

**Southern Conservation District
October 12, 2017
Minutes of Board Meeting**

Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. The October 12, 2017 meeting was held at the Southern Conservation District office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Dennis Bailey led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ray Lafferty opened the meeting in prayer.

Supervisors Present

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

Supervisors Absent

Travis Prince

Others Present

Becky Floyd, WVCA	Dave Parkulo, SCD
Marty Walker, WVCA	Bill Harris, NRCS

Ray Lafferty moved to approve the Southern Conservation District financial reports for September as prepared by Akers and Associates. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.

Curtis Murphy moved to approve the Southern Conservation District Accounts Receivable report for September as prepared by Akers and Associates. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.

WV Conservation Agency District Manager Report

Becky Floyd presented the September co-administered financial reports funds for board approval. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve the financial reports as prepared and presented by WVCA. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky presented the following invoices for payment approval:

SCD Invoice 4506	Wickliffe 319 Site	\$13,357.42
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Dvon Duncan moved to approve payment of Invoice #4506. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.

Becky presented copies of the email from First Community Bank concerning the proposed change in their security pledges to the District on all funds over the FDIC insured amount. A discussion was held questioning if the Letter of Credit meets state requirements. **Dennis Bailey moved the district request clarification from Brian Farkas and Rod Lowe, current auditor on the Letter of Credit and if this meets state requirements. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.** Becky was asked to work with Oscar on this and place the Letter of Credit on the November agenda for further discussion and review.

Becky presented the draft letter to each of the county commissions inviting them to attend the board meetings and to view the SCD website. A copy of the FY17 SCD Annual Report will be attached to the letters. **John Farrell moved to approve the county commission letters for each county. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.** District supervisors will deliver the letters and reports to their commissioners.

The board reviewed the revised Mercer County Stream Agreement between the district, WVCA and the County Commission. **Dvon Duncan moved to request the Agency revise the agreement to change/add under the SCD shall: #1 Provide an agreed upon portion of state or federal monies that are held at the district for cost-share funding as designated for flood management control as determined by the negotiated formula for each project and administrative support for each project. Dennis Bailey seconded.** Becky reported the agreement as presented today does not include the district providing funding it is only in the agreement as providing an agreed upon portion due to the district holding the state funds. This agreement is not related to federal funds. **Motion carried.** Becky was asked to notify Brian of the boards concerns and suggestion on revision to the agreement. Randall Patton reported the McDowell County Commission approved the Stream Agreement their October 11 meeting following Brian's presentation to the Commission.

Dvon discussed the proposed flood levy that may be created as a part of the stream agreements with each county as reflected in state code. Dvon is researching this for Wyoming County.

Becky reported the current DRAFT EWP agreement has not been revised. No action was taken on the draft agreement. Dvon requested an email be sent requesting any updates on the draft agreement that have been made since 2016 comments.

A discussion was held on OM&R reports for 2017 not being available yet. Virgel reported he talked with Brian Fry and the reports will be ready later this year. Becky reported the Agency report reflects 2017 OM&R reports will be sent to each District by December 2017. Dave reported Western CD dams were mowed by a private contractor. Dave stated the crew employees are at Hughes Creek now working on an EWP site for the WVCA. The work is being completed as directed by the WVCA. A lengthy discussion followed on concerns on the OM&R program, EWP work, SPRP work and ways to address the concerns with the Agency. Oscar stated he will be meeting with a person in the future to discuss the work concerns. Virgel will be in attending the meeting with Oscar. Dvon discussed concerns on the past issues on the blockages on Davis street which continues to collect debris. Dvon requested Oscar and Virgel to be straight forward and address all issues with whomever it is they are meeting with on the concerns discussed today. Dennis Bailey suggested planning process and agreements be put in place to help get work scheduled with the WVCA and district.

Becky reviewed newspaper subscription costs for each county. Dvon stated she would like to begin putting regular articles in county newspapers on farming and agriculture in the district. The group agreed to take pictures of county supervisors to submit with county news articles. Oscar reported he attended the planting for the butterfly garden at the soccer site for Piney Creek Watershed. Subscriptions to county newspapers will not be purchased by the District.

