

SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 8, 2018
MINUTES OF MEETING

The Southern Conservation District February 8, 2018 board meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Virgel Caldwell, SCD Chairman. Dvon Duncan led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ray Lafferty opened the meeting in prayer.

Supervisors present

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

Supervisors absent

Travis Prince
Randy Prince
John Farrell

Others Present

Becky Floyd, WVCA	Marty Walker, WVCA
Dave Parkulo, SCD	James Allen, RCSWA
Gary Redden, NRCS	Jeremy Salyer, WVCA
Greg Stone, NRCS	Mark Hudnall, WV Division of Forestry

Southern Conservation District Internet Upgrade

Jeremy Salyer reported John Brown with the WVCA IT section asked him to discuss the district getting a Static IP Address for the district to have a secure line. This will cost the district an additional \$10.00 each month. The Static IP Address will help in trouble shooting the lines if there is a problem. The board agreed to the change and increase in the monthly internet cost.

Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority

James Allen with the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority thanked the board for inviting him to attend the meeting today. James reported on the meetings that have been held with the District and other conservation agencies to discuss a proposal for a high tunnel to be developed at the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority (RCSWA) as part of a conservation education program. The RCSWA has property and necessary equipment to develop adequate lands for the installation of several high tunnels. The area would be located adjacent to the existing New River Clean Energy Project which could utilize the potential collection of waste heat for cold climate growing in the high tunnels. The Natural Resources Conservation Service will also be working closely with the District and the RCSWA on the proposed project to offer technical assistance. They also have a potential water source for high tunnel utilizing rain water collection from the adjacent metal roof structures.

The RCSWA will be researching funding options and hopefully obtain funds from various partners. The group discussed the RCSWA applying for the WVACD grant since this project will focus on agricultural education for youth in Raleigh County. **Oscar Vecellio moved the district support and partner with the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority on the development of a high tunnel project for agricultural education with Raleigh County students and landowners in addition to supporting the RCSWA applying for the WVACD grant. Dennis Bailey seconded.** Becky will forward Mr. Allen the grant information and application.

James encouraged the board members tour the facility. The board will tour the landfill following the March board meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Randall Patton moved to approve the January 11, 2018 board meeting minutes as mailed. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.

Approval/Review of January SCD Financial Reports

Randall Patton moved to approve the SCD January financial reports as prepared by Akers and Associates. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.

Curtis Murphy moved to approve the SCD January accounts receivable report as prepared by Akers and Associates. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.

WV Conservation Agency ASAIII/District Manager Report

Becky Floyd distributed the 2018 SCD Poster Contest rules and information to supervisors. Becky reported the information has been sent to each of the county board of education offices and has been posted on the SCD website and Facebook page.

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the SCD January co-administered funds report as prepared by WV Conservation Agency fiscal staff. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.

Becky presented the 2018 SCD Personnel Form for board review and approval. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve the 2018 SCD Personnel Form as presented. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky reported Dennis Burns submitted the following 319 Sewell Creek Septic Tank application for board approval:

William E. Henson	\$6,500.00
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Dennis Bailey moved to approve the 319 Sewell Creek Septic Tank application for William E. Henson as presented. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.

Becky read the memo from the WVACD concerning District road signs. The board agreed they do not need additional SCD road signs. Becky will notify the WVACD of the decision.

Visiting Agency Reports

WV Conservation Agency

Jeremy Salyer reviewed the WVCA report. Becky will check on the SCD Expression of Interest. Jeremy encouraged the board members to begin looking at conservation farms now for the spring contest.

Jeremy reviewed the AgEP program information in the report. The deadline for districts to submit program comments was January 31, 2018. WVCA AgEP staff will be meeting on February 14 to discuss the state program. AgEP FY19 funding will be based on FY15, 16 and 17. If boards have comments on what factors you would like to see utilized in the formula Jeremy encouraged them to contact Jennifer Skaggs. Virgel Caldwell stated he would like to see other districts send AgEP dollars they are unable to spend to districts that need additional funding to fund all applications. Virgel questioned the amounts some districts have that are not being spent. Jeremy explained part of the Northern Panhandle funds were mitigation funds transferred to AgEP and those funds should remain in that district. The board questioned if Brian Farkas can make the call to have funds transferred to the district from other districts that are holding funds in the bank. Jeremy suggested the district look at using district general funds to cover additional AgEP applications. The group discussed using supervisor travel and per diem funds if there are surplus funds at the end of the fiscal year. The board asked Becky to place this on the February 20 agenda for further discussion.

Jeremy provided copies of the final version of the Mutual Aid Agreement concerning force account labor between the WV Conservation Agency and the Southern Conservation Districts. Jeremy stated without the agreement the district crews cannot be used because FEMA does not recognize the district/WVCA relationship and will not reimburse the use of conservation district crews without the agreement. The approval would also include principal contacts.

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Chairman and Vice Chairman being the principal contacts for the SCD. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Gary Redden thanked the board for their support of the Raleigh County high tunnel project with the RCSWA. Gary reviewed the applications on hand with the EQIP program and reported preapproval letters have been sent to landowners. Gary reported he is working in the Princeton office in addition to the field office in Beckley.

