

**SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 10, 2016
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. The November 10, 2016 board meeting was held at the SCD office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Dvon Duncan led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ray Lafferty opened the meeting with prayer.

Supervisors Present

Virgel Caldwell	Curtis Murphy
John Farrell	Dennis Bailey
Travis Prince	Oscar Vecellio
Don Windon	Randy Prince
Ray Lafferty	Dvon Duncan

Supervisors Absent

Carl Mullins

Others Present

Becky Floyd, WVCA	Marty Walker, WVCA
Dave Parkulo, SCD	Dave Stewart, PCWA
Bill Harris, NRCS	Kim Fisher, WVCA

Randy Prince moved to approve the October 13, 2016 board meeting minutes as mailed. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.

Southern Conservation District (SCD) Financial Reports

Randy Prince moved to approve the SCD October financial reports as prepared by Akers and Associates. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the SCD October Accounts Receivable report as prepared by Akers and Associates. Randy Prince seconded. A discussion was held on the delinquent invoice for Kenneth Sifford. Virgel suggested the District write off the \$75.00 balance due to the age of the invoice and no action taken by Mr. Sifford to pay the invoice. **Motion carried to approve the report. Randy Prince moved to dismiss Kenneth Sifford's delinquent invoice totaling \$75.00 with the motion including any future work done for Mr. Sifford will be paid in full prior to the work beginning or equipment being rented. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.** Virgel will contact Akers and Associates to ask them to take the invoice off the records.

WV Conservation Agency District Manager Report

Becky Floyd presented the October WVCA co-administered financial reports for board approval. Randy Prince moved to approve the October co-administered financial reports as prepared and presented by WVCA staff. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.

Becky presented the following SCD invoices for payment approval from co-administered funds:

SCD-WVCA	Inv. 4356	fall mowing	\$800.00
SCD-WVCA	Inv. 4357	fall mowing	\$750.00

SCD-WVCA	Inv. 4358	fall mowing	\$2,006.00
SCD-WVCA	Inv. 4359	fall mowing	\$800.00
SCD-WVCA	Inv. 4360	fall mowing	\$850.00
SCD-WVCA	Inv. 4361	fall mowing	\$1,211.00
SCD-WVCA	Inv. 4362	fall mowing	\$1,000.00
SCD-WVCA	Inv. 4363	fall mowing	\$800.00
SCD-WVCA	Inv. 4364	fall mowing	\$1,200.00
SCD-WVCA	Inv. 4365	fall mowing	\$2,295.00
SCD-WVCA	Inv. 4366	fall mowing	\$2,146.00

Dvon Duncan moved to approve payment of the invoices pending approval from Judith Lyons. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.

Becky presented the following Letter of Request for board approval:

WVCA Emergency Enhancement Program Funds \$5,888.75

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the LOR as presented. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.

Becky reported the FY16 agreed upon procedures should begin mid-December.

Southern CD Crew Foreman Report

Dave Parkulo reported the crew has completed most of the fall mowing on the Mercer County dams, completed 319 work in GVCD at the trout hatchery, working on pond cleanouts for the cost share program in addition to other ponds in the area, nearing completion on spreading lime for the Ag cost share program, started work on the 319 project at the YMCA sports complex and completed an invasive species project for Mark Blumenstein and Terri Wontrobski, landowners in Alderson. Marty Walker read the thank you received from Mr. Blumenstein for the work completed on his farm. Dvon requested Dave provide a written report on monthly work completed to be attached to the minutes each month.

Virgel Caldwell discussed the tractor bids the Equipment Committee reviewed prior to the board meeting. The committee will look at the tractors and review the bids closer prior to making a suggestion to the board. Virgel asked Becky to place this on the December agenda.

Dave reported he will begin work on the barn roof removal job for the Fayette County Farmland Protection Authority early next week. Dave stated he cannot guarantee the walls can be saved during the 7-hour work time they allotted him to remove the roof.

WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report

Marty gave an update on the FY17 program. The SCD AgEP Committee met earlier in the month to discuss the sign up period for January and the programs that will be offered during the sign up. Marty asked the board to approve January 9-20, 2017 as the second sign up period with the exclusion of January 16 due to it being a holiday. **Dennis Baily moved to approve the sign up dates as presented. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.** Marty will place the sign up information in the upcoming district newsletter.