Visiting Agency Reports

WV Conservation Agency

Becky Floyd reviewed the Agency report for this month. A copy of the draft SSRP agreement was presented for board review and discussion. The board questioned if this agreement will replace the

current SPRP program? Becky will follow up with Brian Farkas. The SSRP agreement will be placed on the November agenda for comments. The board also discussed concerns on the \$5,000.00 limit on individual projects under the SSRP agreement in addition to concerns on the cost to landowners.

Dvon suggested the board review their policy and employee manual. The board scheduled a policy and employee manual review meeting for October 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Bill Harris reported for the field office. Bill discussed the local work group projects funded for implementation for FY18. Becky stated copies of the October 4 letter from Louis Aspey have been provided to each supervisor. Bill stated the goal for the high tunnels for this year is 15 per county but they can fund more if they additional applications. November 4 is the first ranking cut off period for these programs. Bill stated landowner must update farm information with the Farm Service Agency to sign up for any of the cost share projects. Bill encouraged supervisors to have landowners submit applications. The group discussed the need for information or a brochure to handout to landowners encouraging their participation in the programs. Dvon will work with NRCS on a handout for the programs and news release for county papers.

Bill reported Jacob Ogle will be reporting October 30th to the Princeton Field office as a field technician.

Southern Conservation District Crew Foreman Report

Dave reported on a job at Wallback with DNR. DNR is working on an agreement for the work to done on the barn. The agreement will need to be signed by Virgel as SCD Equipment Committee Chairman.

Dave reported on farm and WVCA work. Dvon requested Dave to take pictures on farm sites and encourage a district supervisor to be present to assist with news articles. Dvon asked Dave to let district supervisors know when he will be in their county. Dave stated Marty got a picture of the district spreading lime when he was at Jimmy Manning Farm.

WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report

Marty Walker reported on the farms she visited in the last month with county supervisors as part of the district and AgEP outreach program.

Marty is registered for a grassland training next week for WVCA, WVDA and NRCS staff. Dvon asked her to look for information on plantings for marginal lands.

Marty will be assisting various agencies with a grazing plan for Sprouting Farm.

Marty presented the following completed AgEP contracts for payment approval:

Lime Contracts

Jeffrey McLaughlin	\$1,500.00
John McLaughlin	\$1,050.00
David Mullins	\$1,459.25
Gary Davis	\$1,947.42
Adrian A Harper	\$2,000.00
Robert Littreal Jr.	\$ 412.50

the GMC truck could be used since it was not traded in on the new truck recently purchased. Dave will place the equipment online for sell by sealed bids. **Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Virgel reported he is working with Becky to plan the SCD Christmas luncheon. The luncheon will be held following the December board meeting. The same caterer will be used that catered the luncheon last year. Spouses are invited.

Randy Prince gave a Safety Committee update.

Oscar reported he is working with Becky on renewing the WV Department of Agriculture office lease for another 5-year period.

Dvon discussed the VISTA position. She received the forms to be completed. She will work with Becky on completion of the forms.

Dvon reminded board members a New River TMDL watershed meeting will be held following the November OM&R meeting.

Curtis reported on the SCD AgEP Committee and program updates. Curtis reported he went with Marty to visit a new cooperator to review AgEP program and practices. Dvon questioned if the Committee has discussed lowering the cost share amount per cooperator to help funds go to more landowners. Dennis stated he is not in favor of lowering the cap. Dvon questioned then how do you help new cooperators who only need a small amount. Becky stated DM have been asked to post all unfunded ranked applications on the database. This will allow the agency to review unfunded applications in each district. Marty suggested the committee look at long term funding and ways to assist the landowners through the cost share program. Curtis set the next AgEP Committee meeting for December 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Dvon suggested a plan of work meeting be set for January following the OM&R meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell
Chairman

Dvon Duncan
Secretary