

## SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Minutes of Board Meeting

November 9, 2017

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

#### Supervisors Present

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

#### Supervisors Absent

Travis Prince

#### Others Present

Becky Floyd, WVCA	Dave Parkulo, SCD
Marty Walker, WVCA	Kim Fisher, WVCA
Jennifer Skaggs, WVCA	Russell Young, WVCA
Autumn Crowe, WV Rivers	Gary Redden, NRCS
Judith Lyons (by video conference)	Bill Harris, NRCS

**Ray Lafferty moved to approve the September board meeting minutes as mailed. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

**Dvon Duncan moved to approve the October board meeting minutes as mailed. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

#### Approval of SCD Financial Reports

**Dvon Duncan moved to approve the SCD financial reports for October as prepared by Akers and Associates. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

**Curtis Murphy moved to approve the SCD Accounts Receivable report for October as prepared by Akers and Associates. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

#### State AgEP Report/Review

Jennifer Skaggs introduced Russell Young, Conservation Specialist with the Agency. Russell presented the trend analysis report for the state AgEP cost share program for fiscal years FY13- FY17. The analysis was created to show the "health" of the program and ways to improve reporting and accountability and issues with cost share rates. The report is for informational purposes and is based upon information put in the AgEP database. Jennifer and Randall will be presenting the report to each district.

Russell Young reviewed the Capitol Conservation District information and changes to show how the report can be used to tweak or change district cost share programs. He reviewed things that can affect

cost share percentages and ways to help the cost share work better and more efficiently for the program and the dollars on hand at each district.

Jennifer reviewed the SCD cost share rates and analysis of the SCD program. The board thanked Jennifer for the information.

Jennifer asked the board to review the AgEP program and provide comments back to her by January 31, 2018.

**WV Conservation Agency District Manager Report**

**Dennis Baily moved to approve the October co-administered financial reports as prepared by WVCA staff. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky Floyd presented the following Letters of Request (LOR's) for board approval:

WVCA	Matching OM&R Funds Cranberry Creek Channel	\$5,000.00
WVCA	Matching OM&R Funds Little Whitestick Creek Channel	\$5,000.00
WVCA	Matching OM&R Funds Soak Creek Channel	\$5,000.00
WVCA	Matching OM&R Funds Mercer County	\$20,000.00

**Oscar Vecellio moved to approve the Letters of Requests as presented. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky reported Chris Casto with the fiscal section of the WV Conservation Agency has researched the inquiries from several districts concerning the Federal Home Loan Bank Irrevocable Letter of Credit as an acceptable form of collateral. The email received from Chris states per the Collateral Policy and Procedures, this is an acceptable form of collateral. **Dennis Bailey moved to approve the use of the Federal Home Loan Bank Irrevocable Credit based upon the email from the WV Conservation Agency (email to be attached to minutes). Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

Kim Fisher reviewed the SSRP agreement. Brian Farkas will be presenting this to the State Conservation Committee (SCC) at their January meeting. Districts have been asked to review this and provide comments to Brian by the end of December. This will be placed on the December agenda for final comments. Kim stated this program will mirror the AgEP program as a cost share program with landowners and will replace the current SPRP program once approved and finalized by the SCC.

Becky presented the modified Stream Restoration, Bank Stabilization and Blockage Removal Agreements for both Mercer and McDowell County Commissions. The agreement reflects the changes discussed at the October board meeting. Copies were provided to each supervisor. **Randall Patton moved to approve both agreements as presented. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky reported Rod Lowe with Lowe & Associates has completed the field work at the District to begin the FY17 Agreed Upon Procedures. Becky stated she hopes to have the final report by the December board meeting.

## **Visiting Agencies**

### *WV Conservation Agency*

Kim Fisher reviewed the Agency report and highlighted dates and times for the WVACD meetings for 2018, Ag Day at the Capitol scheduled for February 7, 2018, and the SSRP program. Kim requested to meet with Virgel Caldwell and Dave Parkulo prior to the December board meeting to review and discuss the draft Forced Labor Agreement. Kim asked the Agreement be placed on the December board meeting agenda. Dave and Virgel will meet with Kim following the meeting today.

Kim discussed a potential change in the WVCA area manager for the SCD. Kim may be switching with Jeremy Salyer which would place her with the Elk CD and Jeremy with the SCD.

Judith Lyons reviewed the WVCA project section report and the upcoming OM&R inspections for Raleigh and Mercer counties next week. Judith will be attending the OM&R meeting scheduled for November 14. The inspections will begin on Monday in Princeton.

### *Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Bill Harris introduced Jacob Ogle, new conservation technician for Princeton Field Office. Jacob gave a brief background on his work with NRCS.

Bill discussed current cost share programs underway and reviewed the field office report.

Bill reported they will have a presence in the field office within the next week.

