

W e s t e r n
C o n s e r v a t i o n D i s t r i c t
Board Meeting Minutes – December 20, 2016

Supervisors Present:

Charles Lipscomb, Chairman
Robert Siebel, Treasurer
Oscar Harris, Vice-Chairman
James Withrow, Secretary
Donald Stephens
Jeremy Grant

Associate Supervisor:

Bob Baird

Supervisors Absent:

Others:

Kim Fisher, WVCA
Jackie Byars, NRCS
Mark Buchanan, WVCA
Ian Smith, WVCA
Sherry Pearson, WVCA

Call to Order:

Chairman Lipscomb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the district office located in the Mason County USDA Service Center, Point Pleasant.

Chairman Lipscomb called this “Partnership Appreciation Day” as proclaimed by the supervisors. In appreciation to the partnership staff for their assistance throughout the year. He said supervisors are providing lunch today for all USDA and Agency staff.

Agenda

- *The agenda was adopted on a Siebel/Grant motion, passed.*

Approval of Minutes:

- *Minutes of November were approved on a Harris/Stephens motion, passed.*

Supervisors Travel & Per Diem:

Treasurer Siebel provided the following report:

Mileage: \$231.51 Meals: \$44.42 Per Diem: \$480 Total: \$755.93

Treasurer’s report was accepted with total payroll for supervisors of \$755.93 approved on a Harris/Grant motion, passed.

Financial Reports:

District General and Grant Funds report was presented by Dennis Brumfield, CPA.

WCD Restricted Funds Report was presented as prepared by WVCA. November Financial Reports will be filed for audit. A copy of Co-Administered Funds Cash Balance Report and invoices for payment were reviewed by DM.

Financial Transactions: A list of December invoices were presented for payment approval by DM.

- *On a Harris/Siebel motion, the General and Grant funds financial transactions for December were approved as presented, motion passed.*

Potato Demonstration- Oscar Harris, Committee Chairman

Oscar reported on the teleconference saying there was not much new information. He proposed that the WCD proceed as in the past two years. The funding is already in the WCD to be used for the project, unless told otherwise he suggests we proceed as planned. Ian reported that he had been in contact with potato producers and had a listing of how many were interested in the program for 2017, how many acres, and varieties of seed they would prefer.

- ***Approved the following payments on a Harris/Withrow motion, motion passed.***

John Payne	\$66.55	Fertilizer
John Payne	\$18.75	Cover Crop

Agriculture Enhancement Program – Oscar Harris, Committee Chairman

The committee met with a goal of getting contracts approved and out in July. A suggested sign up date beginning April 15th through June 30th was mentioned. There were also concerns about a two month plus sign up period due to the volume of applications that will require a site visit and ranking when funding cannot keep up with the demand. The State Committee will not be approving the program for 2017 until their April meeting. An issue was raised if that would give the field staff enough time to prepare the documents for use on the 15th. A form has been adopted for inquiries about conservation programs. This form will be completed by the landowner and will initiate a farm visit. In turn a conservation plan will be developed for the landowner with farm maps, soils information, etc. ready to be ranked for any practices they are eligible to apply for. This is to help eliminate all the farm visits in such a short window during AgEP signups. Also, it was decided that unsuccessful applicants will receive a letter from the district in January 2017 letting them know of their status with the AgEP practice. The letter sent out last year was looked over for changes.

On a Harris/Stephens motion the board delayed action until January to check in to time frames and come up with a recommendation, motion carried.

- ***Payments: Approved the following AgEP Payments on a Harris/Grant motion, passed.***

Bruce Williams	\$ 756.00	Lime
Carroll Fisher	\$3,997.50	EF
Charles Young	\$ 836.22	Lime
Charles Zuspan	\$2,100.00	Lime
Dorothy Moles	\$2,100.00	Lime
Eddie Stoffell	\$ 970.20	Lime
Greg Parsons	\$ 882.00	Lime
Joe Hatfield	\$ 189.00	Lime
Joe Hatfield	\$ 625.00	Nutrient Management
Roger Hatcher	\$ 795.06	Lime
Roy Mayes	\$1,018.50	Lime
Roy McClure	\$2,198.50	Water System
Travis Brotherton	\$ 840.00	Lime
Walter Roush	\$1,500.00	Division Fence
Nicole Dean	\$1,900.00	Division Fence
Shane Loomis	\$1,110.00	Division Fence

Watershed Structures – Judith Lyons, Watershed Manager, South Area

Judith has been in contact with Columbia Gas regarding easements on Mill Creek Site 13. Site 13 is owned by the Jackson County Commission with most records being kept by the Commission. The WCD has not received a reply from the State Committee regarding taking over the OM&R responsibilities for our seven dams. Kim said it did not make the WVSCC agenda in October.

319 Non- Point Source – Mark Buchanan, Conservation Specialist

- Mark reported on the Saunders Project with three water crossings being installed to NRCS specifications. A question was asked if this was for cattle. Mark replied the crossings were installed for sheep and goats.

Report of Cooperating Agencies:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Jackie Byars, District Conservationist –

She spoke about the thirteen-mile creek target area grazing and cover crop program approved by the state office. As requested by the AgEP Committee Jackie worked on the inquiry form presenting a copy for review. It was suggested the form be called a “Conservation Program Interest” form. And to make it clear it is not an official sign up for any federal, state, or district program. She had ordered in some USDA calendars for supervisors and to give out at the district workshop.

Kim Fisher, Area Director, WVCA

She reported that the Agency is dedicated to the AgEP program and providing \$880,000 as in the past despite budget cut backs. DM’s are required to attend the February 22nd AgDay at the Capitol. The WVACD quarterly is at Flatwoods January 17-18th.

- *The WCD board meeting was changed to January 24th at 9 a.m. on a Harris/Siebel motion, motion passed.*

Written Reports:

Charles Copeland, WV Division of Forestry

Correspondence –

- Update from Timothy VanReenen, WVACD President

Unfinished Business

- Agriculture Workshop – March 30th
Supervisors were asked to suggest topics for this year’s workshop.

New Business

- **WCD Plan of Work Review** – Supervisors review the FY17 Plan of Work
- **Supervisors Legislative Contacts** – It was decided to wait until January for supervisors to contact their delegates and senators to invite them to the AgDay breakfast.

Report of District Supervisors:

GKRC&D – Bob Siebel attended the Great Kanawha RC&D Council Meeting representing Putnam County.

LKRD&D – Oscar gave a report that the Gilmore Trail is finished in Jackson County.

With no further business to come before the board, Chairman Lipscomb adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.

Secretary

Recorded by: Sherry Pearson, DM