

**SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JULY 13, 2017
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. The July 13, 2017 meeting was held at the SCD office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Randall Patton led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ray Lafferty opened the meeting with prayer.

Supervisors Present

Curtis Murphy	Virgel Caldwell
Don Windon	Oscar Vecellio
Randall Patton	Ray Lafferty
John Farrell	Randy Prince
Dvon Duncan	

Supervisors Absent

Travis Prince
Dennis Bailey

Others

Becky Floyd, WVCA	Kevin Wade, McDowell County SWA
Marty Walker, WVCA	Dave Parkulo, SCD
Bill Harris, NRCS	Dennis Burns, WVCA (via video system)
Dave Stewart, PCWA	

Virgel Caldwell stated Dennis Burns has asked to be on the agenda early due to another meeting obligation later in the morning.

Dennis Burns presented information on the proposed 319 project/contract for Rodney Wickline. Dennis reported he drove by the Fox farm which had previously been considered for a 319 project. The practices marked on the conservation plan appear to be completed making it ineligible for 319 funds. Dennis stated in order to get the federal dollars spent by the end of August he is presenting the contract for 319 practices on the farm owned by Rodney Wickline. The farm is in the Little Wolfe Creek watershed in Summers County. Dennis reviewed the funding on hand at the district for the project.

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the 319 project/contract for Rodney Wickline in the amount of \$36,360.00 including state and federal funds. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried. Dennis will be the contact for this contract.

Dennis reported the 319 Sewell Creek project has been extended for another year.

Virgel stated Bill Harris has asked to be on the agenda early due his work schedule. Bill reviewed the Princeton/Beckley Field office report.

Bill reviewed the annual review for NRCS of the Civil Rights Responsibilities form. Bill asked the board to sign the affirmative sheet of the review. Board members signed the affirmative sheet for NRCS.

Bill reported the field offices are working on the focus conservation proposals and asked this be placed on the August agenda for final approval. Bill stated the areas of concentration for the Mercer and Fayette County winter grazing projects still need to be selected. A lengthy discussion followed on feed pads. Dvon reviewed minutes from June board meeting concerning the feed pad proposal. The District and NRCS would need to identify areas of need for feed pads if submitted as a proposed practice. It appears there is only a limited need at this time. **Oscar Vecellio moved to defer the feed pad proposal until the next fiscal year until more research can be completed on the need. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

Dvon asked if Gary has the conservation plan completed for the Dove Farm? Bill stated he does not have any information on the plan.

District Minutes

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the June 8, 2017 board meeting minutes as mailed. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.

Curtis Murphy moved to approve the June 27, 2017 special meeting minutes as mailed. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Southern Conservation District Financial Reports

Oscar Vecellio moved to approve the June SCD financial reports as prepared by Akers and Associates. Don Windon seconded. Motion carried.

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the June SCD accounts receivable report as prepared by Akers and Associates. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.

WV Conservation Agency District Manager Report

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the WVCA June financial reports as prepared by WVCA staff. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.

Becky Floyd presented the following invoices for board approval:

Inv. 4448	OM&R work	\$1,285.00
Inv. 4449	OM&R work	\$1,000.00
Inv. 4450	OM&R work	\$2,000.00
Inv. 4451	OM&R work	\$1,165.00
Inv. 4452	OM&R work	\$1,205.00
Inv. 4453	OM&R work	\$1,075.00
Inv. 4454	OM&R work	\$1,425.00
Inv. 4445	OM&R work	\$2,720.00
Inv. 4446	OM&R work	\$1,775.00
Inv. 4457	OM&R work	\$1,125.00
Inv. 4458	OM&R work	\$2,700.00
Inv. 4459	OM&R work	\$1,655.00
Inv. 4460	OM&R work	\$2,525.00
Inv. 4462	SPRP work	\$3,630.00

Becky reported invoices have been coded and sent to Judith Lyons and the district fiscal section for approval and payment processing. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve the invoices for payment upon WVCA approval. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky presented the following Letters of Request for board approval:

WVCA FY18 AgEP funds – upon fund amount being determined by WVCA

Becky reported the SCD database and SAGE report for FY17 is complete and information required for the end of year reporting has been submitted.

