



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES August 18, 2020

Mr. Dave Shipman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Jim Cowell called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. at Greene County Fairgrounds 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA Building #10 upstairs.

Those in attendance were as follows:

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Jim Cowell-Chairman; Greg Hopkins-Treasurer; Bill Wentzel-Secretary; Glodenna Halstead; and Dave Shipman. Associate Directors: George Scull; Carol Adamson; and Keith Golden.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski-Assistant Manager/Environmental Program Specialist; Zack Basinger-Environmental Program Specialist; Ben Schweiger-Conservation Technician; Sara Hlatky-Conservation Technician; April Morris-Fiscal Officer and Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve the July 21, 2020 minutes. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Morris noted additions to the treasurer's report included \$12.64 in interest earned for the First Federal account and \$50.89 interest earned for the First National Bank account.

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

No correspondence or upcoming events.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski- Ms. Kozlowski had nothing additional to add to her report.

Zack Basinger- Mr. Basinger still receiving permits steady but slow. Zack checked on complaints that came into the office. Updated mosquito numbers: so far this year collected 3,136 mosquitos, with no positives and 52 ticks, two having Lyme's disease. The state currently has 151 mosquito positives and one person positive. Compared to 2018 that had over 5,000 positive cases.

Ben Schweiger- Mr. Schweiger is busy with GRACE applications and making farm visits.

Sara Hlatky- Ms. Hlatky completed the Nutrient Management on-site review for the Fairgrounds. Waiting on the manure test results. Also, an updated Nutrient Balance sheet for Hunting Hills in Dilliner, PA.

Jared Zinn- Mr. Zinn added a meeting with Erin Kepple, Water Resource Manager of Southwestern Pennsylvania Resource Center (SPC), regarding a discussion of watershed plans and creating a database to digitize the plans for easier access.

Jared noted two rain barrel workshops are completed and a third workshop is being set up.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider is working on reimbursement requests for salary, benefits and administration. Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume roads checking accounts now match the states GIS System regarding ending balances. Lisa has kept in contact with Wayne Township regarding the current project and problems with the contractor's work. Ms. Snider is heading out to Wayne Township today to speak with the contractor regarding the issues with the work. Also working with townships, which were approved for funding, to begin work.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Building Specs

Mr. Cowell stated the building specs were turned over to the Commissioners and Conservation was given four options for a location to erect the building. Mr. Cowell, Mr. Scull and Ms. Snider visited the fairgrounds to discuss the best location. Jim, George and Lisa agreed to have the building located next to the rabbit barn as a number one choice. Second choice is near the infield. First choice is easily accessible to pull equipment in and out. The building will need to be a public use area and the lamb and

steer show could be held inside. Floor will be concrete and have pull through lanes. The structure needs built by the end of the 2020 to qualify for funding from the CARES Act.

Greene Township, Randolph Hill Road DGR Application

Ms. Snider visited with Greene Township to discuss drainage options. The property owner showed up during the discussion and was very adamant about not having cross drains and additional water on his property. Lisa will work with the township to figure out exactly what to do to fix the road. A contract needs created with the landowner and the township in order to add any pipes that carry stormwater. The township will get in touch with the gas companies that have access roads in the area for possible changes on the access roads, if necessary. Ms. Snider and the township will wait until October to make a decision on how to proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance

There were eight requests for assistance to bring before the board.

Michael Zeglen-Waynesburg-30 acres

Duane Yost-Mt. Morris-235 acres

Cole Farm-Waynesburg-89 acres

Adam Bland-Waynesburg-50 acres

Alfred Bryan Cole II-Prosperity-34.98 acres

Miller Farm-Dilliner-108 acres

Daniel D. Bazzoli-Jefferson-50 acres

Heritage Hills Farm-Waynesburg-115 acres

Mr. Schweiger and Ms. Hlatky visited each participant's farm; all are GRACE participants.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the eight requests for assistance. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

