

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 – **February 21, 2017**

Supervisors Present:

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

Supervisors Absent:

Others:

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

Call to Order:

Chairman Lipscomb called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The meeting was held at the district office located in the Mason County USDA Service Center, Point Pleasant.

Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes:

- *Minutes of January were approved on a Siebel/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. January 2017 Financial Reports will be filed for audit. A copy of Co-Administered Funds Cash Balance Report and invoices submitted for payment were reviewed by DM.

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

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

Supervisors Travel & Per Diem:

Treasurer Siebel provided the following report:

Mileage: \$384.16 Meals: \$65.70 Per Diem: \$570.00 Potato: \$60 Total: \$1,1219.22

- **Treasurer’s report was accepted with total payroll for supervisors of \$1,279.22 approved on a Harris/Withrow motion, passed.**

Report of Guests:

Brian Farkas, Executive Director, WVCA – via video

Brian wants to move forward on the WCD’s request for the Agency to take over the OM&R responsibilities. He wants to make sure he understands the WCD’s request. This venture doesn’t interfere with the CD’s control of the local structure. He reiterated its not taking control away from the district. He was correct in thinking the WCD feels it’s more efficient for the State to do the OM&R. He said WCD is the first CD to essentially remove itself from the OM&R process. He asked the board to appoint two supervisors to work with him on details of what we are asking and to define the Agency’s responsibility. The role and responsibility of the state and district need to be clarified. Supervisors Harris and Stephens will meet with Brian and Gene Saurborn, Watershed Director to draft an agreement. Brian stated this will not affect the budget at all and the WCD will keep the money that is already in the district. WCD will pay the bills with the state doing the negotiations with the contractor. Brian sees this request as the district saying why be the middle man, when bids need to go to Agency for rules established by law. If the Agency handles the bids, it will save time and unnecessary steps. It

does not usurp local control. It just streamlines awarding of contracts for a more efficient process. It was decided the meeting will be held in Ripley. The date and time to be announced.

John David Johnson, Extension Agent, WVU Extension, Jackson County

He reported on a survey he conducted in Capitol, Little Kanawha and Western CD areas looking at needs for the next five years. Approximately 75% of the results came from grazing and beef cattle and the rest were horticulture. A need for facilities to sort and vaccinate cattle for smaller farms, aging and handicap farmers was discussed. He noted that the average farmer is over age 65. A portable corral would cost approximately \$20,000. John David would like to request \$2,000 from three CD's and get the rest of the funds through grant programs. He asked for WCD to consider making four payments of \$500 per quarter as Capitol CD had agreed. It would allow for more rented ground, crop residue, land use, erosion, compaction and rotational issues to be addressed. He volunteered to handle the management with a \$200 deposit and a \$100 rental. The funds would be used for repairs and replacement costs.

Dan Shockey, County Executive Director, Mason County Farm Service Agency

Dan addressed the Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program (CREP). There are four conservation plans that have been developed for CREP practices. They are Donald Hussell, Dave McClure, Nannette Sowards and Randall Stephens. The district provides an incentive payment to landowners as a signing bonus for the program.

- *On a Harris/Stephens motion the board authorized Chairman Lipscomb to sign the CREP conservation plans.*

Potato Demonstration Pilot Project- Oscar Harris, Committee Chairman

- The sign up resulted in 17 acres, three new producers, with 10 returning producers.
- Potatoes will be distributed near the end of March.

Agriculture Enhancement Program – Oscar Harris, Committee Chairman

- Recommendations should be submitted to the Chairman for changes in the 2017 program.
 - *Payments were approved on the Harris/Withrow motion, passed.*

Jason Knight	\$280.00	Cover Crop
Jordan Roush	\$520.00	Cover Crop
David McClung	\$400.00	Cover Crop
Bobby Cales	\$942.50	Water System
Terry A. Gordon	\$1,638.00	Lime

319 Non- Point Source – Mark Buchanan, Conservation Specialist

- He has visited and reviewed two Sediment and Erosion Control sites in Putnam County.

Chairman Lipscomb requested that Mark provide an overview of the 319 Program at the March meeting.

Report of Cooperating Agencies:

Kim Fisher, Area Director, WVCA – via videoconferencing

She referred to the WVACD report for March. It's time to be looking at conservation farm candidates. The April WVACD quarterly will be April 17th. She mentioned an email from Brian that was just received saying the potato report was not very accurate and asking that additional information be provided for a report.

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

Reported that Greg Stone, Assistant Conservationist has been detailed to DC starting the first of March.

Michael Witt will be acting. EQIP new and re-submitted applications total 174. There were 104 sent back all the paperwork and 70 are still pending. The focused initiatives of cover crop and 13 mile creek has not had a

lot of sign ups only seven or eight nowhere near spending what has been allocated. CSP ended sign up with no applications in Jackson County and thirteen in Mason and Putnam.

Written Reports:

Judith Lyons – Watershed Manager South Area, WVCA

Annual inspection will be held May 11 and 12 in the WCD area.

Charles Copeland, WV Division of Forestry

Correspondence –

- No action needed.

Unfinished Business

- AgCon Day - Appointments have been made for AgConservation Day with senators and delegates. Supervisors will distribute packets tomorrow that showcase the WCD and the Agency’s needs. The display has already been sent. The new self-standing posters are being used.
- Agriculture Workshop – March 30th
Plans are finalized with speakers and topics. Flyers were ready for handout.
 - *On a Harris/Siebel motion the board approved for the DM to make the arrangements for lunch, passed.*

New Business

- Audit Review –
Copies of the FY16 Audit were distributed by email to all supervisors for review.
 - *On a Stephens motioned to accept the audit, with a Siebel second, motion passed.*
- WCD Personnel Plan –
 - *The WCD Personnel Plan for FY2018 was reviewed and approved on a Harris/Withrow motion, passed.*

Report of District Supervisors:

GKRC&D – Bob Siebel attended the Great Kanawha RC&D Council Meeting representing Putnam County. He emailed his report to all supervisors and gave his report on the RC&D activities.

DM – Sherry reminded supervisors of the Century Farm program with applications due by April 1st. Also the WVACD Scholarship applications are due to the WCD by March 1st.

With no further business to come before the board, Chairman Lipscomb adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Secretary

Recorded by: Sherry Pearson, DM