Marty discussed the cost share programs the committee is reviewing for FY18 AgEP program, which include a pollinator practice and heavy use area practice. The board will look at these practices in more depth.

Marty Walker presented the following completed AgEP contracts for payment approval:

Lime

Curtis Murphy	\$2,000
Virgel Caldwell	\$458.50
Eddie A. Walker	\$919.00
Robert (Bob) L. Welch	\$913.50
Charles Carter	\$1,550.00
John Scott Jr.	\$1,287.50
Harold Gunter	\$400.00
John D. McLaughlin	\$245.00
Jeffrey K. McLaughlin	\$500.00
Delmar Harvey	\$1,250.00
Carrie Ciliberti	\$206.75
Michael White	\$400.00
Jason Angell	\$2,000.00
Zina Angell	\$2,000.00

Virgel Caldwell asked Dvon Duncan to carry out the vote due to him recusing himself from the room since he has a completed contract for approval. Curtis Murphy also recused himself from the room due to his completed contract being approved. **Ray Lafferty moved to approve the completed AgEP lime contracts as presented. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.** Virgel and Curtis returned to the meeting room.

Marty presented the following pond cleanout completed contracts for approval:

Suzann Shumaker	\$2,000.00
James F White	\$1,080.00

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the pond cleanout contracts for payment approval as presented. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.

Marty presented the following pasture division fence completed contracts for payment approval:

Virgel Caldwell	\$375.00
Pate Enterprises Inc.	\$1,040.00
Jerry Bennett	\$2,000.00

Virgel Caldwell turned to the meeting over to Dvon Duncan to carry out the vote due to having a completed contract for approval for payment. **Ray Lafferty moved to approve the payments as presented. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.** Virgel returned to the meeting room.

Marty presented the following exclusion fence completed contracts for payment approval:

Robert Duncan	\$787.50
Richard Pate	\$2,000.00

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the payments as presented. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.

Dvon Duncan discussed the Elk relocation project the SCD is working on with NRCS as a FOCUS project and the timeline for this to be a reality in our area. Dvon suggested replacing the Elk relocation project with a “heavy use area project” for farms located in the direct drainage area of the Guyandotte River possibly including a partnership with the Guyan CD. Dvon requested this be placed on the December board meeting agenda for further review and discussion.

Marty presented the following emergency AgEP applications for fencing cost share for board review and approval:

Edsel Armentrout	Water Exclusion and Pasture Division Fence	\$1,263.75
Mark Smailes	Water/Woodland Exclusion and Pasture Division Fence	\$1,500.00
John Farrell	Pasture Division and Water Exclusion Fence	\$1,125.00
Randy Prince	Pasture Division and Exclusion Fence	\$2,000.00

Kim Fisher reported WVCA approval letters have been issued to John Farrell and Randy Prince. The board accepted the approval of the two supervisor emergency AgEP applications as presented by WVCA staff. Randy Prince commended Marty for her work on the emergency AgEP program.

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the emergency AgEP applications for Edsel Armentrout and Mark Smailes as presented based upon receipt of funds from the WVCA. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.

Visiting Agency Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Bill Harris reviewed the NRCS field office report. Bill discussed more farmers coming to the district in the future for AgEP programs due to changes in the NRCS programs and commended the District for their work on the cost share program. Bill gave an update on the Princeton office and stated for now he is working out of the Beckley field office.

American Chestnut Association

Dvon Duncan stated representatives were unable to attend today but should be attending the December board meeting. A discussion was held on the preparation of an area for chestnut seedlings to be planted if they arrive in December. Dave Parkulo will work with Dvon on the area behind the SCD building as discussed at the October board meeting.

Dvon reported the SCD has received two American Chestnut trees for the memorial planting site at the YMCA sports complex. Dave Stewart stated he has the trees at this time and will work with SCD and the

American Chestnut Association to complete the planting. Dvon encouraged the group to be sure and have publicity coverage on the planting when they are ready.

