



## Greene County Conservation District

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

Tel: 724-852-5278 • Fax: 724-852-5341

email: [gccd@greencountypa.gov](mailto:gccd@greencountypa.gov)

Web: [www.greencountypa.gov](http://www.greencountypa.gov)

### GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2025

#### CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Those in attendance were as follows:

#### GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

James A. Cowell, Jr.-Chairman; Greg Hopkins-Vice Chairman; Dan Bazzoli-Treasurer; Glodenna Halstead-Secretary; David Shipman- Director; Rebecca Trigger-Director. Associate Directors: Dominick Barbetta, George Scull, Kevin White, William Hilverding, Jerry Day, Jim Willis, Doug Willis and Carol Adamson.

#### STAFF

Lisa Snider-District Director; Lindsay Kozlowski-District Manager; Tiffany Stewart-Watershed Specialist; Heather Yorko-Fiscal Officer.

#### GUESTS AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Ms. Snider introduced Ms. Julie Gatrell from the Planning Commission and Mr. William Hilverding, new associate board member. Justin Brackenrich-Penn State Agronomist; Michal Roupe-Farm Service Agency.

The Nominating Organizations were invited to attend today's meeting and a meet and greet luncheon immediately following to get a better understanding of our board's purpose and needs. Ms. Snider encouraged board members to stay after the meeting since they represent many of the nominating organizations.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the June 17, 2025 meeting minutes. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)*

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Yorko stated that she had written several checks since the meeting packets were mailed out. From the Community Bank Dirt and Gravel Road account a check to Richhill Township, final payment for Smokey Camp in the amount of \$11,023.32. From the First Federal General Fund account, a check to the County of Greene for July 2025 invoices that I have received to date in the amount of \$28,296.45. There were a couple of deposits to the First Federal General Fund for Soil

Test Kit payments totaling \$70.00 and an upcoming ACH deposit in the amount of \$8,868.11 for ACT Program reimbursement April-June 2025. From the Community Bank GRACE account one check in the amount of \$1,024.52 for lime reimbursement.

This morning, we received the Dirt and Gravel Road Replenishment email for ACH deposit date is September 18, 2025 so it has been entered and the transfer check was written this morning to be signed and this meeting and deposited on September 18, 2025.

***A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to approve the Treasurer's Report. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Snider requested that vehicle discussion be added to the agenda.

### **CORRESPONDENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Ms. Snider explained that there are several upcoming workshops coming up soon.

Full Depth Reclamation Site Tour-September 30<sup>th</sup> 10AM-Creek Road, Greene Township all of the Township and Boroughs have been invited to attend. They will start pulverizing the road around 7am to give him a chance to get started before our presentation begins.

PACD South West Region Meeting-September 30<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-12:00pm at Westmoreland Conservation District, Greensburg, PA. Ms. Snide will be unable to attend due to the Full Depth Reclamation Presentation.

Pasture Walk-Grass and Weed Management & Animal Nutrient presented by GCCD & Penn State Extension-October 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00pm-7:30pm at 337 Neff Road, Jefferson, PA

Equipment Demonstration Aerator-October 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00pm-7:30pm at 337 Neff Road, Jefferson, PA.

Southwest Project Grass 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference-October 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2025-Agenda was included in meeting packet.

Private Water Wells Presentation GCCD & Penn State Extension-October 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm-9:00pm at Greene County Fairgrounds Building# 10

Tire Clean-Up-November 13<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm-5:00pm at Greene County Fairgrounds-Registration deadline November 7<sup>th</sup> unless limit has been met prior

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Written reports were included in the meeting packets.

**Lindsay Kozlowski** – Ms. Kozlowski stated that she will be at the annual Dirt and Gravel Maintenance Training next week; also attended new administrative training for Dirt and Gravel with some possible policy changes. The Washington and Greene County Conservation Districts Engineering Workshop in November 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hopkins asked why the standard fees for permitting was so high, Ms. Kozlowski explained that we had one permit fee that was over \$15,000.

**Zack Basinger** – Mr. Basinger was unable to attend due to West Nile Virus activities, but Ms. Kozlowski had West Nile Virus updates for the board. We have had 25 positives this summer out of 302 samples which was 9,322 total mosquitos.

Mr. Basinger has caught 34 nymph ticks, 7 adults and 78 larvae out of which 3 have tested positive for Lymes, 3 have tested positive for Anaplasmosis and two tested positive for both; 14% positivity rate for both Lymes and Anaplasmosis. Mr. White asked if these rates were higher than last year and Ms. Kozlowski confirmed that the rates than our rates last year. Dr. Halstead stated that they are seeing higher rates in cattle and horses right now; the animals slow down, isolate from the herd and passes away depending on health and age of animal.

