



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

September 25, 2018

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Vice Chairman Mr. Cowell 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

Jim Cowell-Vice Chairman; Archie Trader-Commissioner Representative; Mike Belding-Secretary; Bill Wentzel-Public Director; Greg Hopkins-Associate Director; Dominic Barbetta-Associate Director; and Glodenna Halstead- Associate Director.

Staff

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

Guests and Cooperating Agencies

Mike Hamilton-NRCS; Phil Evans NRCS; Bill Cree; Russ Gibbs-DCNR Bureau of Forestry; Eric Davis-PA Fish & Boat Commission; Brian Lowell, Sam Carroll- Harshman; Ken Kiger, Greg Helmick, Ike Lewis- Greene Township supervisors.

Public Comments- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Archie Trader to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2018 meeting. Mike Belding 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 Project Grass

SW Project Grass field day and pasture walk is held on October 4, 2018 from 10-2 at Dave Pounds Farm located in Marion Center, PA 15759.

PACD SW Directors Meeting

The PACD SW Director Meeting is also on October 4, 2018, Ms. Snider plans on attending this meeting.

Women for a Healthy Environment

This brochure is a summary report of environmental quality of schools in Southwest, PA. The brochure was passed around for those interested in the information and a copy is attached to this file.

STAFF REPORTS

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski said that some changes are coming for the permitting department that are effective the first week of October. Chapter 105 permits are going to have to be submitted electronically whether it's a landowner or a company. Mr. Trader brought up that a lot of local people do not have computers. Ms. Kozlowski added that paper may still be an option due to the rural community's that we have. Ms. Snider was asked to be on a committee formed by PACD to look into rural communities and the issues that may be raised concerning the e-permitting process and access. Oil and Gas permits will now go to PADEP if it is a FERC regulated project and/or gathering and it looks like our office will no longer be reviewing the permits but will be reviewing the E&S that accompanies the permit. Chapter 105 oil and gas stream crossings will no longer be reviewed by our office as well, but there is more information to come on this issue. Conservation Districts were told to finish and approve the permits that they currently have under review.

Zack Basinger – The permitting department has been really busy with all the permits that they are getting in. Trainings and webinars have kept them pretty busy. This is the last week for West Nile Virus, the numbers are way down compared to other years. Some traps they will leave out until the end of October.

Jared Zinn – Mr. Zinn has been working with the Waynesburg Borough with their storm water management and with the Waynesburg University they did a day of service to help out the borough and learn about storm water management.

Ben Schweiger- GRACE has taken up most of Mr. Schweiger's time trying to get the farm visits in and scheduling them and also the last minute applications.

Michaela Hildreth- Ms. Hildreth has been training, West Nile, Inspections and GRACE and also she had scheduled with Laurel to meet and talk about the nutrient management plans but those had to be rescheduled.

Lisa Snider – Ms. Snider has also been busy with finishing up GRACE. She mentioned about hiring an engineer for Dirt and Gravel Roads to help keep the cost down for the township and can also use them for 102 & 105 permits. Ms. Snider was given the approval to look into the concept of hiring an engineer to assist with permitting and dirt and gravel road projects and bring that information back to the board.

OLD BUSINESS

Burwell Cemetery – Bald Hill Church Road

None

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

Conservation has 14 new request for assistance

Randall Vansyoc 62.76 acres Morris Township

Mark Kiger 3.58 Acres Perry Township

Paul Braddock 254.09 acres Aleppo Township

Joe Kozlowski 53.97 acres Cumberland Township

Tom Brookover 102.77 acres Perry Township

Edward Michalik 10 acres Cumberland Township

Ralph Adams 120 acres Monongahela Township

William Renner 119.22 acres Perry Township
 Tom Willis 169.42 Cumberland Township
 Jerry Day 311.18 acres Richhill Township
 James Sheil 126.5 acres Perry Township
 Charles Knisell 103 acres Perry Township
 Edward Petsonk 74.28 acres Perry Township
 Marlene Hunnell 88.6 acres Whitely Township

A motion was made by Mike Belding approve the 14 people that requested for assistance. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

