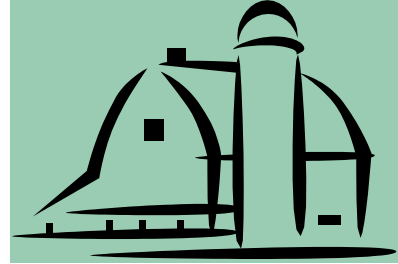


Greene County Farmland Preservation
22 West High Street, Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA 15370
724-852-5278



Greene County Farmland Preservation Minutes
October 17, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.
Greene County Conservation District Conference Room
Waynesburg, PA

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Snider at 1:08 pm at the Greene County Conservation District Conference room.

Greene County Farmland Preservation Board (GCFLP) Members

Members Present—Rick Thistlethwaite, Treasurer; Archie Trader, Greene County Commissioner; Chris Eisiminger, Director; Richard Belding, Director; Jim Willis, Director; Bill Cree 111, Chairman;

Staff and Guests

Lisa Snider, District Manager, GCCD; Ben Schweiger, Conservation Technician, GCCD; Lindsay Kozlowski, Assistant Manager, GCCD; Greg Hook

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jim Willis to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2018 meeting. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Thistlethwaite read the Treasurer's report as follows:

1. FLP Board Fundraising Account - \$18,260.68
2. Easement Funds – \$409,189.50
 - a. Dept. of Agriculture – \$371,721.40
 - b. County of Greene – \$37,468.10
3. Funds requiring year end encumbrment by 12/31/18 - \$217,052.40

A motion was made by Richard Belding to accept the treasurer's report as read. Jim Willis seconded. (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

2018 GCFLP Easement Process

Greg Hook was present for the meeting to discuss the application process. Instead of running a full-blown title search, he is running a quick search to see if the properties that applied own their surface rights. He believes there are two properties that would qualify now, Bill Milesky, 116 acres and Jim Willis, 79.9 acres.

2017 GCFLP Applications

Donald Bruckner #1 (212.76 ac.) – LESA Score: 32.75

Mr. Hook discussed the current issues with the Bruckner deed. The state was not satisfied with the damage settlement agreement that would allow the coal mine to do work on the property if they wanted. Until a new or additional agreement is provided that the coal company has no interest in surface mining on the property this property is on hold.

Dominick and Kimberly Barbetta #1 (79.175 ac.) – LESA Score: 50.97

Mr. Hook spoke to their attorney, Dennis Makel, and believes that they know now what they need to do. The coal company needs to come up with some paperwork verifying information about the company. Once this is received the process can continue.

A motion was made by Richard Belding to authorize Ms. Snider to talk to the state and see if we can move forward with the Milesky and Willis applications. The board authorizes the staff to complete any portion of the encumbrance process if a positive response is received. The board would like to end their application period effective November 1st to give applicants a chance to apply once the advertisement is placed. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)

A motion was made by Chris Eisiminger to notify the Barbetta's and Bruckner's that they do not currently qualify but can re-apply with this next round to be ranked and added to the process. Depending upon their ranking and timing of obtaining the information needed to proceed will determine their easement status. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)

Greene County Conservation District – Nominations

Ms. Snider received the letter from the County on behalf of the board and Jim Cowell's position is up this year. Ms. Snider also explained that the board can submit additional names to the list to be considered for associate directors.

Jim Willis made the motion to nominate Jim Cowell for the Conservation District Board. Chris Eisiminger seconded. Archie Trader abstained. (Motion Passed)

Richard Belding made the motion to nominate Becky Salosky as an Associate Director to the Conservation District Board. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)

December Meeting

The Conservation District Board would like to include and combine the December meeting and awards banquet like in past years. This year's banquet will possibly be held at Valley View Farm and is tentatively scheduled for December 12th with meetings at 5 and 5:30 if there is business followed by the awards ceremony at 6:00 pm.

2018 Inspections Approval

Mr. Schweiger noted that 5 inspections were conducted on the Cree, Willis, Phillips, and Gapen Farms and no violations were noted on any of the visits. The inspection reports and letters are ready to be sent. Ms. Snider noted that the updated deed information is needed from Mr. Willis and to check with Harley Gapen to see if the property had been transferred to their son. A note will be put in their inspection report.

Richard Belding made the motion to accept the inspections as discussed. Chris Eisiminger seconded. (Motion Passed)

Board Member Renewals

Ms. Snider stated that Rick Thistlethwaite, Dave Shipman, and Chris Eisiminger terms are up as well as the Chairman appointment.

Jim Willis made the motion to send the names of Rick Thistlethwaite, David Shipman, and Chris Eisiminger to the Commissioners. Richard Belding seconded. Archie Trader abstained. (Motion Passed)

Jim Willis made the motion that Bill Cree remain the Chairman of the Farmland Preservation Board. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. Archie Trader abstained. (Motion Passed)

OUTREACH

Ms. Snider stated that staff will be attending the Township Convention on Thursday and will give townships more information on ASA's and there will be information in the newsletter about FLP.

STAFF REPORTS

Lisa Snider – she is working on the budget for the District and has numbers written in for general operating expenses that aren’t covered under the easement expenses. Ms. Snider also stated that the District received 39 applications for GRACE in addition to the 27 from last year.

Next Meeting: November 21, 2018 at 1:00 PM. at Greene County Conservation District Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Chris Eisiminger to adjourn the meeting. Rick Thistlethwaite seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Kozlowski
Assistant Manager

<u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u>
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Farmland Preservation on _____, 2018.
Chairman, Greene County Farmland Preservation
Executive Member, Greene County Farmland Preservation