



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES March 15, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. James A. Cowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. at Greene County Fairgrounds, Building 10, Upstairs, 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA.

Those in attendance were as follows:

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

James A. Cowell, Jr.-Chairman; Commissioner Belding-Vice Chairman; Greg Hopkins-Treasurer; William Wentzel-Secretary; Dave Shipman, Glodenna Halstead and Melissa Adamson. Associate Directors: Jim Willis; Doug Willis; Keith Golden; Dominick Barbetta; Jerry Day; Becky Salosky; Lewis Crouse; Sean Hilverding; Dan Bazzoli; and George Scull via conference call.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Zack Basinger-Environmental Permitting Manager; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and April Morris-Fiscal Manager.

GUEST AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Frank Schneider-Director, Nutrient Management and Odor Management Programs, State Conservation Commission (SCC); Laurel Rush- State Conservation Commission (SCC); Phil Evans and Sofia Arthur-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

OATH OF OFFICE

Commissioner Belding administered the Oath of Office to Melissa Adamson. Ms. Adamson was appointed Director for the Conservation District with a term to expire on December 31, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the February 15, 2022 minutes. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Morris noted additions to the treasurer's report for checks written after the report was printed: Chapter 105, check 1048, Freeport Township, \$3,291.50; Dirt and Gravel, check 1170, Lisa Snider, \$47.97; Community Bank General Fund, check 1191, County of Greene, \$14,840.62; First Federal General Fund, check 2814, Lisa Snider, \$66.69; and First Federal General Fund, online payment, Cardmember Services, \$50.00.

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

REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Snider requested the following additions to new business: Maher Duessel 2021 engagement letter; Associate Directors: Kevin White and Doug Willis; Sheetz for food donation under the listed Envirothon new business item.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve adding the above listed items to the March Meeting Agenda under new business. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

PA State Technical Advisory Committee, March 23, 2022, Washington, PA

Ms. Snider stated the committee meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Washington County Conservation District. Ms. Snider along with Mr. Zinn will attend the meeting and the committee is looking for farmers to attend.

Conservation District Week, April 10-16, 2022

Ms. Snider stated Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) sent out a list of proclamations that can be issued by the Commissioners during the week. The Conservation District road cleanup scheduled for April 13, 2022 with rain date of April 14, 2022. Poster and coloring contest winners will be selected and announced this week.

Envirothon April 27, 2022-Hunting Hills-Dilliner, PA

Ms. Snider stated the Envirothon date and lunch being provided by Sheetz as a donation.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski- Ms. Kozlowski is working with local schools on team information for the Envirothon and asked for shirt sizes from the board.

Zack Basinger- Mr. Basinger received the first e-permitting project and working with Lindsay to figure out the system. Mr. Basinger along with Ms. Kozlowski toured a recycling plant for ideas to help with the tire-recycling program. West Nile Virus supplier closed down March 11 and items were ordered for this season. Next year a new supplier is needed for the program. Tick season begins week of April 11, 2022.

Jared Zinn- Mr. Zinn added a few projects are moving forward under landowner technical assistance program. One project listed was a stream stabilization and based on the grant information the project will not move forward at this time.

The fallen bridge project on Ten Mile Creek, Jefferson/Morgan Townships, is moving forward. Contact was made with the landowner and permission has been given to access the site.

Jared noted the teacher hands-on project that was to occur in spring is requesting a move to fall. Mr. Zinn will reach out to Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) about extending the grant funding until that time.

Mr. Hopkins asked about the dam project that was part of the fallen bridge project mentioned in the February meeting. The dam is causing damage to a local community and Jared is moving forward and collaborating with other agencies to have this work completed.

Mr. Hopkins asked for more information on Economic Screening Tool. Based on the use of this tool Greene County has no disadvantaged communities. Mr. Zinn explained the criteria used to calculate a disadvantaged community, stated the comment period is open, and invited the board to make comments on items that pertain to Greene County. Mr. Zinn will email the board with the link to make comments. Another concern Mr. Zinn found with Executive Order 14008 that created the screening tool it includes an initiative Justice 40 that states 40% of all federal benefit must go to communities identified in the screening tool. Mr. Zinn is concerned with long-term funding and program availability for Greene County.

April Morris- Ms. Morris nothing additional to add.

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider attended a PACD Directors Workshop that detailed ways to help with employee retention. Ms. Snider submitted ideas to the Commissioner's office.

Farmland Preservation-Barbette Easement will be on the state board for approval April 14, 2022.