WV Conservation Agency

Kim Fisher discussed the partnership awards luncheon and stated Brian Farkas would like input from Districts on a proposal to change the luncheon from October to the annual Ag Day at the legislature. This is being discussed as a possibility to have a greater turnout from district supervisors who in return would invite local legislators to attend the luncheon to give lawmakers an opportunity to see the work put into farming by local farmers.

Kim reviewed the 2017 WVACD meeting dates and locations.

Kim discussed the AgEP timeline in the monthly report for FY17 and FY18.

Kim reviewed the written report from Judith Lyons for the watershed section. Becky stated a copy has been provided to each supervisor. The review included the complaint received from Joe Lester on the WVCA determination on his site. Dvon stated they had a similar site in Wyoming County and Brian Farkas reported a copy of the agreement in another District with their county commission would be provided to Dvon. Kim will check on the copy of the agreement.

Piney Creek Watershed Association

Dave Steward reported on the ground breaking ceremony held at the YMCA sports complex on October 13, 2016 for the 319 project underway at this time.

Supervisor Reports

Randy Prince discussed the 2017 State Fair Dairy Goat Show and the request for assistance submitted by Susie Mills, president of the mountain state dairy goat association. The budget for the show was reviewed by the board with a lengthy discussion held on the possibility of each district helping to sponsor the show. Randy stated Ms. Mills said she had contacted each district but has only had a response from the SCD. **Oscar Vecellio moved to approve a one-time donation of \$500.00 from the CDO account with the caveat that Ms. Mills send a written request to each district requesting assistance with the program cost for the next year. Dvon Duncan seconded. The motion carried.**

Dvon asked the Mountain RC&D office space be moved to the December board meeting agenda.

Dvon read the letter received from Friends of Milam Creek requesting donation of any unused office equipment or furniture. The group discussed the fax machine, printer and old telephones that are not being used at this time by the District. **Oscar Vecellio moved to donate surplus office equipment or furniture to Friends of Milam Creek. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried with Dvon Duncan recusing herself from the vote due to serving on the Friends of Milam Creek board.** Dave Parkulo will work with Dvon on items being donated.

Virgel Caldwell encouraged committee chairs to schedule committee meetings at the SCD location.

Dvon stated Mountain RC&D will be meeting on November 17 to discuss revising their funding request to WVCA for assistance with the proposed Twin Branch dam project due to liability concerns. Dvon will have more information on this following the November 17 meeting.

Dvon asked the board to consider a \$500.00 membership to the American Chestnut Foundation. A discussion followed on the benefits of the membership. The board agreed to place this on the December agenda for further discussion.

Dvon reported on attending the November 4-5 state Women in Ag Conference held at Glade Springs Resort. Dvon thanked Becky for preparing the display for the event.

Dvon discussed meeting Kent Leonhardt. She had the opportunity to hear his ideas to get agriculture added back to the school curriculum changing STEM to STEAM. Dvon is working on a contact list of schools and teachers in the SCD counties. She would like to see a high tunnel constructed at a McDowell County School if the grant opportunity would arise again from NRCS. The board discussed sending Mr. Leonhardt a letter congratulating him on his recent win in the election and offering assistance with conservation education in the SCD counties. Dvon will work on the letter with Becky for Virgel's review and signature. The group discussed doing the same for all newly elected officials including governor elect Jim Justice.

Dvon reported 312 students attended the October 20 Wyoming County Water Festival and thanked the board for the SCD backpacks and water bottles donated for the event.

Dvon thanked Kim Fisher for the SAMARA pins and stated Wyoming and Summers County schools will be participating in the SAMARA program this year.

Dvon questioned how the board can help Carl Mullins in finding a representative to fill the vacant supervisor position in McDowell County. The board agreed to advertise again for the vacancy and to notify the McDowell County Commission requesting their assistance. Becky will prepare the newspaper information for publishing this month in hopes that responses can be received by the December board meeting to submit to the State Conservation Committee at their January meeting.

The group discussed holding a legislative breakfast in the spring to meet with new legislators to highlight SCD programs. Becky was asked to place this on the December agenda.

Virgel reminded board members of the November 15 OM&R meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell, Dvon Duncan
Chairman/Secretary