

MINUTES

Western Conservation District Board Meeting

May 16, 2017

In Attendance

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

Supervisors Absent: Jim Withrow, Jeremy Grant

Others: Jackie Byars, NRCS; Kim Fisher, WVCA; Sherry Pearson, WVCA

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Conservation District Board was called to order at 9 a.m. on May 16, 2017 at the district Office in Point Pleasant by Chairman Lipscomb.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

The agenda was approved as distributed on a Siebel/Stephens motion, motion carried.

The minutes of the April and May meetings will be presented for approval at the June meeting.

Financial Reports

District CPA, Dennis Brumfield reviewed the financial reports for the General account and Grant funds. District Manager, presented the 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. **Financial Transactions for May were approved on a Harris/Siebel motion, motion carried.**

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

Programs

Watershed Structures - No Report

Inspections completed, estimates for work to be provided by Judith Lyons, Watershed Manager.

AgEP Potato Demonstration Pilot Project

Oscar reported that all potatoes are planted except for Thaxton' s.

Rodney Wallbrown no longer works for the Department. Oscar suggests that the WCD pay Rodney travel and mileage at supervisor rates to assist the potato farmers. This would be out of potato funds with the approval of Brian Farkas. It was noted by the DM these are Restricted Funds and all transactions must be approved by WVCA as well.

Agriculture Enhancement Program (AgEP)

- ♦ **Letter of Request (LOR) – An LOR for FY18 AgEP allocation was approved on a Harris/Stephens motion without an amount to be completed by WVCA, motion carried.**
- ♦ **WVCA Administrative Agreement – The WCD will complete the district section of this agreement and present to the board for review.**

Payments for potato project were approved on a Harris/Siebel motion, motion carried.

AgEP Payment Potato Pilot Program

Andrea Casto	\$ 97.69	Fertilizer for Potatoes
Lacey Parsons	\$494.00	Haul Potato Equipment
John Deere Financial	\$254.27	Nuprid Southern States
Toby Leport	\$ 8.49	Re-issue of cancelled check
Keith Wright	\$ 8.49	Re-issue of cancelled check
Cecil Absten, Jr.	\$ 60.95	Fertilizer
US Small Farm	\$332.60	Replacement parts for planter

The following payments for AgEP were approved on a Siebel/Harris motion, motion carried.

Lime:

Roger Parsons	\$ 714.00	34 tons
Justin Carr	\$1,041.81	49.61 tons
Meadow Ridge Ranch	\$2,100.00	100 tons

Nutrient Management:

Oscar Wallace	\$ 476.96	25 acres
Bruce Williams	\$ 175.00	7 acres
Meadow Ridge Ranch	\$ 706.50	50 acres
Dave McClung	\$ 349.05	20 acres
Jason Knight	\$ 350.00	14 acres
Bruce Knights	\$ 175.00	7 acres

Water System:

Donnie Luikart	\$4,000.00	Pond
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AgEP Committee Report

Oscar reviewed the report of the May 9th meeting. The committee reviewed all the WCD practice applications and made changes to them. Also, set policy for the FY18 program. The program cap remained \$4,000, a completed application was defined as the practice application, soil test (if applicable), map of farm, cooperators form and W-9. Only completed applications will be accepted. All practices completion date was set as May 31, 2018. A tie breaker was suggested as the cost per animal unit. The number and type of mature animals that will be effected by the practice will be added to applications. A budget was established for FY18 as Lime at 45%,

Water 30%, Fence 15%, Cover Crop 5%, Frost Seeding 4%, Pollinator 1%. **On a Stephens/Harris motion the board approved the report of the committee with the changes for FY18, motion carried.**

CREP Program

The Mason County Farm Service Agency has requested the following CREP incentive payments be made. The contracts were presented and approved at an earlier meeting by Dan Shockey, CED, Mason County FSA. **On a Stephens/Harris motion the board approved the payments, motion carried.**

Nannette Sowards	\$929.10
Randall Stevens	\$890.88
Donald Hussell	\$868.00

Agency Reports

West Virginia Conservation Agency – Kim Fisher, Area Director

The next quarterly meeting will be held July 17&18 at Cacapon State Park, District Directors need to make their reservations. Ravenswood FFA place third in the WV Envirothon earning them the highest scoring FFA team and a trip to compete. Anyone interested in working the fair display at the State Fair needs to get a reservation at the Fairfield Inn, contact Clyde Bailey for details.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Jackie Byars, District Conservationist

She provided a map of watershed areas of the 10 digit hydrologic units for Jackson, Mason and Putnam counties. Discussed the outcome of the local workgroup meeting held in Ripley. Supervisors Harris, Stephens and Siebel attended. Oscar and Don felt that Mill Creek area of Jackson County should be the next watershed to fund. Chuck felt that Oldtown Creek in Mason County could also benefit. Cover crop in the WCD was successful with all funding requested and 35% of grazing. Jackie felt that amending to add outlet of Thirteen Mile Creek would be easier to get approved for the fall grazing of hay fields. Animal waste systems were mentioned. Under Conservation Security Program (CSP) seventeen applications were received and all approved. Mitchell King has been hired in the pathways position with NRCS she plans to have him working out of the Ripley field office.

Old Business

- ♦ Certificates of Deposit
Chuck reported that he and Jeremy negotiated a better rate with City National on the CD's that were up for renewal. They changed them to a 13-month CD at 1.1%. Next June it will be up for renewal.

New Business

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- ♦ Ravenswood FFA State Grassland Team Support
On a Harris/Siebel motion the board agreed to send \$500 to the State Grassland Team to support conservation education, motion carried.
 - ♦ WVCA Request to Return 319 Funds for Twin Maples Project
After a discussion on the use of 319 funds, the board suggested that Pam Russell provide an update on 319 projects in the WCD for the June meeting. The agency is asking for NPS1523 Twin Maples funds in

the amount of \$11,500 to be returned. **On a Siebel/Harris motion the request from Brian to return the unused Twin Maples Funds was approved, motion carried.**

♦ Mason County Solid Waste Authority Resignation

Denny Bellamy, representative for the WCD to the Mason County Solid Waste Authority has resigned effective May 15. He suggested that Sam Nibert be appointed to complete his term through June of 2020. Bob Baird felt there could be a conflict since Sam is a County Commissioner. The DM will contact the WV SWA Management Board for guidance. **On a Stephens/Siebel motion the board accepted the resignation of Denny Bellamy to the Mason County SWA, motion carried.**

Report of Supervisors

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

Bob provided a written report via email to all supervisors and reviewed the report.

Chairman Lipscomb reported he did set in by video conference on the interviews for the conservation technician position. Three candidates were interviewed. He reported that he had trouble hearing the candidates. He did make his recommendation to the interview committee. He did not attend the local workgroup meeting due to the interviews.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lipscomb at 11:45 p.m. The date of the next general meeting falls on WV Day, so the meeting was re-scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 22, at the District office.

Minutes submitted by: Sherry Pearson

Approved by: _____

James Withrow, Secretary