



MINUTES

Western Conservation District Board Meeting February 22, 2018

In Attendance

Supervisors: Charles Lipscomb, Chairman; Oscar Harris, Vice-Chairman; Donald Stephens, Jim Withrow, Secretary
Supervisors Absent: Jeremy Grant, Bob Siebel, Treasurer

Others: Greg Stone, State Conservationist, Operations; Jackie Byars, District Conservationist, USDA; Kim Fisher, Area Director, Judith Lyons, Watershed Manager and Sherry Pearson, District Manager; WVCA. John Brown, Director of Information Technology, WVCA via Skype.

Call to Order

Chairman Lipscomb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the district office in Point Pleasant.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Harris made a motion to amend the agenda to add John Brown, Director of IT, Stephens, seconded. Motion carried. On a Stephens/Harris motion the amended agenda was approved. Motion carried.

Harris made a motion to approve the minutes with grammatical corrections, second by Stephens. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

General & CDO Funds - District CPA, Dennis Brumfield reviewed the financial reports.

Co-Administered Funds - WCD Co-Administered Funds Report was presented by DM as prepared by WVCA. Both reports will be field for audit.

Financial Transactions for February were approved as presented on a Withrow/Harris motion, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - In the absence of the Treasurer the DM reviewed the payroll report provided by the bookkeeper. The report shows \$869.55 in total per diem and \$915.08 in travel for a total of \$1,784.63. **On a Harris/Withrow motioned to approve supervisors' payroll. Motion carried.**

Report of Supervisors

Bob Siebel provided a written report from the Great Kanawha RC&D meeting.

Don Stephens reported that the Little Kanawha RC&D is meeting today.

National Grasslands Meeting in Reno, Nevada was brought up by Oscar stating that Jim's name will be sent in to WVACD. **On a Harris/Stephens motion WCD will pay up to \$1,000 for Jim to go if he is selected by the WVACD. Motion carried.**

Programs

AgEP Meeting Report – Oscar Harris, Committee Chairman reported on the recommendations for changes in the FY19 program.

- ◆ Sign up May 1st – May 31st
- ◆ Deadline changed to January 1st for lime and water systems. Invoices are due by January 1st for lime, water systems and cover crop.
- ◆ Budget Established was Lime 40%, Water 30%, Division Fence 10%, Exclusion Fence 10%, Cover Crop 5%, Frost Seed 4%, Pollinator 1%

Potato Carry Over Funds are now part of the AgEP program. It was decided to use these funds to cover any overages of AgEP contract approvals. A dollar amount will be stated after this year's allocation is announced.

On a Harris/Stephens motion the changes for the FY19 program were approved. Motion carried.

Chairman Lipscomb said the FY19 changes will be made to the addendum and provided to WVCA.

AgEP Approvals

The following payments were approved on a Stephens/Harris motion with the Craddock payment contingent on the cancellation of lime contract, motion carried.

Division Fence

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|----------|
| Neil Bumgarner | \$ 1,000.50 | 667 Feet |
|----------------|-------------|----------|

Frost Seeding

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Keith Casto | \$ 1,000.00 | 50 acres |
|-------------|-------------|----------|

Water System

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| *Samuel Craddock | \$ 4,000.00 | Well, pipeline, trough |
|------------------|-------------|------------------------|

**Craddock was approved contingent on cancellation of his lime contract.*

Correspondence

- ◆ Letter from Brian Farkas regarding the use of AgEP Pilot Potato Funds.
- ◆ Correspondence from Mac Warner, Secretary of State was received by the WCD. US District Court notice of condemnation papers regarding the Columbia Gas Mountaineer Xpress Pipeline Project effecting a tract of land in Jackson County. Judith Lyons was questioned by the board if this would affect the integrity of the dam with her replying there was no concern. A copy of the legal notices were sent to Brian.

Old Business

1. FY19 District Personnel Form

The form was updated for FY19 with no changes was approved on a Harris/Withrow motion. Motion carried.

