



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

July 17, 2018

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Eisiminger called the meeting to order at 10:09 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; Mike Belding-Secretary; Dominick Barbetta-Associate Director; Bill Cree Jr- Associate Director; Bill Wentzel-Public Director; Greg Hopkins-Associate Director; and Dave Shipman-Associate Director.

Staff

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Assistant Manager/Environmental Program Specialist; Zack Basinger-Environmental Program Specialist; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; Karlie Wright-Agricultural Technician; Michaela Hildreth-Conservation Technician; Ben Schweiger- Conservation Technician and Lauren Weaver-Fiscal Officer

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Mike Hamilton-NRCS; Phil Evans NRCS; Steve Barrett-Greene County Communications Director; Spencer Johnson-Resident

Public Comments- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to approve the minutes of the June 19th, 2018 meeting. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Southwest Region Farm Bureau Tour

The farm tour is July 26th, 2018 it starts at the Ulrich Farm in Washington County and will end at the Meadows Racetrack in Washington.

Equine Environmental Short Course Penn State Extension

The Equine Environmental Short Course is a 2-day Educational short course at Round Hill Park & Exhibit Farm in Elizabeth, PA.

Pennsylvania Envirothon

The GCCD received a letter from the PA Envirothon thanking them for the donation of \$500.00. Thursday is the sendoff at Carmichaels High School at 3:00pm for the Carmichaels Envirothon team going to Nationals. Mike Belding is going to speak on behalf of the GCCD at the sendoff for the team. They have been practicing a lot and preparing for this competition from 7am-4pm everyday a student told Ms. Wright. Steve Barrett added that it is on the County Website for Greene County residents to be able to view.

The GCCD also received a thank you letter from Bob Rice's daughter for everything.

STAFF REPORTS

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski said that we have received 80 plans to date which the Conservation District has received about \$87,000.00. We have received 11 plans since the last meeting in June. Ms. Kozlowski stated that her and other employees will be attending the Dirt and Gravel road training at Penn State next week.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger has been working on permitting and quarterly reports. He has also been trying to get the new employees out onsite inspections and work with them on permitting. Mr. Basinger said that he sprayed in two places for the WNV. Ms. Chambers our intern has been working with DEP, in one spot she counted 805 Mosquitos that is located in the borough. In the state of Pennsylvania, we have had 373 positives for WNV and were over 100 positives from the biggest year in 2012 when we had to fog some areas.

Jared Zinn - Mr. Zinn had education outreaches that he attended in the past month at different schools, camps and other events. He also has set up for 4 rain barrel workshops so far he has 16 people attending. PACD is opening another grant up for a second round to apply. The CREP mini grant we are using the funding for a banner to use at the fairs, and other forms of advertisement.

Karlie Wright – Ms. Wright stated the Ben and Michaela have taken over the farm visits so she could stay in the office. The GRACE program has over \$65,000.00 applied for that does not include the lime, there is at least another \$20,000.00 in lime. On July 24th Ms. Wright, Ms. Snider, Ms. Hildreth and Mr. Schweiger are going to attend Farm Land Preservation administration meeting.

Ben Schweiger- Mr. Schweiger is trying to get as much experience in everything that he can from farm visits, plans, trainings, and inspections so that he is able to help out wherever when he is needed.

Michaela Hildreth- Ms. Hildreth has sent out packets for the GRACE program to all the townships. She also sent out postcards to land owners to advertise GRACE and Farm Land Preservation. Ms. Hildreth will be attending trainings next week for FLP and Dirt and Gravel Road.

Lisa Snider – Environmental justice areas used to be the western side of the county, they readjusted the area and its focused around Waynesburg and we have lost a good portion. Ms. Snider also mentioned that she received an email about doing electronic filing for our Chapter 105 permits, around September will be starting to do the filing electronically. Ms. Snider mentioned a good thing about the electronic filling is that they cannot file a permit without it being complete, we spend a majority of time letting the company who submitted it know what they are missing. Ms. Snider received an email on the Small Business Advantage Grant is for \$9,500.00 you have to have 50% match from NRCS, USDA, FSA, DCNR, or Non-Profit Organization Grants to receive the grant.

OLD BUSINESS

Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road

None

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance- None

Community Bank CD

Ms. Snider and Ms. Weaver met with Jeff Bixler from Community Bank concerning the CD maturity date of July 17th, 2018 and to discuss options. Mr. Bixler said that his rates were 1.75% for 13 months or 2.25% for 25 months and that in the next 4 years interest rates are projected to increase a minimum of 7 times. First Federal's interest rates were .75% for 12 months and 1.00% for 24 months.

A motion was made by Archie Trader to do a 13-month CD at 1.75% at Community Bank. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

UGWF PUC Check

The Conservation District received a check for \$58,712.12 from the Public Utility Commission UGWF PUC grant. The GCCD uses these funds for the GRACE program.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to Deposit the check for \$58,712.12 into the CD at Community Bank. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

Farm Land Preservation Assistance

Ms. Wright is currently applying for another job as a teacher at West Greene High School. Ms. Wright volunteered if she would get another job that she would still be willing to work when needed in the Farm Land Preservation program. She would not be missing any meetings for FLP. If this transition would take place she would be working with other employees to get them involved through the transition of her leaving. Mr. Trader explained that if the board chooses they could send the commissioners a recommendation on Ms. Wright assisting when needed for the FLP if she would get the job.