**Tiffany Stewart** – Ms. Stewart stated that she has been working with DEP on the Jefferson Bridge on a Bid Advertisement which should be going out next week. Hoping to have the project out to bid by the beginning of October and completed by the end of December.

**Dan Phillips** – Mr. Phillips unable to attend due to the Keystone Training for ACAP. Ms. Snider stated that Mr. Phillips is at Keystone Training the next three days. Mr. Phillips is working on the Saurborn and Bellicini projects, most of the fencing is done, they are working on the stream crossing so they should be starting the building, but they are going to be behind on their work schedule.

The Judy project is done and they should be wrapping up their invoices for final payment.

**Heather Yorko** –Ms. Yorko stated that she had begun preparations for the Annual Banquet by securing Valley View Farm for the venue and Back Bay Catering for catering on December 10, 2025.

**Lisa Snider**- Ms. Snider stated that her and Mr. Phillips are going to be getting the GRACE contracts ready and signing dates scheduled.

Ms. Snider had interviews with one person showing up out of eight, but she has accepted another job in environmental resources.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Request for Assistance**

Oak Creek Ranch-Tyler Dubovich-Washington Township-103 Acres

Misty Valley Farm-Victoria J. Collier-Franklin Township-75 Acres

John E. Howard-Dunkard Township-140 Acres

Shirley Howard-Dunkard Township-25 Acres

Deborah & Glenn Adamson-Greene Township-32 Acres

Nevillewood Acre-Daniel Ranayhossaini-Wayne Township-67 Acres

Donald Jacobs-Richhill Township-76 Acres

John E. Smith Jr.-Center Township-365 Acres

Ed and June Cesa-Perry Township-245 Acres

Sharon Smith-Center Township-133 Acres

John Orndoff-Center Township-100 Acres

Ms. Snider stated that all of the requests for assistance have had a recent farm visit with Mr. Phillips.

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to approve the eight farms listed requests for assistance. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)***

#### **2025 GRACE Funding**

Ms. Snider stated that we had 65-70 applications this year and she attributes most of the increase to Russ Gibbs work with the Forestry Program. Information for all GRACE practices include Lime, Fertilizer, Watering Systems, Fencing and Forestry were included in meeting packets with a total cost of \$288,080.86 for next year. Some of the soil test kit information has not been received at this time so the totals for some lime and fertilizer reimbursements are set at the maximum amount possible for now and will be adjusted as information is received.

Mr. Cowell asked how much money had been allocated last year for the GRACE Program. Ms. Snider stated that last year the board allocation \$224,000, but we have only spent \$142,000 so far, the reimbursement period ends December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Snider had gathered information for the board for GRACE funds over the last several years.

The board awarded \$223,000 in 2021, \$150,000 in 2022, \$144,000 in 2023 and \$224,000 in 2024. Those four years the board spent \$225,000 on GRACE which was PUC Funds; averaging \$56,000 a year. The board should have around \$20,000 monies remaining due to practices not being completed.

Ms. Snider writes UGWF Special Project since 2021 has paid for \$230,000 for the GRACE Program. The board has contracted \$742,000 in those four years, \$286,000 were never finished. Even if the farmer does not complete the projects, a farm visit has been completed and we have had discussions on what is needed by the Greene County Farmers.

**1. Jim Cowell GRACE Application—Jim Cowell abstained from voting**

*A motion was made by Greg Hopkins to approve Jim Cowell's 2025 GRACE Application. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**2. Dan Bazzoli GRACE Application—Dan Bazzoli abstained from voting**

*A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve Dan Bazzoli's 2025 GRACE Application. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**3. Glodenna Halstead GRACE Application—Glodenna Halstead abstained from voting**

*A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve Glodenna Halstead's 2025 GRACE application. Dan Bazzoli seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**4. Dave Shipman GRACE Application—Dave Shipman abstained from voting**

*A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve Dave Shipman's 2025 GRACE application. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**5. All 2025 GRACE Applications Excluding GCCD Directors**

*A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve 2025 GRACE Applications Excluding the GCCD Directors. Dave Shipman seconded. (Motion Passed)*

Ms. Gatrell asked Ms. Snider to forward GRACE information that she can share with clients.

**PUC Reporting Year 2024 Funds-\$75,280.81 GRACE**

Ms. Snider stated the district has received the 2024 PUC Funds and needs to know if the board wants to designate these funds for the 2025 GRACE Program; if so, the district needs a motion from the board.

*A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to designate the 2024 PUC Funds for the 2025 GRACE Program. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)*

**2026 Budget Committee Meeting-October 8<sup>th</sup> 10AM-District Office**

Ms. Snider would like to have a Budget Committee meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 10AM at the district office, if that works for the committee members. Mr. Hopkins asked if the meeting could be earlier in the day and everyone agreed on 8:00am. Mr. Cowell added Mr. Bazzoli to the Budget Committee, he will attend the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting in person or via teams.