2018 Grace Program Application

The Grace program received a total of 39 applicants this year. Total funding requested was approximately \$162,658.69. 31. Of the 39 applicants, 31 are first-time applicants. Aside from the applications for farming practices, there were also two forestry applications this year. Russ Gibbs has worked with both forestry applicants to help them with their projects and applications and to make sure their practices meet our requirements. In the year 2017, the GRACE program used \$60,347.25 and we still have \$23,000.00 in projects that need to be completed. In 2018, the district received \$58,712.00 from PUC funding and matched that amount with district general fund money for this program. It is estimated that the district could utilize approximately \$40,382.61 in special project funds from the CDFAP UGWF allocation to total \$157,804.61 that could be granted to this program. Once the board adds the remaining \$2,993.46 from 2017 PUC Funds dedicated to this program and \$5,015.00 for a project that will not be completed a total of \$165,813.07 could be allocated for the 2018 GRACE program. The total being applied for in the 2018 program is \$162,658.69 which falls within our available budget. Ms. Hildreth added that she has also been working with second year applicants to complete conservation plans. It was also requested by Ms. Snider that a final deadline be set for the 2017 GRACE applicants to submit their receipts for reimbursement.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to make the deadline for contracts for 2017 to complete their projects by December 31st, 2018. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

List of all GRACE applicants below:

Mooney	Barbara	\$4,913.59
Kime	Greg	\$6,784.58
Yost	Larry	\$5,917.35
Biddle	Carl	\$2,200.00
Adamson	Charles Ralph	\$3,641.82
Patterson	Richard	\$5,750.00
Mooney	Jeff	\$15,317.01
Graham	Carl	\$15,264.45
Phillips	Richard	\$5,398.14
Watters	Kevin	\$2,740.40
Headlee	Ken	\$5,058.59
Scull	George	\$5,186.58

Trigger	Rebecca	\$2,450.00
Michalik	Edward	\$1,331.52
Eisiminger	Chris	\$2,408.20
Hildreth	Bill	\$1,515.99
Van Scyoc	Randal	\$875.00
Kozlowski	Joe	\$1,469.05
Kiger	Mark	\$2,734.88
Cowell	Jim	\$3,102.44
Simpson	John	\$7,144.18
Fox	Rodney	\$3,000.00
Fox	Lewis	\$4,248.90
Braddock	Paul	\$4,025.15
Adams	Ralph	\$2,272.02
Willis	Tom	\$8,394.74
Knisell	Chuck	\$2,612.25
Renner	William	\$2,515.12
Hunnell	Marlene	\$3,166.98
White	Kevin	\$2,202.12
Sheil	James	\$762.22
Petsonk	Edward	\$1,608.50
Scott	Denise	\$6,325.10
Virgilli	Ethan	\$4,100.00
Brookover	Tom	\$3,171.82
Day	Jerry	\$2,500.00
Cree	Bill	\$7,100.00
Vandruff	Roger	\$1,000.00
Cox	Jan	\$2,450.00
		\$162,658.69

A motion was made by Archie Trader to accept all GRACE applicants as presented. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Committee Awards Program

Ms. Snider informed the board that it is time again to decide on awards for the awards banquet. For the Forestry and Cooperator Award she would like names so she can schedule to get the aerial photos before were too far into the fall season.

A motion was made by Archie Trader to allow the awards committees to decide the Cooperator and Forestry award prior to our October meeting. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

2019 Plan of Operations

The 2019 proposed annual plan of operations (APO) was mailed with the meeting packets this month, Ms. Snider wanted to get it out to the board for their review for the October meeting. Ms. Snider encouraged the board members to review the plan and offer any changes or additions for the next meeting.

Call for Associate Directors

Ms. Snider informed the board that Jeff Marshall has sent out the letter for nominations for 2019, Jim Cowell is up for re appointment and Archie Trader, our commissioner representative is appointed annually by the Commissioners.

Each year the board selects interested community members to invite them to serve as associate directors. Ms. Snider encouraged the board to think of candidates to fill associate board position and encouraged the members of the board to think of those that would fill the public position on the board. It was noted that only one member the current associate board members list would potentially be able to serve as a public member and it would be beneficial to have additional public member participants. Mr. Trader suggested that we make Jim Jones an associate director since his attendance has been an issue and also move Tom Headlee to director emeritus status at the beginning of 2019.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to send a letter to the commissioners to remove Jim Jones and Tom Headlee to associate directors due to absentee. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

