



MINUTES

Western Conservation District Board Meeting

JULY 25, 2017

In Attendance

Supervisors: Charles Lipscomb, Chairman; Oscar Harris, Vice-Chairman, Robert Siebel, Treasurer; Donald Stephens, Jim Withrow, Secretary; Bob Baird, Associate Supervisor

Supervisors Absent: Jeremy Grant

Others: Jackie Byars, NRCS; Jennifer Skaggs, Kim Fisher, Russell Kidwell, Sherry Pearson, WVCA

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

The agenda was adopted on a Siebel/Harris motion, motion carried.

The minutes of the June meeting was approved as presented on a Harris/Siebel motion, motion carried.

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 by the DM. Chairman Lipscomb stated the financial reports will be filed for audit. **Financial Transactions for July were approved as presented on a Harris/Siebel motion, motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report - Bob Siebel presented the travel and per diem expense report for June. Total Miles \$207.06 Meals \$24.10 Per Diem \$540 a combined total of: \$771.16. **On a Harris/Withrow motion the Treasurer's Report and payroll were approved, motion carried.**

A request for reimbursement will be prepared for FY17 potato travel and submitted to Brian Farkas for approval. **On a Harris/Withrow motion the board approved to request to reimburse supervisor travel funds from potato account. Motion carried.**

Report of Supervisors

Oscar Harris, District Director, WVACD provided a report from the quarterly meeting held at Cacapon. The Education Committee will have a meeting September 6 at the WVACD office. WV Envirothon winner was Moorefield with Ravenswood taking third. There are nine WV Century Farms to be honored this year. District Operations Committee reported that the quarterly will go back to a two day meeting, as teleconferences are not working out. The evening of the meeting they would like to have an educational tour planned in the area. If a district is interested in hosting a WVACD meeting they need 40 rooms and room for breakout sessions. Legislative Committee has been planning a congressional tour AgDay at the Capitol will be February 7, 2018. Brian will be visiting districts for listening sessions again in September and October. Natural Resources approved looking at the Leopold Conservation Award which is a private foundation with attention and publicity nationwide for conservation farm award. It's a \$10,000 cash stipend for winner with \$30,000-\$40,000 for WV to join. Water Resources OM&R inspections are done and EAP's have been completed. There was 150 Million nationwide allocated for small watersheds. NRCS and WVCA current projects were discussed. WV is ahead and leading in cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay Project. WVACD Auxiliary would like more auction participants. Also, donations to support them are from supervisors' personal contributions.

Community Garden proposals need to be submitted to the WVACD they will send on to NRCS for approval up to \$5,000. Brian's budget is \$188,000 less with midyear cuts expected. The WVCA has filed suit to require counties to pay their fair share as dam sponsors.

Jim Withrow reporting that the mid-term budget reduction is coming with Brian not replacing staff to cover the deficit. NRCS reported they have 110 employees down from 149. AgDay at the Capitol was stressed that supervisors need to be there. Legislators come to learn, they are looking for fresh faces for votes. The State Fair needs volunteers. They also need to purchase a box trailer to house the state fair display. The next WVACD will be October 16-17th at Flatwoods. Jim did not make it to the Grassland

Bob Siebel attended the Great Kanawha RC&D Council meeting and reviewed his written report. The report was also sent by email to all supervisors. They are working on a brochure for the Council. Bob will be gone for over a week next month and will miss the RC&D meeting.

Programs

Watershed Structures -

- ◆ Bid Awarded for Mill Creek & Poca OM&R
Don Stephens reported on the bid opening attended by one contractor. The lowest bid was \$24,000 from Vincent Excavating, LLC.
On a Harris/Stephens motion the board approved to award the low bid of \$24,000 Vincent Excavating, LLC pending transfer of sufficient funds, motion carried.
Chairman Lipscomb had an issue with signing the contract award and Notice to Proceed without the funds being in place.

Judith provided a written report that stated she had made a request to Gene Saurborn for supplemental funds to cover the Mill Creek. Poca 28 has sufficient funds for the contract. She has been contacted by Sam Nibert, Mason County Commissioner regarding various streams in Mason County. Also, a stream permit has been requested by Judy Burdette, Point Pleasant. These visits will be made next week.

AgEP Potato Demonstration Pilot Project

- ◆ Oscar said the digger is on a first come first serve basis. Potatoes are doing well this year. This being the third year of the three-year potato project, the future of the program, equipment and remaining funds needs to be decided.
- ◆ Invoices approved for payment in June with checks written and signed after meeting were Check #2751 G&G Nursery \$64.50 and Check #2550 Rodney Wallbrown \$430.20.

Agriculture Enhancement Program (AgEP)

- ◆ Check #2752 6/30/2017 Powell Farms, LLC \$2,496.40 Re-Issue of Lost Check. Mr. Powell had contacted Jordan Roush via email about the lost check. Replacement check issued by 6/30/2017 deadline for FY17 program.
- ◆ **On a Harris/Withrow motion the amount requested for FY18 LOR is \$83,000, motion carried.**
- ◆ The carryover from FY17 is \$14,237.63 for a total of \$97,237.63 for FY18.
- ◆ **AgEP Administration Agreement revised 2017 was approved with an addendum of WCD Rules on a Harris/Siebel motion. Motion carried.**

FY18 Contract Approvals – Russell gave out copies of each practice listing showing the county, ranking score and cost of each practice application. The identity of the applicants was not included on the listing. After a discussion on the amount of funding available and over allocating due to cancellations the following approval were made. Chairman Lipscomb asked if any tie breakers were done. Russell had not used any tie breakers for the rankings suggested for approvals. Oscar mentioned maybe approving another \$15,000 in contracts.