Autumn Crowe introduced herself and stated John Farrell asked her to attend the meeting to discuss the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Ms. Crowe works with WV Rivers. She discussed the Mountain Valley Pipeline project and the Clean Water Act as related to the DEP 401 permit for the project. WV Rivers fought the original 401 to ask for stronger regulations which led to WV DEP waiving their authority to issue the permit. Dennis Bailey stated the fight against the 401 then backfired as to what WV Rivers wanted to accomplish by fighting the process in court? WV Rivers is training citizens to be their eyes and ears on the project once work begins which hopefully help protect the local water and streams. She stated one of the compressor stations will be in Fayette County near Quinwood/Rainelle. Dvon Duncan questioned if the Farmland Protection Program could help the farms in the pipeline project area. John Farrell discussed concerns on impacts on the Greenbrier River and local spring water and what the District can do to help protect the waters of West Virginia?

Dvon thanked Gary for his work on the high tunnel cost share program. Gary encouraged participation in the pollinator program.

## **Southern CD Crew Foreman Report**

Dave Parkulo reported the Hughes Creek project is complete. He is working with the Agency on the final billing.

Dave gave an update on work scheduled for the next month. He still has several cost share projects to complete before the December deadline as weather permits.

Dave reported the equipment to be sold by bids has been put on hold until later in the winter when the workload is not as heavy.

**WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report**

Marty Walker stated she has checked with Jennifer Skaggs and the Agency will approve reimbursement for the cost of the wire cages purchased for the American Chestnut trees planted on the 319 YMCA site. Marty will work on the invoice for the cages based upon the amount of funds remaining for this project.

Marty reported Charles Pennington who was currently not funded has been funded for the cost share on lime due to a cancelation last month. The cost share for his application totals \$1,987.50. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve the lime application for Charles Pennington as presented by Marty Walker. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Marty presented the following completed AgEP contracts for payment approval:

Lime

Cheryl Williams	\$250.00
Derek Johnson	\$157.75
Billy Johnson	\$1,099.00
Ricky Moye	\$344.25
Douglass Grimmett	\$618.00
Jimmy Manning	\$1,004.75
Fred Boothe	\$1,225.00
Jonathan Meadows	\$2,000.00
Garry Hall	\$1,064.75
Dean Bailey	\$844.00

**Ray Lafferty moved to approve the completed AgEP lime contracts for payment. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

Pond Cleanout

Larry McClintic	\$678.75
Garland Ellis	\$2,000.00

**Ray Lafferty moved to approve the completed AgEP pond contracts for payment. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.**

Pasture Division Fence

James Meadows	\$2,000.00
Richard Pate	\$1,000.00

**Ray Lafferty moved to approve the completed AgEP pasture division fence contracts for payment. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.**

Marty reported there were no cancelations to present this month.

**WV Association of Conservation Districts**

Ray Lafferty reported on the October quarterly meeting. Shirley Hyre was selected as the Carol Greene recipient for 2017. Ray stated the April quarterly meeting in 2018 is still being determined based upon cost.

Dvon discussed the email from Timothy VanReenen sent to the Districts. The WVACD is offering a grant packet in partnering with NRCS to promote and support youth conservation education projects. Russell stated the intent is for districts to encourage local youth conservation organization to apply for the grant. A copy was provided to each supervisor. Dvon encouraged supervisors to take this to local 4-H groups and community groups. The applications are due to the WVACD by March 6.

Dvon gave an update on the Envirothon Program and conservation camps in 2018.

### **Supervisor Reports**

Oscar Vecellio reported on the hot water tank that burst in the RD offices. New flooring has been installed in the RD office space. The floor pattern purchased has been discontinued with a few pallets still being available for purchase which could finish replacing the RD area and the NRCS field office. Oscar suggested looking at these areas to determine how many additional pallets of floor would be needed to complete these areas.

Oscar discussed the shop building and the gutter and downspouts that need to be replaced. Oscar presented the price quote to Virgel and asked this be placed on the November 14 OM&R agenda for board decision on the quote (\$6,200). This would come from the general fund which receives monthly rental income. Oscar asked the purchase of additional floor pallets also be placed on the November 14 agenda.

John Farrell and Oscar Vecellio discussed plans for a Timber Workshop and possibly including a program on the carbon credit program. Oscar is working to develop information on timber stand improvements and other forestry programs to provide more information to landowners. Bill Harris discussed NRCS cost share programs related to timber stand improvements. He will assist SCD on information for stewardship plans. Dvon suggested creating a 3X5 card to send to cooperators to provide information to landowners on forestry programs.

Dvon and Marty Walker presented the newly developed SCD Facebook page. Information will be added throughout the next few months including action photos of conservation practices. Dvon stated this is a great marketing tool for the district and a good way to reach young cooperators. Dvon and Marty will be the administrators for the Facebook page and Becky will continue to be the administrator for the SCD/WVCA website. Dvon stated she will continue to work on articles for local newspapers with Marty and Dave as project sites are completed.

Dvon is working with Becky on the VISTA application and profile.

Virgel reported a policy review meeting was held November 3. The proposed changes were presented to the board for approval. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve changes. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.** A copy of the current policy and suggested changes were provided to each supervisor.

Dvon and John discussed concerns on natural gas taking advantages of WV Citizens and spoiling the clean water in our state.

Virgel invited supervisors and their spouses to attend the SCD Christmas luncheon following the December 14 meeting. The lunch will be catered by "Fruits of Labor".

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

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell  
Chairman

Dvon Duncan  
Secretary