Lisa along with Rich Rush checked on Dirt and Gravel Road (DGR) projects including: Sugar Camp Road needs lining for a ditch, and Goodwin Hill, has a spring that needs controlled. Ms. Snider will contact the DGR Quality Assurance Board (QAB) for final inspection.

OLD BUSINESS

Freeport 2018 Mini Grant

Ms. Snider received the receipt for levee repairs in Freeport Township approved by the board in November 2018 as a Mini Grant application for up to \$5,000.00.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance- No Request for Assistance

Nutrient Management Program-Frank Schneider, Director, Nutrient Management and Odor Management Programs, and Laurel Rush, State Conservation Commission (SCC)

Mr. Schneider and Ms. Rush discussed options for the districts Nutrient Management Delegation Agreement that will renew in July 2022 for a new five-year agreement. The Nutrient Management and Manure Management Programs are linked for funding purposes. Greene County is set to receive the same amount as in past years of \$15,000.00.

There is currently one Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO), at the Fairgrounds, that is regulated under Act 38 and must have an approved Nutrient Management Plan. Along with 611 possible Manure Management operations within Greene County. The district has no employee in the position and asked for ideas how to keep the delegation agreement or if it would better serve the district to end the agreement.

Mr. Schneider spoke of all options available and answered questions from the board. One major defining factor for keeping the agreement is limited liability protection. The state legal staff will provide service for any Nutrient Management or Manure Management issue the district may encounter. The board decided to call a meeting of the Agricultural Committee to discuss where the district options and table this item until the next meeting.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Civil Rights Responsibilities Board Signatures

Phil Evans, NRCS, requested the board review the annual Civil Rights and Responsibilities agreement, stating no discrimination and all rules and laws of state and federal government are followed by the district.

2022 Grasslands Contest Scholarships

Ms. Snider stated the district has been a contributor to the scholarship in the past, but did not submit a donation for 2021.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to donate \$500.00 to the 2022 Grasslands Contest Scholarship. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Envirothon Donation-Greene Team Pellet Fuel \$250 and Sheetz boxed lunch donation

The district received a \$250 donation from Greene Team Pellet Fuel for use towards the Envirothon, as needed. Sheetz is donating boxed lunches for the event in April 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve accepting \$250 donation from Greene Team Pellet Fuel and Sheetz donation of boxed lunches for the Envirothon. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)

Maher Duessel 2021 Engagement Letter

Ms. Snider received updated Engagement Letter reflecting changes in the legal language from the previous letter. Pricing is the same as before for the district.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belding to approve new 2021 Engagement Letter from Maher Duessel. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)

Additional Associate Board Members-Kevin White and Doug Willis

Mr. Cowell received a call from Mr. Kevin White agreeing to accept the position as an Associate Board Member. Mr. White was not able to attend today's meeting due to prior engagement. Mr. Doug Willis accepted the position and attended the meeting.

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve new Associate Board Members Kevin White and Doug Willis. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

No district outreach.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Phil Evans and Sophia Arthur, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) currently accepting applications for Conservation Reserve Tool (CRT). Rankings will be completed in April and obligation date is August 31, 2022. New program Environmental Quality Incentives Program-Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC) deadline for signups April 1, 2022, Conservation Security Program (CSP) new signups deadline May 2, 2022 and EQIP accepting applications anytime. NRCS announced timeline for employees going back into the office. April 15, 2022 all supervisors will return to the office and May 2, 2022 all employees. Two days a week will be tele work for employees. NRCS is still looking for a technician for the area. HPAI Avian Flu is a problem within the state Mr. Zinn asked for an article for the upcoming newsletter.

Laurel Rush, State Conservation Commission (SCC), stated a roundtable meeting being held next Monday and Tuesday, Lisa will receive a link to sit in on the meeting. Ms. Rush reminded the board about REAP tax program for local farmers.

Commissioner Belding mentioned a \$2.5 million ARC grant for broadband service to local residents from Perry Township to Aleppo. \$1.3 million funds along with County funds and help from Waynesburg College to introduce new startup businesses in the area. \$2.2 million in funds for Brave water project that includes five miles of new pipe.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session not needed.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be April 19, 2022.

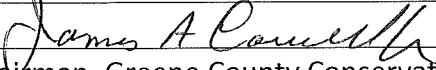
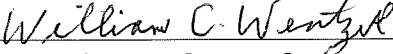
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. Melissa Adamson seconded. (Motion Passed)

Respectfully submitted,



April Morris
Fiscal Manager

MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on <u>April 19</u> , 2022.
 Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
 Secretary, Greene County Conservation District