2020-2021 Funding Requests

The state conservation approved option two for 2020-2021 funding. Ms. Snider contacted the state for an explanation of the approved amount. \$59,828.00 is the standard payment the district received from the PUC funds, this amount is where it should be. The state only approved a 5/12ths budget and there is a shortfall of \$2,000,000.00. In November, another budget will need passed by the state legislators to make up for the rest of the funding year. The current approved state budget is from July thru November 2020. Every district received the same amount of cost share funds as in previous years. The funds cover a portion of Manager, First E&S Technician and Agriculture Conservation Technician (ACT) salary and benefits. Along with a portion for Administrative costs. The change in the amounts leaves \$373.00 per each gas well. Past years the per well amount was approximately \$1,800.00. Fully funded amount would have been \$1,648.00 per well. The district was approved for \$49,806.00 well count funding for the 5/12th budget. When the next budget approvals are due in November, if the state decides to use the current listed amounts the district will receive the difference between what was currently paid (\$373.00) and what was approved (\$1,648.00). Ms. Snider is concerned about the line item being removed from the budget permanently and the district not receiving funds from the state.

Ms. Snider included the final draft of the district audit in the meeting packets for the GCCD Board Members.

The ACT Program Applications 2020/2021, Nutrient Management and Manure Management Delegation Agreements, and the CDFAP Allocation Worksheets are ready to send to the state. There is \$61,882.00 deficit in funding for the Managers, First Technician, and ACT salary and benefits. Ms. Snider stated approximately \$8,000.00 is needed to cover the manager payroll and can be used from the Dirt and Gravel Road funds. Freeing up that amount to use towards Farmland Preservation Support.

Ms. Snider completed a dual delegation agreement budget for ACT and Nutrient Management request for two separate six-month periods in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the first half of the year. Ms. Snider along with Ms. Hlatky worked on the costs of having specific employees, how much is needed from the program, how much is requested and how much other programs are covering for that cost. The applications need approved and submitted before September 15, 2020. Salary, benefits and retirement amounts came from the County's Controllers office to assure correct amounts.

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to submit applications for Manager, First Technician, and ACT as well as the dual applications for Nutrient Management and ACT for both the 5/12ths budget and 2021 budget. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Ms. Snider is working on the Administration Assistance Financial Statement and the PUC Block Grants for 2019/2020. The PUC block grant is \$59,827.65 and is applied towards the GRACE Program. All CDFAP funding, which was allocated for salaries and benefits, has being utilized. Last year the district received approximately \$197,000.00 in funding to use towards administrative costs, including salaries and benefits. Ms. Snider checked the records as of today with a total spending over \$207,000.00.

Commissioner Representative and County Chief Clerk to solicit candidates

The meeting packet included the guidelines for soliciting nominating agencies for director candidates. The commissioners and chief clerk can only select names that are submitted by an approved nominating agency. Ms. Snider asked participants to check the names of agencies and organizations to see if the addresses and names were current and if additional organization would like to be added to the District's nominating organization list. Mr. Marshall, Chief Clerk, will be contacting Ms. Snider shortly for an updated nomination list. Public and farming organizations are the sources of nominees.

AG Conservation Assistance Program

Ms. Snider received comments from Ms. Hlatky and Mr. Scull about the AG Conservation Assistant Program. The Farm Bureau is looking for insight on ways to make the program work to introduce to legislation. Ms. Snider will forward a list of recommendations to Brenda Shambaugh, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD). Lisa asked anyone that has suggestions to email by Thursday for Ms. Snider to send over on Friday.

2020 Covid-19 County Quarantine Statement

Ms. Snider included the new Greene County policy for Covid-19 recommendations, testing, and positive cases.

2020 Staff Evaluations

Mr. Cowell stated voting board members are welcome to stay for staff evaluations, while associate members can return once evaluations are complete.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

There was no additional outreach

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

There were no cooperating agencies in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Next Regular Meeting will be September 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

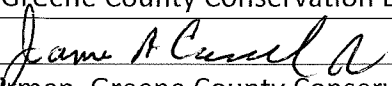
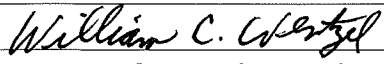
Mr. Cowell requested a break in the proceedings to conduct staff evaluations with district board members. All individuals present for the GCCD Board meeting were invited to return once the evaluations were completed.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman for a break in the proceedings to conduct staff evaluations. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to reconvene the meeting and with no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,
April Morris
Fiscal Officer

<u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u>	
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on <u>September 22</u> , 2020.	
	
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District	
	
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District	