- ◆ **On a Harris/Withrow motion the following rankings were approved per each practice with Russell instructed to come back with all tie breakers completed. Motion carried.**
The approvals totaled \$101,691.00.

Approved Lime to rankings through 80.80.

Beverly Casto	\$ 2,100.00
Greg Taylor	\$ 1,693.00
Donald Johnson	\$ 1,008.00
Elizabeth Wilson	\$ 2,100.00
Timothy Hunt	\$ 210.00
Dan Foglesong	\$ 2,100.00
John McCarty	\$ 1,890.00
Don Barr	\$ 1,092.00
H&H Farms LLC	\$ 2,100.00
Donnie Ennis	\$ 252.00
David Mercer	\$ 2,100.00
Robert Michels	\$ 840.00
Leonard Kessell	\$ 1,680.00
Robert Harless	\$ 1,130.00
Carol S. Young	\$ 920.00
Roy McClure	\$ 2,016.00
Mike Stone	\$ 2,100.00
Fred Zuspan	\$ 1,092.00
Patty Wood	\$ 966.00
Pat Boggess	\$1,013.00
Jeneva Crum	\$ 420.00

Samuel Craddock	\$1,176.00
Alisha Cain	\$ 698.00
Alan Staats	\$ 819.00
Scott Cornell	\$1,676.00
Joe Casto	\$2,100.00
Everett Randolph	\$1,806.00
Harry David Snowden	\$ 189.00
Leona McFann	\$ 210.00
Timothy Witt	\$ 521.00
Roger Wood	\$1,743.00
Edmund Austin	\$2,100.00
Russell Phelps	\$1,092.00

Approved Frost Seeding rankings through 58.

William Maynard	\$1,000.00
Boyd Williams	\$ 260.00
Dale Stone	\$ 992.00
Forrest Deweese	\$ 962.00
Keith Casto	\$1,000.00

Approved Cover Crop ranking of 55

Charles T. Lipscomb	\$ 750.00	<u>District Supervisor</u>
---------------------	-----------	----------------------------

Approved Water System ranking through 120.

Duane Duffer	\$3,250.00
Samuel Craddock	\$4,000.00
Trenton Schoonover	\$2,455.00
Kenneth Keebaugh	\$3,880.00
Ben White	\$2,075.00
Ed Smolder	\$2,830.00
Pat Boggess	\$3,405.00
Robert Parsons	\$4,000.00
Loretta Kelly	\$3,585.00
Edward Stoffel	\$3,120.00
Jason Parsons	\$4,000.00
Beverly Randolph	\$2,980.00
Stephen Bird	\$1,330.00

Approved Division Fence ranking through 142.

Loretta Kelly	\$ 600.00
Shane Loomis	\$3,150.00
Ed Smolder	\$3,900.00
Neil Bumgarner	\$1,065.00
Trenton Schoonover	\$ 675.00

Approved Exclusion Fence ranking through 110.

Joey Stewart	\$2,400.00
Mark Martin	\$2,035.00

Jennifer Skaggs – AgEP Program Manager

Jennifer reported on the statewide FY17 AgEP program paid out \$1,363,000.00 (million). Over 1,400 applications were received with over 1,000 paid contracts.

Correspondence

Thank you notes were received from campers the district supported to Jr. and Sr. Conservation Camps.

Old Business

- ◆ Area II Conservation Farm Judging

Thursday, July 27th meet at the Ripley Service Center at 4:30. Meet at H&H shop at 5 p.m. Kim said there are six judges, Billy Wolf and her. Jackie and her staff will be on hand to take the judging team to the farm. Judges will return to the field office to tally scores. Plans are to have pizza for the judging team.

New Business

- ◆ Plan of Work

The FY18 Plan of Work was sent out to supervisors by mail for review.

On a Harris/Siebel motion the plan was approved with changes, motion carried.

Agency Reports

West Virginia Conservation Agency – Kim Fisher, Area Director - Written Report Submitted

The statewide conservation farm tour will be August 29-31. The results will be announced at the Partnership Conference October 16-17. Nominations for Member at Large, Carroll Greene Award and Honorary Supervisor need to be in by September 1. The state fair still needs volunteers at the WVACD booth.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Jackie Byars, District Conservationist

The first round of EQIP has finished with the second round with five or six more approved under the Western Grazing. AMA program has two additional high tunnels. There are 16 CSP fourteen of those in Mason and two in Jackson Counties. Chairman Lipscomb asked for an update on the new service center. Jackie said that it is being handled by national headquarters. They anticipate it will be released for bids the first week of August. She said the current building owner has completed some repairs.

Adjournment

The date of the next general meeting was re-scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 15th at the District office.

With no further business, Chairman Lipscomb adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Sherry Pearson

Approved by: _____

James Withrow, Secretary