2. Agriculture Workshop set for March 27th

Plans were discussed. A quote from Cornfed's was submitted with supervisors suggesting we check with other sources. The quote was \$10 per person for a barbeque and two sides with drinks. There would be no help in serving. **On a Harris/Stephens motion the DM was given approval to contact others to secure a caterer for the workshop. Motion carried.**

New Business

Suddenlink Static IP – John Brown skyped in to the meeting to make a request for the board to approve an additional \$10 per month on our Suddenlink bill to add Static IP to strengthen security for our Sage access. **On a Stephens/Harris motion the board approved of the additional security measures discussed by JB with permission given for IT to contact Suddenlink to make the change. Motion carried.**

Buffalo FFA Request – The Buffalo FFA would like to make a 20-minute presentation at the March meeting.

On a Harris/Withrow motion the Buffalo FFA presentation was approved. Motion carried.

A request was received from the FFA to sponsor a rodeo fund raiser at \$1,000. Stephens asked how it was related to conservation. He said that we support FFAs in Grassland, Envirothon, Land Judging and Homesite contests but not a general fundraising event. He stated that Ripley and Mason County FFA's both have auctions to raise funds with WCD not providing support. After a brief discussion, Withrow said it was promoting education and made a motion to provide \$500 with Oscar stating he felt that was too much, the motion died for lack of second. **Harris made a motion to sponsor an arena at \$250, Withrow seconded. Motion carried.**

Chuck Talbott, Putnam County Extension – Chuck would like to attend the March meeting to do a presentation on school garden-based learning that he does for teachers. He noted the presentation is 45 minutes but he can shorten it. **The board approved 20 minutes for Chuck to provide a summary of his presentation on a Harris/Stephens motion. Motion carried.**

Conservation Farms – A discussion was held about the deadlines for selecting the county and district winners. Also, efforts were made last year to change up the program with no word on any changes for this year. Kim said the district winner needs to be selected by the end of May.

Agency Reports

West Virginia Conservation Agency

Kim Fisher, Area Director - Written Report Submitted (attached)

Kim asked for thoughts about Ag Conservation Day at the Capitol. There is a meeting Monday at Guthrie to follow up on AgDay. Supervisors felt displays were basically a meeting place for supervisors that there is not much traffic other than office workers. One display for all conservation districts was suggested.

Judith Lyons, Watershed Division, South Manager

Annual inspections are moving to the fall. There are still quarterly inspections, with supervisors invited to attend any inspections by just contacting Judy. With the fall inspections, staff will work over the winter to prepare a plan of work for the following year for each dam, along with work estimates. These plans and estimates will be shared with the district before doing a job showing and bid package. She provided a five-year plan for all seven dams along with estimates for each year covering the next five years. The change will begin this year, with no annual inspection in this spring. The annual inspection with WVCA, NRCS, WCD and sponsors will happen this fall after this year's OM&R has been completed.

CCR's (Citizens Contact Report) – Sam Nibert, Mason County Commissioner, had contacted Judith about Crab Creek and the residents wanting the stream dredged. Also, Putnam County Parks wanted a bridge over a stream. Judith asks that all stream requests be sent to Kimberly Neal at Summersville so she can get the information needed directly from the landowner. Then Kimberly will forward it on to the proper folks.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Greg Stone, State Conservationist

Greg has been out of Beckley for the past year and four months. He had been working in DC. He spoke about different challenges NRCS takes on in solving problems. How diverse problems are from state to state. An example was NRCS purchasing irrigation rights. In other news, the new farm bill is coming, he doesn't know what it will look like. USDA's biggest budget item is CHIP and SNAP. In the summer of 2016 there were 62 projects that required engineering phase only protecting structures in similar size storms. A cost of \$3 Million dollars for over 400 sites that had to be visited. Louis Aspey asked for 7 watershed studies in WV with six being approved, five of those in the southern half and the other Elk River.

Jackie Byars, District Conservationist

EQIP contracts will be in Beckley by the end of the week. NRCS is accepting CSP applications until March 3rd. There are 25-30 applications received so far this year. She explained this is a management program with options for enhancements. A Local Workgroup Meeting for Focused Conservation was set for March 20th at 9:00 a.m. in the office at Ripley. Greg said he would like to attend the local workgroup meeting. There has been no update on office space. FSA oversees Point Pleasant space. Dan had reported to Jackie that DC was moving on with one of the bids received.

WV Division of Forestry – Charles Copeland, LOA Specialist – Written Report Submitted (attached)

Adjournment

Chairman Lipscomb stated the date of the next meeting will be Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 9 a.m. With no further business, Chairman Lipscomb adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Sherry Pearson

Approved by: _____

James Withrow, Secretary

Attachments