Greg Stone discussed agricultural programs underway with NRCS and programs he worked on at a national level. Greg discussed the focus projects in WV and funding for contracts this year. Greg encouraged the board to look at resource concerns that could be addressed in FY19 and 20. The SCD has five focus projects for FY18.

Greg discussed the option of local veterans assisting with the high tunnel project and possibly farming the high tunnel for the sponsors. Greg discussed the WV National Guard initiative, called Patriot Gardens, and suggested this may be a program that can assist with the RCSWA High Tunnel project. Greg suggested sponsors contact Melissa Stewart. Mrs. Stewart's primary

focus is coordinating education of WV veterans, members of the WV Guard and citizens on agricultural production. Dennis Bailey discussed the need for new farmers to know how and where to market their produce. Greg encouraged Dennis to direct them to WVU Extension offices. Dvon questioned the proposed focus project with Guyan CD and when should the district start on this application. Gary suggested a local work group meeting be scheduled to discuss the five projects and possible future projects.

WV Division of Forestry

Mark Hudnall, Raleigh County Service Forester, stated he is attending today to learn about the district. Dvon reviewed the SCD Plan of Work related to Forestry Programs. Virgel asked him to bring information on marketing timber at the next board meeting. A discussion was also held on sugar maple diseases and grapevine removal on timber stands.

Southern Conservation District Crew Foreman

Dave Parkulo reported the crew is working on a fence project in Fayette County and in Cool Ridge. Crew employees will be painting the FSA office next week. Dave will review the WVCA cost estimates on OM&R work and will be ready to discuss these at the February 20 meeting. The three army trucks are ready to be sold.

WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist

Marty Walker reported 28 AgEP applications were taken during the January sign up period. Frost seed applications total approximately \$4,300.00 based upon seed recommendations and acreages for proposed fields applied for by landowners. Heavy Use applications total approximately \$7,500.00 based upon maximum cap set by the board. Marty stated a field visit is required for each application to complete the ranking process.

The board discussed the delegation of authority for frost seeding contracts so that approval letters can be sent out as early as possible once the ranking has been completed. **Dennis Bailey moved to delegate authority to Curtis Murphy to approve frost seeding contracts once ranking is complete. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.** Curtis will report on the approvals at the March board meeting.

Marty reported she attended the Fayette County Extension dinner meeting this week with Dave Parkulo to present SCD and AgEP information. They are planning to attend the Mercer County Extension dinner meeting in March.

Marty attended nutrient management training and will be working toward her certification later this year.

WV Association of Conservation Districts Update

Ray Lafferty reported he attended the WVACD quarterly meeting at Flatwoods in January. Curtis Murphy also attended the meeting. Ray reported the WVACD has made changes to photo and poster contest for this year. Ray also discussed next Grazing Land Conference scheduled for March 2019.

Ray stated the WVACD is encouraging boards to work closely with their county commissions on OM&R funding and maintenance of flood control channels and structures.

Ray reported on the revised dates for the WVACD quarterly meetings for 2018. The April 9&10th meeting will be held at Canaan Valley.

Ray attended the national NACD conference held in Nashville, Tennessee. He gave a report on the program topics including funding and changing for the future. Ray thanked the board for supporting his attendance.

Supervisor Reports

Randall Patton reported he has researched the Big Sandy River Basin Coalition. At this point he has not found information that would merit him attending future meetings.

Randall reported on the McDowell County Cleanup Campaign meeting held January 26 in Charleston. Another meeting will be held February 9 in Welch. Randall and Ray attended the January 26th meeting. Randall has also contacted the Elkhorn Watershed Association and they are open to having a membership drive to encourage membership for future projects. They are planning a clean-up in March. Randall stated he is working with Dave Stewart with the Piney Creek Watershed Association and Pam Russell with the WV Conservation Agency to become more familiar with 319 projects and programs.

Dvon reported on the 319-meeting held in January. The next 319 meeting will be February 20 following the OM&R meeting. The agenda will include the Pipestem area and updates on the McDowell County Cleanup Campaign in addition to updates and reports from the Piney Creek Watershed Association.

Dvon presented the written request from the Friends of Milam Creek (FOMC) for assistance with the Wyoming County Water Festival scheduled for May 24. FOMC is asking for a \$500,00 donation to assist with the cost of the festival. **Dennis Bailey moved to donate \$500.00 to FOMC for the Wyoming County Water Festival. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

Dvon reported she worked with Becky on the concept paper for the VISTA worker. Dvon submitted this to Coal Heritage for review. Coal Heritage is looking at placing the VISTA application under the Appalachian Coal Company Team under surface mining which would mean the cost share would double what the district has allocated. Dvon will report back at the Feb 20 meeting on the progress of the VISTA concept paper and application.

Dvon reported Mountain RC&D is still working on revisions to the FY17 project request to the WV Conservation Agency.

The board scheduled a local work group meeting with NRCS on February 20 following the 319 meeting. The OM&R meeting will begin at 10, estimating the 319 meeting to begin at 11 am with local work group meeting beginning at noon. Gary will prepare information for the local work group meeting and contact other agencies.

The group reviewed the Plan of Work and action items supervisors are working on conservation programs.

Dennis attended the Summers County Extension Dinner meeting on backyard poultry.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell
Chairman

Dvon Duncan
Secretary