



## **Greene County Conservation District**

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### **GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**July 16, 2019**

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Chairman Cowell called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. at Greene County Conservation District Conference Room, 22 West High St., Waynesburg, PA.

Mr. Mike Belding led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those in attendance were as follows:

#### **GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS**

Jim Cowell-Chairman; Commissioner Trader-Vice Chairman; Mike Belding-Secretary; Bill Wentzel-Public Director; Dave Shipman-Farmer Director. Associate Directors-Greg Hopkins; Becky Salosky; Carol Adamson; and Gay Thistle.

#### **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; Jared Zinn-Watershed Specialist; and April Morris-Fiscal Officer.

#### **GUEST AND COOPERATING AGENCIES**

Phil Evans and Mike Hamilton-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the June 18, 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**

### **President's Partner Recognition Breakfast-Canonsburg, PA-July 23, 2019**

Ms. Snider stated the event is Tuesday, July 23 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Any board member interested in attending would be representing the district. Mr. Schweiger and Mr. Basinger will be attending the event on behalf of the Conservation District.

### **DEP Southwest Farm Tour Somerset County-July 25, 2019**

Ms. Snider noted Mr. Schweiger and Ms. Hlatky will be attending this event to meet with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Farm Bureau.

### **Greene County Fair Ice Cream Booth**

Ms. Snider noted a listing in the Farm Bureau newsletter to volunteer for the ice cream booth at the Greene County Fair. Ms. Snider would like to participate in this event with staff and members of the board and associate board.

Ms. Snider asked Mr. Cowell how to be listed in the Farm Bureau newsletter as a sponsor. Mr. Cowell stated to contact Ms. Heather Gapen.

### **Rain Day Dunk Booth**

Mr. Hopkins was at a meeting and was asked to participate in the dunk booth and asked if anyone would like to volunteer. Mr. Schweiger will be volunteering for the event.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – Ms. Kozlowski added Carmichaels is receiving an additional \$6,100.00 donation from Chevron for NCS Envirothon. Lindsay noted tomorrow is the mock oral presentation and next week is the Cook off for the team. Anyone interested in attending the cook off will need to RSVP for the event.

**Zack Basinger** – Mr. Basinger has received 72 permits of which 58 have been approved. Zack noted there have been 4 positive West Nile Viruses in the state of Pennsylvania but nothing in Greene County. Mr. Basinger along with the interns will treat the fairgrounds before the Greene County Fair in August. Mr. Basinger has the interns monitoring ticks, though not many have been found. Zack will contact the DEP coordinator to check on the status of ticks in the area.

**Ben Schweiger** - Mr. Schweiger along with Ms. Hlatky have cleaned up the books for the GRACE Program.

**Sara Hlatky** - Ms. Hlatky has attended several farm visits and completed her nutrient management course and testing. Ms. Hlatky passed the nutrient management test.

**Jared Zinn** – Mr. Zinn added the assessment on South Fork Ten Mile Creek working towards the section 319 funding for that watershed. Mr. Zinn is working on submitting the information for these funds.

Growing Greener Grant update Mr. Henry's farm is expanding stream stabilization from a few hundred feet to over two thousand feet. New Growing Greener round is opening in November. Jared is hoping to have 4-5 landowners interested in participating.

Mr. Zinn noted Rain Barrel workshops have received an outstanding response and both workshops are full. Currently, there is a waiting list for cancellations or the next workshop.

**Lisa Snider** – Ms. Snider noted all Dirt and Gravel funds were spent on time for the previous period. Ms. Snider added there are 6-7 projects that still need completed. Ms. Snider, along with the QAB, inspected projects the last few weeks.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Dirt and Gravel Road Updates**

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Request for Assistance –**

1. Edward Snider-28 acres-Washington Township
2. Robert Patterson-236 acres-Greene Township
3. Patricia Darlene Moore-380+ acres-Center Township
4. Keith Golden & Glodenna Halstead-200 acres-Greene Township
5. Lisa Gordon-13.5 acres-Monongahela Township
6. David Knepp-112 acres-Morgan Township
7. Conrad Gull-198 acres-Cumberland/Jefferson Township
8. Mary B Phillips-25 acres-Franklin Township
9. William Van Devender-12 acres-Greene Township

Ms. Snider stated nine applications were received from GRACE Program applicants for request for assistance. Mr. Schweiger stated all nine applicants were suitable for assistance and farm visits were completed on each location.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to approve assistance for all nine applications listed above. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Mr. Cowell added a farmer, that makes hay on property owned by the Gamelands, asking about the GRACE Program. Mr. Cowell questioned if the farmer would be able to submit an application for the GRACE Program. Ms. Snider noted the farmer would need a letter stating who the operator of the property is and how many acres. Mr. Schweiger stated all paperwork and applications would go directly through the operator.

