



MINUTES

Western Conservation District Board Meeting March 15, 2018

In Attendance

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

Others: Dennis Brumfield, CPA, District Bookkeeper; Jackie Byars, District Conservationist, USDA; Kim Fisher, Area Director; Russell Kidwell, Conservation Technician and Sherry Pearson, District Manager; WVCA.

Guest: Jim Butler, Equipment Operator for AgEP Practice

Call to Order

Chairman Lipscomb called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at the district office in Point Pleasant.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

On a Harris/Siebel motion the agenda was adopted as presented, motion carried.

Siebel/Harris made a motion to approve the minutes, 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 March were approved as presented on a Siebel/Withrow motion, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Siebel reported \$690 in per diem, \$339.76 to travel, and \$43.25 meals for a total of \$1,073.01. **On a Harris/Grant motion the report and payroll were approved. Motion carried.**

Report of Supervisors

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

Don Stephens reported about the Little Kanawha RC&D's garden program at the old farmers market. They rent spots for folks to plant a garden. The RC&D may purchase a roto-tiller for use by the renters. Oscar Harris talked about the warehouse that dispenses goods to non-profits for a donation.

Jeremy Grant attended the small farm conference said they had a good turn-out he attended talks on maple syrup and meats.

Programs

AgEP Approvals

The following payments were approved on a Harris/Stephens motion, motion carried.

Frost Seeding

Dale Stone	\$ 992.00	49.6 Acres
Michael Stone	\$ 106.00	5.3 Acres

Russell said that Jim Butler was here today to address an issue with a pond that is being built under AgEP for Laretta Kelly. Jim is the equipment operator and is asking if he can reshape the existing pond, clean up the primary over flow and earth spillway as emergency spillway and run pipe to new trough. Jordan Roush, Soil Conservationist explained the keyway can be offset and redesigned. Chairman Lipscomb asked Russell what the contract says. After a brief discussion Oscar Harris said that Jim needs to work with the landowners and NRCS to meet specifications and stay within the contract limit of \$3,585.

Oscar reported that he will be attending an AgEP Committee meeting to discuss the formula that will be used in FY19 to determine funding per district. He said it will probably be the same as last year using acres and totals over the past three years.

Correspondence

- ◆ Letter from Southern Conservation District regarding the need for additional AgEP was read by Chairman Lipscomb. **On a Harris/Withrow motion the board will respond that we currently over obligated and have no funds available with a backlog of unfunded applications. Motion carried.**
- ◆ Letter from Dave Parkulo, CT/Supervisor, with the Southern CD work crew regarding O&M work in the past and requesting a chance to bid in the future. Oscar said that Judith provided the plans and estimates for O&M at last month's meeting. **Withrow made a motion to request that Judith move forward with Southern CD to submit an estimate with a second by Harris. Motion carried.**
- ◆ Letter from DEP Dam Safety extending the Certificate of Approval for Pocatlico Site 28 until September 2018.

Old Business

- ◆ Conservation Farms
Chairman Lipscomb said that supervisors need to decide their county winner by the April board meeting. Jackie had prepared a list for each county to review in deciding the farms they may want to consider.
- ◆ Agriculture Workshop is set for Tuesday, March 27th at the Farm Museum. Supervisors should to be there by 8:30 a.m. as the meeting begins at 9.
- ◆ Road Sign Order
Chairman Lipscomb asked supervisors to check in their county for potential sites needing the "entering" road signs. **On a Harris/Siebel motion the board agreed to order 10 signs. Motion carried.**

New Business

- ◆ LOR Approval
On a Harris/Withrow motion the LOR for \$1,350 to WVCA for reimbursement of audit expenses was approved. Motion carried.

- ◆ Conservation Farm Program Changes for 2018
 Kim reviewed the changes that have been made in the Conservation Farm Program. These changes have already gone into effect. There may be two winners in the area if they are within 5 points of each other. There will be only three judges and all will be from the East. Judges will be from NRCS, WVCA and WVACD along with the Area Director and WVCA public information director. No food for either the area or state tours, beverages only. The team will be there for only one hour. The emphasis is on community involvement, with the farmer being the one to speak about his farm during the tour. Kim needs the District winner by June 1st with a farm plan, farm map and narrative done by the nominee.
On a Harris/Stephens motion the board approved the new guidelines for county and district winners. Motion carried.

- ◆ FY19 Grant Budget
 The FY19 budget template supplied by WVCA for \$38,900 is due by March 31st. The FY18 revised budget was used to complete the budget for FY19. **On a Withrow/Siebel motion the FY19 Budget was adopted. Motion carried.**

Report of Guests

Chuck Talbott, Putnam County Extension

Chuck gave a power point presentation on garden based learning in Putnam County. He has six elementary schools in the county participating, approximately 1800 kids. The students are involved with the program from pre-k through fifth grade. Each student has a square foot to garden. The students raise the food and sell it back to the schools. As a result of measuring and weighing the crops, there has been improved west test scores in science and math. The grants for the program is through the WV Department of Agriculture.

Buffalo FFA

Danielle Grant, Buffalo FFA Advisor, introduced her students. They gave a presentation on West Virginia Senate Bills SB317 and SB375 dealing with transferring the rules and regulations dealing with milk production from DHHR to the WV Department of Agriculture. And regulatory control of the farmers markets. The group is competing in the FFA's Agriculture Issues Competition. Supervisors were impressed by their knowledge of the subjects and presentation skills.

Agency Reports

West Virginia Conservation Agency

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

Ag-Conservation Day has been scheduled for January 30, 2019.

Jackie Byars, District Conservationist

Round one of Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts have been completed. The second round of CSP has three animal waste systems and one wildlife application.

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, April 19, 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