



Greene County Conservation District

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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES July 19, 2022

Greg Hopkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. James A. Cowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at Greene County Office Building second floor conference room, 93 E. High St., 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 and Glodenna Halstead. Associate Directors: George Scull; Kevin White; Sean Hilverding; Dan Bazzoli; Keith Golden; Becky Salosky; Dominick Barbetta; and Lewis Crouse.

STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Office Manager; Jared Zinn – Watershed Specialist; Zack Basinger – Environmental Permitting Manager

GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Phil Evans- NRCS; Dorian Seibel, PA Fish & Boat WCO.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the June 21, 2022 minutes. Greg Hopkins seconded; motion passed

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by William Wentzel to approve the treasurer's report. Greg Hopkins seconded; motion passed

REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Addition of the following items were requested to be added to the agenda
Request for Assistance for Evan Miller Farm, 31 ac., Cumberland Township

Greene County Fair Queen Contest donation

Fiscal Administrative position posting

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to add the additional agenda items to the July meeting. Mike Belding seconded; motion passed

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

PA Department of Agriculture "Transfer to the Conservation District Fund - \$ 2.669 million (last year the amount was \$869,000)

PA Department of Environmental Protection "Transfer to the Conservation District Fund - \$7.516 million (last year it was \$2.506 million)

House approves \$640M for Growing Greener 3

Ralph Bell Bird Club Scholarship Winners-Matthew Ankrom, Waynesburg; Taylor Burnfield, Jefferson

REAP Guidelines update, information has been emailed to the board and associate board members.

Dirt, Gravel, Low Volume Road 2022-2023 Allocations

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

Lindsay Kozlowski- Ms. Kozlowski currently certified for DGLVR stream crossing.

Zack Basinger- Mr. Basinger relayed permits are coming in steady; the district had another successful tire clean up on June 21st & 22nd, and now have collected and recycled 2,678 tires. Interns still have yet to get a single tick yet to date.

Jared Zinn- Mr. Zinn announced he passed his Nutrient Management Certification exam. Once he attends the orientation class, he will be provisionally certified. At that time, Mr. Zinn will need to write two nutrient management plans. He asked the board for assistance in locating a Greene County farm that would benefit from a nutrient management plan.

Mr. Zinn reported he has a received a plan of work from Beran Environmental for the low water crossing removal project near Jefferson. This project is currently moving through the permitting process with DEP.

He reported that he worked with California University to conduct pre-construction monitoring for the Willis Farm stream stabilization and agricultural best management project. Construction on these both of these projects is expected to begin later this year.

Finally, he reported that he had completed and submitted the Growing Greener grant application for the Cree Farm. He has worked with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to secure more than half the funding for the Cree farm project already and is awaiting response from DEP

Lisa Snider- Ms. Snider started GRACE visits of the 39 applications received, twelve sites need to be visited and Mr. Zinn will be visiting four sites to assist. In addition to site visits there is currently \$30,000 of funding requests reviewed and entered to date for GRACE.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Assistance-

- a. Hildreth Farm, Morris Twp., 453 Acres
- b. Spitz Farm, Perry/Wayne Twp., 281 Acres
- c. Sproat Farm, Washington Twp., 50 Acres
- d. Ely Farm, Center Twp., 1600 Acres
- e. Muddy Mountain Woodland, Jefferson Twp., 50 Acres
- f. Folman Farm, Greene Twp., 69.5 Acres
- g. Evan Miller Farm, Cumberland Twp., 31 Acres

A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the seven (7) requests for assistance applications. Glodenna Halstead seconded; motion passed

PUC 2021 Reporting Year Funding

The 2021 Public Utilities Commission (PUC) funding check in the amount of \$67,123.03 was received by the district. In previous years the board elected to deposit the funds into an interest-bearing CD for the purpose of funding the GRACE program.

After discussion on interest rates the Greg Hopkins requested the board to table action until next month to watch CD interest rates and receive information from local banks. Mike Belding seconded; motion passed

Conservation District Advisory Committee CDAC

Karl Brown, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission requested the appointment of Lisa Snider, District Director to the Conservation District Advisory Committee (CDAC) as the Southwest PA representative. Term expires on 12/31/2022. The CDAC meets at a minimum 4 times a year. Since the creation of the CDAC, several policies concerning conservation district programs and operations have been vetted through the committee and presented to the Commission for approval.

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to allow the appointment of Lisa Snider to the CDAC for the remainder of 2022. William Wentzel seconded; motion passed

GRACE Program Items of Discussion-

Lime Contracts Clarification-lime can only be applied for every 3 years for fields in the program. Farmers can alternate their fields to meet the maximum 50-acre limit. This will be reflected on the brochures and applications. No motion needed.

GRACE Cost Share review-a request was made to review the cost share rates prior to the 2022 application round. Fencing and fertilizer should be looked at prior to the 2022 application approvals. Question was asked about cost-sharing automatic waterers. Forestry practices are adjusted annually based on PA rates.

Conservation Plan Cost Sharing-PACD offers a cost share for conservation, Ag E&S, manure management plans and nutrient management plans. The district currently offers reimbursement for forest mgmt. plans and \$5,000 per certified nutrient management plans (CNMP) for NRCS programs. The district could cost share with the farmer through GRACE and

PACD to help cover the costs of planning. PACD allows \$6000 per landowner maximum and each plan max per plan \$1500 and PACD requires 20%. The district could cost share the 20% PACD requirement.

It was suggested that the district work with PACD and landowners to offer the PACD program to Greene County farmers. Phil Evans shared with the district the program funds available to assist landowners with planning.

A motion was made by Mike Belding to enter into an agreement with PACD Agriculture Plan Reimbursement Program to offer landowners assistance with planning projects. Greg Hopkins seconded; motion passed.

PA Agriculture Assistance Program

Growing Greener funds are being applied to a new Agriculture Assistance Program to help landowners with agriculture BMP's. This program is to be set up on the lines of the current DGLVR program. District will sign onto a delegation agreement and be given local control over BMP installation. This information was included in the meeting packet for the board to review.

Greene County Fair Queen Contest donation

This is to help sponsor the Fair Queen contest at the Greene County Fair. This will hopefully allow for a \$1000 scholarship and stipend for the State Fair contest, as well as assist with the competition.

Motion was made by Mike Belding to make a donation of \$250 towards the scholarship fund for the Greene County Fair Queen Contest, Greg Hopkins seconded; motion passed.

Fiscal Administrative position posting

Discussion over the direction of the fiscal manager position and how to post/advertise the position took place. Directors discussed what tasks and level the position should be posted. The directors would like to keep the position at a management grade level. No final motion was made as to how the position was to be posted.

A request was made by the Ms. Snider and Jim Cowell to compensate all district staff by paying them for a 40-hour work week until new staff can be hired and trained. A Human Resource action form would be needed by the district for the commissioner's consideration.

Motion was made by Greg Hopkins to send a request for the Greene County Commissioners consideration and Greene County HR to compensate all staff members, including the district director up to 40 hours a week at the discretion of the district director until new staff can be hired and trained, Dave Shipman seconded; motion passed.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Reminder the Greene County Fair is August 8-13th and if any board or associate board member could help out at the district booth it would be appreciated. Staff will be there all week Tuesday to Saturday generally 4-8 pm.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES

Dorian Seibel introduced himself as our new WCO for PA Fish and Boat Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session not needed.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be August 16, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 a.m. Glodenna Halstead seconded; motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Snider
District Director

<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 _____, 2022.
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
Secretary, Greene County Conservation District