allegheny County Conservation will be hiring a District Manager and Armstrong County Conservation District has a vacancy of a watershed specialist position. He commended GCCD for the number of associate directors on the board and he is pleased that Mr. Hopkins agreed to continue with the board as an associate director. He thanked him for his service.

**Russ Gibbs-PA DCNR** – Preparation has begun for the upcoming fire season. Fortunately, last year was an inactive season, the 2016 season was very active season, emphasizing the importance of preparation. He gave a word of caution regarding ticks and using protective products prior to outdoor activities. Greene County's Fire Inspector will be retiring at the end of 2018.

**Ray Rutan-Izaak Walton League (IWL), Harry Enstrom Chapter** – He enjoyed attending today's meeting and thanked GCCD for the opportunity. He hopes that the IWL and GCCD can continue to work together.

#### **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

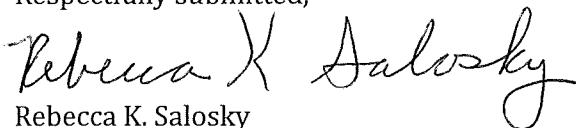
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**--There was no need for an Executive Session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Cowell inquired about the retirement, in May, of Ms. Salosky from the fiscal officer's position. As a union position, it was put out for bid and advertised internally prior to external advertisement. Ms. Snider noted that she received applications and/or resumes from Greene County's Human Resources Department after the meeting packet was mailed. Once she has the opportunity to review the documents, and come up with a shortlist, she will be contacting members of the personnel and district operations committee to schedule at time to review the applications. Mr. Cowell suggested that Ms. Salosky be a part of the interview process.

***With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Trader to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Respectfully submitted,



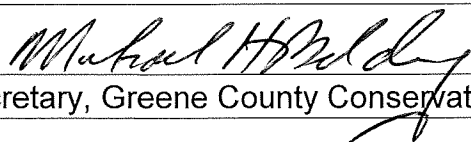
Rebecca K. Salosky  
Fiscal Officer

#### **MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on March 20th, 2018.



Chairman, Greene County Conservation District



Secretary, Greene County Conservation District