#### **PUC-ACT Funds \$59,827.65 2018 Reporting Year**

Ms. Snider received the PUC Funds for 2018 Reporting Year check. Ms. Snider contacted Mr. Bixler at Community Bank regarding adding funds to the CD the conservation district owns.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to deposit the PUC-ACT Funds into the Community Bank CD for 2018 Reporting Year and use these funds towards the GRACE Program. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **Dirt and Gravel Road Change Application Deadlines Aug 31 and Oct 31 Annually**

Ms. Snider spoke with several township supervisors regarding the deadlines for the Dirt and Gravel Road program applications. Several supervisors mentioned having two rounds of application deadlines for the program. Currently, the application deadline is October 31 with board approvals happening at the meeting in November. Ms. Snider asked they set up two deadlines, one ending August 31 with board approvals in September and one ending October 31 with board approvals in November. This would help with the inspection process, so not all sites will need checked in one day.

***A motion was made by Mike Belding to change application deadlines to include two deadlines; August 31 and October 31. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Ms. Snider added her bi-annual review is happening in October for Dirt and Gravel Roads.

#### **Nutrient Management Funding 2019-2020**

Ms. Snider included information for Ms. Hlatky's funding to be sourced through the Nutrient Management program. Ms. Snider stated Mr. Schweiger's hours were added in the amounts since he helps with manure management plans. Once Ms. Hlatky is fully certified she will be titled as the Nutrient Management Technician with Conservation District and Mr. Schweiger will be funded under Agriculture Conservation Technician (ACT).

***A motion was made by Bill Wentzel to submit funding application for Nutrient Management 2019-2020. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **District Mini-Grant Funding Sources**

Ms. Snider would like to use the Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 fees as funding sources for Mini-Grants, depending on the nature of the project. Storm water projects will be paid from Chapter 102 and stream projects will be paid from Chapter 105.

***A motion was made by Mike Belding to use appropriate funds based on project for Mini-Grant payments. Commissioner Trader seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **2018 GRACE Participant Status**

Mr. Schweiger stated some participants have been unable to complete projects and the deadline for 2018 GRACE Program is July 31, 2019. Other participants need to submit

receipts for payment to be issued. Participants who do not complete the project by the end of this time period can reapply for next year's GRACE Program.

Below is a list of 2018 payments so far:

\$11,008 Fertilizer	\$5,312 Watering Systems
\$14,942 Lime	\$3,742 Forestry Practices
\$2,237 Stream Crossing	\$40,304 Total Paid Reimbursements
\$6,784 Fencing	\$128,000 Funds Remaining

Mr. Schweiger stated lime and spring development projects had issues with completion due to weather. Ms. Snider stated current contracted participants can roll over for this upcoming GRACE Program year. Remaining practices being rolled over can be applied for with no additions. Once those practices are completed, participants can apply for new practices in 2020.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to rollover prior year GRACE applicants, unable to complete projects, to the new application period to finish projects previously approved. No other practices can be applied for if the current contract is not complete. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **Meeting Dates and Times**

Ms. Snider discussed changing times for the Greene County Conservation District Board Meetings. Lisa will email a poll to current board and associate board members for input on times of the meetings.

#### **Custom Key Chains for Grazing Sticks Estimates**

Ms. Snider and Mr. Fancher of Communications Development Co., LLC. had an idea to add a keychain to the grazing sticks with the district information. Two estimates were submitted, one for color keychain and one for brass keychain. The conservation office currently has 300 sticks available.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Trader to purchase brass keychains for grazing sticks. Mike Belding seconded. (Motion Passed)***

Mr. Hopkins suggested setting up a workshop on how to use grazing sticks. Mr. Hamilton stated a grazing stick workshop would be considered a field day for Project GRASS.

#### **2019 Pennsylvania AMR Conference**

Mr. Zinn received information regarding the AMR Conference. The conference lasts for one week and Mr. Zinn would like to attend a few of those days. Jared stated a scholarship is available to attend the event at no cost for the district.

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman for Mr. Zinn to attend the conference. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

Ms. Snider stated the conservation district will be set up at both Jacktown and Greene County Fairs. Ms. Snider is adding insulation, tin, and rough lumber to the inside of the conservation building located at the fairgrounds.

Mr. Zinn contacted Armstrong County to have the mobile environmental display set up at the Greene County Fair again this year.

### **REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES**

Mike Hamilton of NRCS is finishing contracts to submit for payments. Some contracts from the last two years have not been completed due to weather and supply issues.

Mr. Hamilton noted that NRCS will not give financial or technical assistants to farmers that produce anything regarding hemp.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for an executive session.

### **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

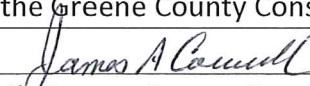
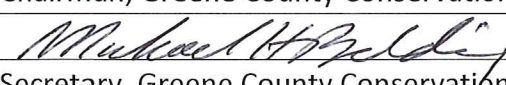
### **ADJOURNMENT**

*With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Shipman to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m. Bill Wentzel seconded. (Motion Passed)*

Respectfully submitted,



April Morris  
Fiscal Officer

<b><u>MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION</u></b>
We, the undersigned, agree that the minutes taken above were approved in their entirety by the Greene County Conservation District on <u>September 17</u> , 2019.
 Chairman, Greene County Conservation District
 Secretary, Greene County Conservation District