LOGO

Ms. Snider and Ms. Wright sent requests for proposals to three different companies. Two out of the three sent back information and met with them. CDC company is the one that they felt that he would be more willing to help and take the time to work with what we are needing as a Conservation District. The logo would be on business cards, letterhead, clothing, advertisement and other things that would need our symbol.

A motion was made by Archie Trader to use CDC Company for the new logo. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

Mini Grant

Mr. Stoneking

Mr. Stoneking applied for a storm water mini grant. Mr. Stoneking is getting a lot of water running across his property and under his home but the water does not come out of under his home. Mr. Stoneking is applying to install a French drain to divert the water into the roadside ditch. Mr. Stoneking got an estimate from Kuis Excavating for \$1,800.00 to dig 180 feet 18-inch-deep ditch and put schedule 35 perforated pipe and then cover it with Schedule 57 stone. Mr. Stoneking has lived in the house for 2.5 years and this has been an ongoing issue. Mr. Stoneking has contacted multiple people for help with this issue but has had no luck.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to offer a Mini Grant of \$1,800.00 for Mr. Stoneking. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

Mr. Zinn mentioned that when he visited the property he evaluated it to make sure with this project that it wasn't going to become the next land owner's problem. Mr. Stoneking is located in Perry Township, the township reached out to us about this problem. Ms. Wright is concerned with the type of drain that they are putting in, that they are collecting surface water and burying the pipe with stone, this is something that would typically work for spring water. Mr. Zinn recommended a grass swale to Mr. Stoneking but Mr. Stoneking was just wanting to do the French drain, Mr. Zinn also took him the state storm water designs that deal with grass swales to inform him these would be a better system.

A motion was made by Archie Trader to rescind the previous motion to do a Mini Grant for Mr. Stoneking. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

Ms. Wright said if he is going to the drain he would need to put in geo-textile and follow the state storm water management and maintain the grass swale that he would be installing. Ms. Snider said that he could do both the French drain and also the swale to help with the water. The pipe that Mr. Stoneking is installing also would need to be schedule 40.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to offer a Mini Grant for Mr. Stoneking only if he agrees to follow the State Storm Water Management guidelines that includes a swale and drain. The district will reimburse his costs up to \$5,000.00 for the project. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

Joan Spitznogle

Ms. Spitznogle has received a previous mini grant to remove gravel bars and reshape the banks of a small stream that runs through her property, she is requesting for another mini grant to actually dredge her stream. Due to the recent storms we have been having she is still having issues with the same stream but in another location. It is jumping the stream and going toward her shed out behind her home. The contractor's estimate was for digging and cleaning the stream from road way to Dunkard Creek and haul material away which is similar to what they did before. The narrow part of the creek from the culvert pipe is over 50ft from where the pipe comes under the road which is the reason the state could not help her with this issue. The pipe is wide enough to hold the water but once it gets to the narrow part it's not wide enough but you cannot shape the bank due to buildings close by and her drive way on the other side. Ms. Spitznogle received an estimate for \$1,200.00 from Kuis Excavating to clean out the ditch. Ms. Snider added that due to permit conditions you can only dig 6-inches above the low water mark of a standard stream that is why they did not dig the ditch out last time due to permits. The conservation cannot tell Ms. Spitznogle that she can take a piece of equipment and dig out the stream because we would not be following the permitting condition.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to decline the Mini Grant for Ms. Spitznogle. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

Rainfall Simulator

Mr. Zinn requested to use the second mini grant from PACD for \$2,000.00 to purchase a rain fall simulator to take to fairs, storm water workshops, day camps and other events. Also Mr. Zinn is wanting to get a back drop for the rain fall simulator to explain storm water and erosion. The \$2,000.00 would cover the cost for the rainfall simulator, the back drop, the carrying case, the table, and a table cloth with our logo on it.

A motion was made by Jim Cowell to purchase the rainfall simulator and supplies. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS

Phil Evans NRCS- Mr. Evans commented on the FLP that it was an excellent idea to not let the program get behind to keep Ms. Wright to help the others learn. Mr. Evans mentioned that they did a state office appraisal at Mr. Cowells farm. Mr. Evans said that they are re doing the USDA and they are going to combine different agencies. Mr. Saurborne got one design for his building, after not matching the gas line that they might give him another design. Ms. Snider said that they could hold a meeting on August 9th at 10 a.m. for their Local Work Group meeting. Mr. Evans mentioned about finding a plant ID training and was wondering if anyone from the GCCD would be interested in attending to get their certificate.

Ag Lab

Mr. Cowell said that the Farm Bureau said Thank You for the sponsorship to get the Ag Lab to the Greene County Fair for \$1,250.00. The Farm Bureau is going to get a sign made for in front of the Ag Lab for our sponsorship. Mr. Cowell is looking for volunteers to run the Ag Lab during the fair.

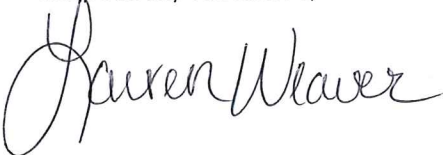
NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on August 21st, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mike Belding to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. Jim Cowell seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,

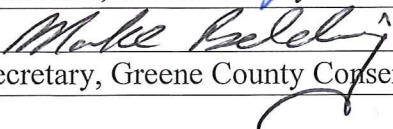


Lauren Weaver
Fiscal Officer

MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on August 21st, 2018.


Chairman, Greene County Conservation District


Secretary, Greene County Conservation District