DGR Randolph Hill Road Project

Ms. Snider brought before the board an issue that was discovered on the Randolph Hill Road DGR project contracted by Greene Township. On September 6th both Zachary Basinger and Bill Wentzel were present at a meeting at Greene Township Building between the township and Redstone Excavating. Redstone Excavation is the contractor for Greene Township working on Randolph Hill Road. During the time of the project Redstone Excavation over excavated taking more dirt than what was contracted without written permission from the supervisors. The township engineer representative from Harshman gave a verbal commitment to the contractor to continue excavation without written consent from both parties. This allowed the contract to go over the original contracted amount. Mr. Kiger from Greene township said the contract unit price was for 1,450 cubic yards of dirt and the allowed 25% over which would have been around 1,800 cubic yards of dirt, the township was never notified that they were going to take more than 1,800 cubic yards of dirt. Sam Carrol from Harshman CEC group said the total of cubic yards taken out was 3,015. The original contract was for \$184,000.00, the difference in the additional work would be \$12,517.17. Mr. Trader said that any time they had a change order or change in anything in contract they are supposed to get it in writing, Harshman CEC group or Redstone Excavating has nothing in writing.

A motion was made by Archie Trader to not pay for additional cost to Randolph Hill Road Project. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

DGR Transfer to LVR Funds

Ms. Snider informed the board that during the recent review of funding to close out the last DGLVR 5 year agreement and begin quarterly reporting it was found that \$31,458.52 was accidentally deposited into the DGR checking account and should have been placed in the LVR checking account. Ms. Snider wanted to clarify this matter before funds were transferred internally so that all are aware of the mistake. Ms. Snider and Ken Corradini from the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads found the mistake and have corrected the entries at the state level.

A motion was made by Archie Trader to transfer \$31,458.52 from D&G to LVR. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)

New Conservation Technician Interviews

Ms. Snider sent out the resumes to all the board members for their consideration and to formulate a good list of candidates to interview. The GCCD has two positions open, she would like to hire them as Conservation Technicians.

GCCD Logo

The logo was in the packets that were sent out to the members, Ms. Snider wanted to know the opinions of the board members to help her with the design and picking out the one that everyone likes.

Monitor Ticks

Matt Helwig, PADEP Vector Management sent Ms. Snider an email about potentially participating in a grant to monitor ticks for lymes disease. Matt is applying for the grant to monitor twice next year once in April-June and again August-September. Potentially the grant would consist of going out twice with a net in high grass and other areas and see what is found and then sent to the PADEP lab for analysis. The reason for this is to get a handle where ticks with lymes disease are and how many we have.

A motion was made by Mike Belding that we participate in the tick study if asked. Archie Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)

Lime Spreader

Mr. Cowell brought to the board the possibility of purchasing a new larger lime spreader, after talking to a lot of the GRACE applicants, they are wanting a bigger lime spreader. Mr. Cowell suggested that we keep the 2/Ton lime spreader and get a 4/Ton lime spreader. The 4/Ton lime spreaders price is around \$18,000-19,000 it will pull behind the truck just like the 2/Ton does. After a short discussion it was decided to look into the costs of a new spreader for later discussions.

Cooperating Agencies

Eric Davis PA Fish & Boat Commission - Mr. Davis came to the board to ask for a donation for catfish in classroom program he recently proposed to biologist in his agency to grow catfish in a classroom. Some of Greene, Fayette, and Washington County schools are on board to grow catfish in their classrooms and put them back into the streams after the catfish are big enough. This is going to be similar to the trout growing that they did in classrooms but will cost a lot less. The purpose is for the education to the kids about channel catfish and to increase the catfish populations.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to write a letter of support for the catfish in classroom program and offer financial assistance through our mini grant program. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Russ Gibbs DCNR- Mr. Gibbs said that on October 7th they are having a walk in the woods at Ryerson Park for Greene County, this is to identify trees, ground floral, look at wildlife and just an informative walk in the woods and you can ask questions. The walk is usually an hour to hour and half walk for. Washington County is having there walk in the wood in Claysville. Mr. Gibbs has been getting calls about oak trees that there is an insect killing the tree, it isn't the insect it's from all the water that we have had. If it's a mature oak tree, the additional water will not kill the tree.

Phil Evans NRCS- The last day to sign up for equip is October 19th. Mr. Evans is going to be attending the County Land Judging to help. Mr. Evans reviewed the NRCS civil rights and non-discrimination policy and

requested that the board members present sign supporting the MOU and policy understanding that the board memberships know the responsibility and neither organization does not discriminate. Mike reported that he appreciates being able to go out to the farm visits with our staff and explain what they have to offer also.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on October 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Bill Wentzel to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Mike Belding 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 _____, 2018.

James A. Council
Vice-Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

Michael H. Belding
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District

