



Greene County Conservation District

22 West High St. • Suite 204 • Waynesburg, PA 15370

Tel: 724-852-5278 • Fax: 724-852-5341

email: gccd@co.greene.pa.us

Web: www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES June 18, 2019

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Cowell called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. at Greene County Conservation District Conference Room, 22 West High St., Waynesburg, PA.

Mr. Ben Schweiger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Jim Cowell-Chairman; Commissioner Trader-Vice Chairman; Tom Headlee-Treasurer; Mike Belding-Secretary; Bill Wentzel-Public Director; Dave Shipman-Farmer Director. Associate Directors-Jerry Day; Glodenna Holstead; Spencer Johnson; Greg Hopkins; Becky Salosky; and Carol Adamson.

STAFF

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

GUEST AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Aileen Evan-Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Regional Representative (PA DEP)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the May 14, 2019 minutes. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

There were no correspondence or upcoming events.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski – Ms. Kozlowski noted the Carmichaels Envirothon team has received an additional \$3,500.00 in donations, from local companies, to sponsor the team at nationals. Conservation District is awaiting a \$700.00 grant from PACD to bring the total available funds to \$6,200.00. The Carmichaels team asked for \$8,600.00 to help with costs of participating in the upcoming event. A sendoff for the Carmichaels team will be held at the end of July. Lindsay stated donations are still being accepted and can be sent directly to the Carmichaels Area School District.

Zack Basinger – Mr. Basinger has received 65 permits to date. Zack is currently working with 4 interns on West Nile Virus, Tick Surveying, Agricultural, E&S permits and Dirt and Gravel Roads projects. Currently, there are no positives for West Nile Virus. Mr. Basinger is preparing for a new lock box to be installed at Greene County Maintenance due to the destruction of the previous box located at the Penn Dot building that caught fire.

Ben Schweiger - Mr. Schweiger has been working on the GRACE Program and Farmland Preservation evaluations. Ben received grazing sticks to distribute to farmers once the pins are delivered. Mr. Schweiger worked with farmers that attended the manure management workshops to get a plan in place. Ben received additional GRACE applications this past month.

Mr. Belding questioned if advertising with the radio or newspaper has been successful in people applying for the GRACE Program. Ms. Snider stated the advertisements, along with the conservation staff handing out applications when in the field, has increased the flow of applicants. Mr. Schweiger noted there has been no actual consensus for how applicants are hearing about the GRACE program.

Sara Hlatky - Ms. Hlatky was out of office attending Nutrient Management Testing.

Jared Zinn – Mr. Zinn stated the Growing Greener Grant has finished the project at the Morris Township site. The area is becoming greener with the improvements but there is an issue with someone dumping lawn clippings. Mr. Zinn will address the township on this issue. The other applicants, that are participating in the grant, have been issued permits and can begin work.

Mr. Zinn is working with Waynesburg Borough on the rain barrel project along with storm water projects for the local park in Waynesburg.

Mr. Zinn added the Burwell Cemetery project has received a \$20,000.00 grant from Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) stream improvement program. Jared met with Jim Colbert from East Dunkard Water Authority to obtain access to the site through the right-of-way the Water Authority owns. Mr. Zinn also spoke with the game commission, who owns the land, they are excited to see this project get underway. Mr. Zinn believes the project will begin in late August early September.

Lisa Snider – Ms. Snider added of the 65 plans Mr. Basinger has received 53 have been approved and 7 are under review. Lisa received the Milesky Farm check and letter from the state. Closing should happen no later than August 31, 2019. Ms. Snider, Ms. Hlatky, and Mr. Schweiger met with Mr. Greg Hook to have paperwork completed and are setting a date to finish up the project.

Mr. Cowell asked if any Farmland Preservation applications have been submitted. Lisa noted three have been received. Two have been submitted and one needs follow through.

Ms. Snider has 14 Dirt and Gravel Road projects and seven Low Volume Road projects working towards completion. Currently, \$83,742.40 of Low Volume and \$250,243.96 of Dirt and Gravel funding needs spent. All projects need payment issued by June 30, 2019. Lisa along with the QAB reviewed several projects last week and are continuing today with inspections. Ms. Snider added several checks will be issued this month once receipts are received from townships. Once payments are made the allocation payment from the state should be issued in July. Lisa noted 24 counties in the state may not receive their allocation payments, for the upcoming year, due to not spending the previous allocation money. The counties that have spent the allotted amounts should receive extra funding due to lack of completion of those counties.

Ms. Kozlowski stated Aleppo Township called this morning and will be sending over receipts for the finished project.

Ms. Snider listed projects and statuses as follows:

Robena Road in Mon Township is finished and a check has been issued for two projects. Gilmore Township Tustin Run Road and Mini Hill Road will be inspected today and receipts turned in for payment.

Aleppo Township has eight projects that are being closed out and awaiting receipts. Cumberland Township Carter Road portion of the receipts are in and awaiting the remainder to complete payment.

Jackson Township has two projects Jones Road and Kiger Hill still awaiting receipts. Wayne Township submitted receipts but are missing some to finish out the project on Bowlby Hill.

Dunkard Township is questionable on completion of projects at this time for Glade Run and Hunters Ridge. The total is approximately \$19,000.00 and if not completed should not affect the outcome of receiving the allocation.