**2026 Forestry GRACE Cost Share Rate Change**

Ms. Snider sent out the cost share increases that Mr. Gibbs had sent to her thinking that the changes were for this year's forestry practices; this increases would be for the 2026 Cost Share Rates. The decision was made to wait and have this discussion at a meeting that Mr. Gibbs is able to attend.

Mr. Cowell stated that the prices for everything has gone up and that the district needs to review cost share rates for all of the other practices as well. The decision was made to have an Ag Committee meeting to determine possible rate increases and discuss at a later meeting.

### **SCC Per Diem Policy Comments**

Ms. Snider stated that the State Conservation Commission has released their policy on Per Diem for Conservation District's directors and are asking for comments about paying per diem. It is the decision of each district individually if they want to pay their directors per diem. If the directors decide to receive payment for their services to the board, a policy will have to be written as to how that per diem is paid, where it is being paid from and how the funds are gathered. Fundraising will probably be necessary if the decision is made to pay per diem. Several board members expressed that they felt that they should not be paid for their time spent on the board.

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to send a comment the Greene County Conservation District Board is opposed to receiving Per Diem for their service. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **Approval UGWF Special Project Funds for GRACE Program**

Ms. Snider stated that there is a list of UGWF Salary and Benefits, Administrative Assistance and Farmland Preservation Easement Support projected monies for next year; the District's Cost Share for this year was \$341,177.

***A motion was made by Rebecca Trigger to approve the GRACE Program Special Project. Glodenna Halstead seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **Reimburse Community Bank General Fund \$12,053.78 from GRACE**

Ms. Snider explained that when the district opened the GRACE account and were waiting for checks there were several farmers that needed paid so she directed Ms. Yorko to pay them from the Community Bank General Fund; the checks totaled \$12,053.78. This would be the GRACE account reimbursing the General Fund for those payments.

***A motion was made by Dave Shipman to not repay the Community Bank General Fund for the 2024 GRACE payments totaling \$12,053.78. Rebecca Trigger seconded. (Motion Passed)***

### **Vehicle Discussion**

Ms. Snider stated that she had received an email on Monday because it's the time of year that the county leases come up and our vehicles are getting old; 2013 Silverado has 111,000+ & 2016 Explorer has 75,000+ miles. The district does need all of the vehicles especially in the summer time when the interns are working on West Nile.

These vehicles are owned by the district and would have to go in the Spring Vehicle Sale when we decide to buy a new vehicle.

At this time the board decided to wait and look into leasing a new vehicle when the time came that they need replaced.

### **CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH**

Newsletter

Full Depth Reclamation Presentation

Pasture Walk and Equipment Demo Aerator

Private Water Wells Presentation

Tire Clean Up

Awardees for the Annual Banquet have been set and the aerial photos will be taken soon.

Rebecca Trigger stated that on the Saturday, November 22, 2025 at 11:00am that SWPWO (Southwestern PA Woodland Owners) is hosting Legacy and Estate Planning for the Woodland & Farmland Owner. If interested please contact Rebecca Trigger at 724-986-8334 or [rtrigger100@gmail.com](mailto:rtrigger100@gmail.com) to register.

**REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES**

**Justin Brackenrich Penn State Extension**-stated Ms. Snider did a good job discussing the upcoming field day. There is an upcoming field day in Washington County looking at liquid lime, pelletized lime and Ag lime differences and effectiveness.

Mr. Brackenrich wanted to thank the districts for the recent referrals from the Conservation District which has resulted in more farm visits than in the past.

**Michal Roup Farm Service Agency**-stated County committee elections coming up soon but not for Greene County, however, next year Greene County will be needing a new representative since Bill Cree who is no longer eligible to represent Greene County.

Fall acreage reporting is coming up with a November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Mr. Cowell said that it's important for farmers to fill out the drought report by Tuesday or Wednesday because the reports come out on Thursday. When asked for the website for the drought reports and Ms. Roup said google US drought monitor to complete weekly drought report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session needed.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

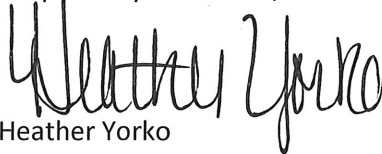
The next regular meeting is October 21, 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT**

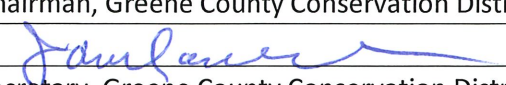
***A motion was made by Dan Bazzoli to adjourn the meeting at 11:28am. Greg Hopkins seconded. (Motion Passed)***

**Meet and Greet Luncheon with Nominating Organizations**

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Yorko  
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 October 21, 2025.
Chairman, Greene County Conservation District

Secretary, Greene County Conservation District
