

MINUTES

Western Conservation District Board Meeting

April 25, 2017

In Attendance

Supervisors: Charles Lipscomb, Chairman; Oscar Harris, Vice-Chairman, Robert Siebel, Treasurer; Donald Stephens

Absent: Jeremy Grant, Jim Withrow

Others: Brian Farkas, Executive Director, WVCA and Jennifer Skaggs, WVCA via skype; Jackie Byars, NRCS; Sherry Pearson, WVCA

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Conservation District Board was called to order at 9 a.m. on April 25, 2017 at the district Office in Point Pleasant by Chairman Lipscomb.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

The minutes of the previous meeting approved as presented on a Stephens/Harris motion, carried.

Financial Reports

District CPA, Dennis Brumfield reviewed the financial reports for the General account and Grant funds. District Manager presented WCD Restricted funds report as prepared by WVCA. Financial transactions for the current month were reviewed for payment approval. Chairman Lipscomb stated the financial reports will be filed for audit. **On a Harris/Siebel motion invoices were approved for payment, motion carried.** Two certificate of deposits at City National are coming due. **Harris motioned to authorize the Treasurer to check on interest rates for the CD's and report back, second by Stephens, motion carried. After a brief discussion, Treasurer Siebel made a motion to authorize the Chairman and another supervisor to renew the CD's second by Harris, motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report - Bob Siebel presented the travel and per diem expense report. **On a Harris/Stephens motion the Treasurer's report and payroll of \$2,3011.44 was approved, motion carried.**

Report of Supervisors

Robert Siebel, Great Kanawaha RC&D Council, Putnam County

- ♦ Bob provided a written report via email and reviewed that report at the meeting.

Oscar Harris, District Director, WVACD Quarterly

- ♦ Education Committee request that Century Farm are due by June 1st. They also passed a motion to recognize 150-200-year-old farms. Those that want to work the State Fair need to contact Susan McCormick at 304-645-7999 to register for a hotel room. Next year scholarship applications will be submitted directly to the WVACD. AgDay has been set for February 7, 2018.

Programs

Watershed Structures MOU #1023-04- Memorandum of Understanding between WCD and WVCA with the purpose of streamlining the annual operation and maintenance activities. The goal is to improve efficiency, reduce costs and establish a procedure to guide future O&M activities. Brian via skype said the revision incorporated what was already approved at our last meeting. He also noted that the State Committee approved of the concept and was happy with it. **On a Harris/Stephens motion the MOU was approved for the Chairman's signature. Motion carried.**

Annual Inspections – OM&R- Judy will give a full report next meeting. Don Stephens attended the inspections and talked about several issues on the dams.

AgEP Potato Demonstration Pilot Project - Oscar Harris reporting that Bill Stewart owes the WCD for an acre of potatoes. The potatoes have been delivered and disbursed. An extra ton of potatoes will be planted by Rodney's group. Rodney has agreed to help the two new producers get started. Also, the Department of Agriculture has agreed to let us use a two-row planter and harvester if we go get it at Huttonsville. Oscar suggested the WCD pay Rodney to pick up and return the equipment from Huttonsville. **Oscar motioned the WCD pay for Rodney to pick up and return equipment to Huttonsville, Siebel second. Motion was withdrawn. Stephens restated the motion to include \$1.00 per mile be paid from the potato funds for travel to Huttonsville and back to haul the planter and harvester, second by Siebel. Motion carried.**

Agriculture Enhancement Program (AgEP) – Oscar gave a report on the AgEP meeting held on April 4th. The committee has chosen Option 4 funding for FY18. The sign-up date will not be effected by the loss of Ian and Mark, it will be May 15th – June 15th. Jackie asked if NRCS could take applications in the Ripley office for Jackson County. Jennifer Skaggs reported that Ian's last day is April 15th. She stated that state law requires that all applications be ranked. So, all practice applications will be ranked before approvals can be made. Jackie had offered the help of Brock McClung with AgEP sign ups. She had asked if applications could be taken this year in the Ripley office. **On a Stephens/Harris motion AgEP applications will be taken by NRCS in Jackson County.** Jackie said her staff will take care of field visits and spread the work out. The committee suggested staying with two practices and a \$4,000 limit. Kim suggested that the WCD produce a policy as it protects the district. Jennifer Skaggs gave an update on the option voting with eight out of fourteen districts selecting Option 4. There will be a teleconference on May 8th of the State AgEP Committee to approve the allocation formula. It will be July before the final dollar amount is known. Jennifer updated the board on Ian's and Mark's open positions. They will be interviewing after staff returns from Camp Dawson. They plan to fill the position as soon as possible. NRCS has agreed to help with the sign up and anything they can't handle send an email to Jennifer. She was asked if AgEP forms could be filled out on line. They can be put on line but cannot be filled out on line. Jackie suggested a training session for NRCS and supervisors with Jennifer to review the applications. Jennifer stated the application forms are the districts. The district can make changes to their practice applications but no changes can be made to the ranking forms. She is working on a new and updated policy agreement for AgEP that will serve as the WVCA AgEP program policy with a section for districts to add their local policies. It will be given out in draft form to staff and districts soon. All decisions will be documented in one policy for quick reference.

AgEP Payment Approvals

Potato Pilot Program

Montcroft Farm	\$2,924.00	Seed Potatoes from Gross
Ronald Crouch	\$ 17.35	Fertilizer

Lime:

Bobby Cales	\$ 856.38	40.78 ton
Luke Hunter	\$1,848.00	88. tons
Shane Loomis	\$2,060.50	98.12 ton
Russell Mercer	\$1,512.00	72 tons

Nutrient Management:

Travis Brotherton	\$ 281.25	11.25 acres
Paul Sammons	\$ 275.00	11 acres
William Parsons	\$ 200.00	8 acres
J&T Farm	\$ 250.00	10 acres
Russell Mercer	\$ 249.55	21 acres

Frost Seeding:

William Parsons	\$ 160.00	8 acres
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Water System:

Jeff Recor	\$4,000.00	Pond/370 ft pipeline/concrete trough
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Exclusion Fence:

Donald Hussell *Cancellation	\$3,997.50	Request Cancellation EF1251
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On a Harris/Stephens motion the board approved all payments and the cancellation request, motion carried.

Agency Reports

West Virginia Conservation Agency – Kim reviewed the agency’s report. The conservation farm tour, the AgEP allocation formulas were explained, audit agreements, and Plan of Work due by June 15th. She also reminded District Directors that the Cacapon and Flatwoods meetings are two day meetings.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Jackie Byars, District Conservationist

Reported that 28 EQIP applications pre- approved will be obligated by Friday. Other items were high tunnels in Mason County, the second round of EQIP closed, third EQIP sign up end of May, CSP funding a total of 18 this year. She was on vacation last week. Brock will be attending boot camp May 8-26th and a student will be working in Ripley, Mitchell King.

Written Reports Submitted by:

Judith Lyons, Watershed Manager, WVCA

Kim Fisher, Area Director, WVCA

Charles Copeland, LOA Specialist, WV Division of Forestry

New Business

- ♦ County Conservation Farms – Jackson County reports that Steve and Sharon Francis has been selected.
On a Harris/Siebel motion May 18th at 9 a.m. was set for the district farm tour, motion carried.
- ♦ WV Century Farm Application
Application for Joey Carney was approved on a Harris/Siebel motion, motion carried.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. by Chairman Lipscomb. The date of the next meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 16th in Point Pleasant.

Minutes submitted by: Sherry Pearson

Approved by: _____

James Withrow, Secretary