Randy Prince moved to approve the Letter of Request to the WV Conservation Agency based upon funding amount being provided by WVCA. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.

Becky presented the LOR's to local sponsors for OM&R matching share for FY18:

Mercer County Commission	O&M	\$14,500.00
City of Princeton	O&M	\$4,000.00
City of Bluefield	O&M	\$1,500.00
Raleigh County Commission	O&M	\$5,000.00
Raleigh County Commission	O&M	\$5,000.00
City of Beckley	O&M	\$5,000.00

Ray Lafferty moved to approve the LOR's as submitted. Curtis Murphy seconded. A discussion followed on concern for an OM&R schedule of work to be presented by the WVCA each year following the annual inspections. A schedule or plan would help the board and crew complete OM&R work in a timely manner utilizing annual OM&R funds for each structure and channel. **Motion carried.** Becky was asked to place OM&R work schedule on the July 25 agenda and to send an email to the Agency requesting an OM&R work schedule. The work schedule would be based upon findings from the April OM&R inspections.

Dave Stewart with Piney Creek Watershed Association suggested the board consider Raleigh County funds being sent the PCWA and then the Association would issue the work orders and pay the District. No action was taken on this.

Dvon Duncan discussed the blockage at Mullens that has been reported to Judith. Dvon asked what SPRP sites the crew completed last month? Dvon asked to be notified when the crew or WVCA staff will be in Wyoming County. Dave Parkulo said he would notify her when the district crew will be doing work in Wyoming County.

Becky reported the District did not receive any statement of qualifications or interest in the McDowell County supervisor vacancy.

A discussion was held concerning the need for board members to attend all board meetings. The board cannot carry out their programs or agenda if they do not have a quorum. Randy Prince stated Travis Prince is considering resigning due to his work schedule. Board members also discussed Dennis Bailey being unable to attend due to his work schedule.

Becky reported the area judges will be on the Valach Farm on August 3. Judges plan to meet at the First Community Bank in Bluewell at 9:30 to travel to the farm. Virgel Caldwell will notify Mr. Valach of the date and time. Becky suggested a news article be completed for the Valach farm following the area judging. Dvon discussed the Dove Farm news article was in the Wyoming county newspaper. The article was submitted by Fred Halsey. Dvon suggested the board develop protocol on news releases for the release of conservation farms being selected each year.

Southern CD Crew Foreman

Dave Parkulo reviewed work completed by the crew during the last month. Hydro-seeding is complete at the soccer field. The trees are not in the ground. Dave Stewart stated he hopes to have these planted by the end of the month. Dave Parkulo stated the project is complete as far as the SCD work.

Dave reviewed work planned for the summer at Sprouting Farms and other farm related work. He is waiting to hear back from Capital CD and Western CD on the mowing estimates.

The group discussed the recent farm field day held on the Farrell farm. Attendance was fair. Discussions were held on how to advertise next year to get the word out to more landowners. The board thanked John Farrell for hosting the field day. John excused himself from the meeting for a dentist appointment.

Dave reviewed the estimate for a 2017 Ram 2500 crew cab at an estimated cost of \$35,841.00. The group also discussed the water problem in the NRCS parking area of the SCD building and the flash flooding that occurred in that area. Water is currently going into an abandoned mine opening. Oscar stated it has been this way for years. Water was about 2 feet deep in enclosed parking area and flowing through the SCD front yard. Oscar said they are working with the City and WVDEP on storm water management and how to address this issue. The district acquired this property in August of 1973 with the building being constructed and opened in 1974. John Wooton is also working with the Board and the City on this issue. Part of the parking lot is sinking and the pipe has collapsed and needs repaired. Oscar stated he is hoping the City will get approval from WVDEP to continue to have water flowing into the mine. The business beside the parking lot is also having to address the water runoff and repair the pipe they installed. At this point, Oscar said he does not know how this will be addressed and what the cost would be if the district has to pick up the water from the back corner instead of having it flow into the mine. Dvon asked what the recommendation from the Equipment Committee on the purchase of a new truck? Randy Prince stated he understood they would purchase a truck based upon the lowest bid. Dave stated this is a need not a request and reviewed the mileage on the GMC Canyon truck. Curtis suggested transferring \$10,000.00 from the travel and per diem account to the general account to assist with the purchase of the truck. **Randy Prince moved to purchase the 2017 Ram truck from Sheets based upon the estimate presented by Dave Parkulo. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried. Dvon Duncan moved to use the remaining FY17 travel and per diem funds and general funds to purchase the truck. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.** Becky will work with Mike Akers on the transfer amount of the FY17 Supervisor travel and per diem funds to the general account. Oscar reported paving quotes have also been received for paving the back-parking lot.

WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report

Becky reviewed Marty's report due to Marty meeting with landowners on AgEP applications. Becky stated the sign-up period has been very busy and approximately 61 applications submitted through this morning.

The Southern AgEP Committee will meet Friday August 4 at 10:00 to review FY18 applications, forms and letters and determine a budget for the first sign-up period.

Marty Walker returned to the meeting to provide an update on the 319 program and other project news.

Marty stated she will continue to work with Dennis on the Sewell Creek project in Fayette County.

Marty discussed an idea for an education outreach event in McDowell County. Marty reported she has discussed this with Randall and they are hoping to also include Wyoming County in the event. Marty stated they are looking at holding the event in September or October. Marty reported she has discussed this with Jennifer to be sure it can be included in her work schedule. Marty stated she hopes this will increase AgEP participation in these counties.

Visiting Agency Reports

WV Conservation Agency

Becky reviewed the Agency report for Kim Fisher. Becky reported the SCC meeting was held July 11.

Becky reported districts are encouraged to begin the Agreed Upon Procedure Engagement soon after the close of the fiscal year. Becky stated Lowe and Associates will be performing the Agreed Upon Procedures Engagement for FY17. A time has not yet been scheduled.

Piney Creek Watershed Association

Dave Stewart gave an update on the projects at the soccer field and the Convention Center.

Dave reported they did not receive any rain barrel orders.

Extension

Becky Floyd reported Dave Richmond asked if the District would be willing to donate to the Raleigh County 4-H Horse Camp this year. **Randall Patton moved to donate \$100.00 from the CDO account to the camp. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.**

WV Association of Conservation Districts

Ray Lafferty and Curtis Murphy will be attending and taking the SCD posters to the July WVACD meeting for the state contest. Becky reported the photos have been mailed to the WVACD for judging. The meeting will be held July 17 and 18 at Cacapon State Park.

Becky reported on the change in the quarterly reports and how they are submitted. The SCD report has been sent by email to each district.

SCD Supervisors/Committee Reports

Dvon discussed the letter the District received on the national watershed coalition meeting being held this September in Nebraska. Dvon asked if any board member would be interested in attending the meeting? Ray stated as the assistant director the state watershed resource committee he may be interested in attending. **Dvon Duncan moved the board approve a supervisor attending if there is an interest. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

Dvon discussed the potential for growing hops as a conservation practice due to the craft beer industry. Southern WV Technical College has received monies to help develop a craft beer industry in southern WV. Dvon discussed partnering with WV Department of Agriculture's grant program for specialty crops, Southern WV Technical College and the SCD AgEP cost share program for the next fiscal year for this proposed practice.

Marty reported she talked to Jennifer Skaggs about the possibility of this being a practice for the AgEP. Marty said Jennifer suggested the district follow the process they use each year to research practices they want to propose to the SCC. Marty stated the practice would need to tie into something other than production. The SCD AgEP committee will research this as a possible practice for the next fiscal year. Dvon will invite Cindy Martel with the WV Department of Agriculture and Jackie Whitely with Southern WV Technical College to the August 4 SCD AgEP committee meeting.

Curtis stated he knows a landowner who is growing hops. Curtis will get information from him for the committee and invite him to attend the August 4 AgEP committee meeting.

Virgel asked Dvon Duncan and Randall Patton to serve on the nominating committee for the 2017 Carroll Greene nominee, WVACD honorary member and WVACD member at large. Nominations will be on the August agenda. Becky will work with the committee on past nominees.

Dvon reported on the Mountain RC&D meeting held this week and project funding. Dvon as Becky to place the FY18 Mountain RC&D LOR to WVCA on the September agenda.

Oscar Vecellio submitted copies of the year-end financial report prepared by Akers and Associates.

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell/Dvon Duncan
Chairman/Secretary