Harvey Lane in Freeport is finished needs receipts.
Jones Road is finished needs inspected.
Beagle Club Road is finished and check was issued.
Ms. Snider has \$20,000.00 for Low Volume Roads and \$170,000.00 for Dirt and Gravel Roads left to spend to complete the required allocation amounts.
The bank has been notified of the additional checks this month.

OLD BUSINESS

Dirt and Gravel Road Updates

Ms. Snider noted dirt and gravel road updates in her staff report.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance – Richard Davison-64.07 acres-Aleppo Township

Ms. Snider received a request for assistance from Richard Davison. Mr. Schweiger stated Mr. Davison sells hay and pastures horses on his farm. Mr. Davison is also working with the GRACE program.

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to approve assistance for Richard Davison. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

2019 PACD Voting Delegate Designation Form

Ms. Snider received an email regarding delegates for the conservation district. Changes are needed to replace currently listed delegates for the meeting in July. PACD prefers board members are the delegates to obtain that districts vote. The next meeting is July 17-18, 2019 in Williamsport, PA and another will be held in December. Ms. Snider will poll board members closer to the meeting date for volunteers.

Commissioner Trader entered meeting at 10:27 a.m.

CDFAP Manager, E&S Technician, and ACT Technician FY 2019-2020 Salaries and Benefits Request

Ms. Snider needs to submit salary requests by July 1, 2019 for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. Lisa is working with Carol Gooden, Acting County Controller, to obtain updated payroll numbers, including increases that will occur this year for employees. The request is for Ms. Snider, Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Schweiger salaries and benefits.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to apply for funding for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

DGLVR Road Project Signs cost

Ms. Snider received a quote from Communications Development Co., LLC for Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Road projects signs. The signs will be placed at either end of the ongoing project so residents know Greene County Conservation District is issuing funds. There will be 100 dirt and gravel and 50 low volume reusable road signs.

A motion was made by Tom Headlee to purchase road signs. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation WPCAMR Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act SMCRA Resolution

Mr. Zinn received information regarding Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Land (PA AML) Campaign, which expires in 2021. The focus of the campaign is to secure another 15 years of funding for abandoned mine reclamation through the Federal Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). Pennsylvania currently has \$4.6 billion dollars in abandoned mine land that needs restored. WPCAMR is requesting a resolution signed by conservation districts urging congress to address the priorities of the campaign. Mr. Zinn asked, on behalf of WPCAMR, the Greene County Conservation Board Members to submit a resolution towards this campaign.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to send letter in support of the PA AML campaign. Tom Headlee seconded. (Motion Passed)

Mr. Zinn added WPCAMR emailed information from Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) about Senate Bill 618-refuse coal for power generation. The bill involves an extension, from 2026 to 2036, and expansion of a tax credit for the waste coal industry. As the delegate for WPCAMR, Mr. Zinn was asked for support drafting a letter supporting the bill.

Mr. Hopkins questioned how the coal refuse was used to generate power. Mr. Zinn stated the company goes to abandoned mine sites, collects the unused coal and transports to a plant that is specifically set to use this type of coal to generate power. Ms. Snider stated the refuse coal piles are there because it happened pre law and the companies were not held accountable for leaving any unused coal behind. This company receives a tax credit for cleaning up the coal which helps keep it from leeching into the rivers and streams.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to support WPCAMR writing a letter on behalf of Senate Bill 618. Bill Wentzel seconded. Dave Shipman Opposed. (Motion Passed)

Rebecca Trigger-GRACE Program Forestry Practices Contract Amendment

Mr. Schweiger stated Rebecca Trigger planted 50 extra red oak seedlings on .17 acres. Ms. Trigger spent an additional \$417.00 above her contracted amount. Mr. Schweiger polled the Conservation District Board for approval of additional payment.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to amend original contract and pay the additional amount of \$417.00. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Ms. Snider stated GRACE is still advertised by radio, word of mouth and newspaper articles. The Jacktown and Greene County Fairs are coming up and Conservation will have tables set up at both. Lisa also noted Conservation will not be set up at Rain Day this year.

Mr. Wentzel added it was the 75th anniversary of Smokey the Bear with an article in the Forestry Magazine.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Aileen Evan of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Regional Representative (PA DEP). Ms. Evan noted the comment period closes July 1, 2019 for proposed policy on removal of conservation district director for misfeasance, malfeasance and other reasons. Aileen stated anyone interested should read over the policy and submit comments. Ms. Snider added she will send the policy in an email to the board members for them to read over and they can send comments for her to submit.

Ms. Snider emailed Eric at Senator Bartalotta's office regarding the letter submitted on behalf of the board that addressed HB 509. Senator Bartalotta is waiting for budget negotiations to finalize before addressing the conservation issues with permitting and plans to meet with both Ms. Snider and Ms. Kozlowski.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next meeting will be held on July 16th, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

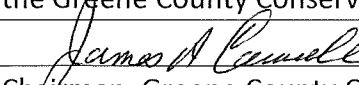
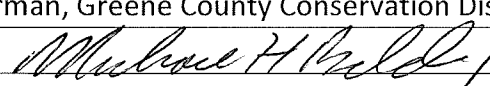
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m. Bill Wentzel 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>July 16</u> , 2019.
 Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
 Secretary, Greene County Conservation District