

**SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2018**

The Southern Conservation District held their regular monthly board meeting on April 12, 2018 at the SCD office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Virgel Caldwell, SCD Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. John Farrell led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Randy Prince opened the meeting in prayer.

Supervisors Present

Virgel Caldwell	Curtis Murphy
Dvon Duncan	Randall Patton
John Farrell	Don Windon
Oscar Vecellio	Dennis Bailey, via video
Randy Prince	

Supervisors Absent

Travis Prince  
Ray Lafferty

Others Present

Becky Floyd, WVCA	Marty Walker, WVCA
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA	Dave Parkulo, SCD
Jennifer Skaggs, WVCA	Pam Russell, WVCA
Judith Lyons, WVCA	Danielle Stewart, PCWA
Robert Sypolt, WV American Chestnut Chapter	

**Curtis Murphy moved to approve the March 8, 2018 board meeting minutes as mailed. Randy Prince Seconded. Motion carried.**

Virgel Caldwell reported the District received a resignation letter from Travis Prince resigning as a district supervisor effective today. Virgel asked this be placed on the May agenda for board action.

Curtis Murphy reported Ray Lafferty is having back surgery today.

**Review/Approval of SCD Financial Reports**

**Randy Prince moved to approve the SCD March financial reports for the SCD general account, SCD travel and per diem account, SCD CDO account and SCD certificate of deposits as prepared by Akers and Associates. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.** Dvon questioned why District CD #2262 was redeemed by the check signatories? Virgel stated the CD was redeemed to open the new money market account for funds to be available if needed for the general account. Oscar Vecellio stated the reports reflect the funds in the new money market account with a portion of the CD placed in the SCD general account. **Oscar Vecellio moved to approve the SCD March financial report for the new money market account. Don Windon seconded. Motion carried.** Dennis Bailey asked the minutes to reflect he abstained from the votes due to not having the reports to view since he is attending the meeting by video.

**Dvon Duncan moved to approve the March accounts receivable report as prepared by Akers and Associates. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.**

**WV Conservation Agency Administrative Services Assistant III/District Manager Report**

**Oscar Vecellio moved to approve the March 8, 2018 SCD/WVCA co-administered financial reports as prepared by WVCA fiscal staff. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky Floyd presented the following invoices for payment approval:

McDowell County Commission	EWP work	\$3,500.00
SCD – Invoice 4572	Soak Creek Channel OM&R	\$5,875.00

Becky noted Judith Lyons has approved the EWP invoice for payment. The Soak Creek invoice is still being reviewed. Judith reported she has sent Dave an email with the items needed to complete the payment review for this invoice.

**Oscar Vecellio moved to approve the invoices presented for payment as presented. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.** The Soak Creek invoice will be paid upon final payment approval by Judith Lyons.

Becky asked the board to set a date to review the SCD Plan of Work. The 2018-19 SCD Plan of Work is due to Guthrie by June 15. The board agreed to hold a Plan of Work review meeting following the May board meeting.

Becky presented the following Century Farm Applications for board approval to submit as WV Century Farms:

James A. Gwinn	Summers County
Fairley J. Long Jr.	Summers County

John Farrell reported the WVACD changed the date to submit Century Farm names to June 1, 2018.

**Randy Prince moved to submit the Century Farm applications for James A. Gwinn and Fairley J. Long Jr. to the WV Association of Conservation Districts for recognition. John Farrell seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky updated the board on the plans for the June 5 Agriculture and Wellness for the Busy Woman Workshop.

Becky reported she has been working with Lynn Woods, GVCD, and NRCS on the May 3 land judging contest which has now been changed to the Southeastern Regional Land Judging Contest. The contest will be held at the Plant Material Center in Alderson and will begin at 10:00 a.m.

A discussion was held on the current Expression of Interest (EOI) with Civil Engineering & Consultants (CEC). The EOI expires at the end of April. Judith Lyons and Pam Russell will meet with the board following the board meeting to review information in the EOI for advertisement to local engineering firms. **Dvon Duncan moved to advertise for the Expression of Interest following the review meeting today. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky read the letter from WVU Extension asking for donations to assist with the cost of the Fayette County 4-H camp. **Randy Prince moved to donate \$50.00 from the CDO funds to the Fayette County 4-H Camp. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

### **County Conservation Farms**

The following conservation farms were submitted as county conservation farms for 2018:

Michael Fink Farm – Mercer County

HB Farms – Summers County

Keith Hunt Farm – Fayette County

Hylton Farm – Raleigh County (pending verification from the farm owner)

Oscar Vecellio will follow up with Gary Redden on the Hylton Farm.

The board set the county conservation farm tour for May 18. Supervisors will leave from the District office at 8:00 a.m. on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The group agreed to visit the farms in the following order: Fayette, Raleigh, Summers and Mercer. County supervisors will contact their county farm to advise them of the tour date and approximate time of arrival to their farm. Virgel will work with Dave to finalize the tour schedule. Becky was asked to contact NRCS to request the NRCS van for the tour.

### **Visiting Agency Reports**

WV Conservation Agency

Jeremy Salyer reviewed the WVCA report. Jeremy reminded the group to use the new revised conservation farm guidelines during the tour. He will be sending the revised bio sheet out to district managers next week. A bio sheet will need to be completed for each county conservation farm.

Jeremy reported on the meeting date change for the WVACD July meeting. Becky stated the new meeting date information has been sent to Dvon and Ray.

Jeremy provided a legislative update on SB282 and House Bill 4162.

Pam Russell presented a proposal for the WV Conservation Agency to work with the District on the development of a watershed based plan for the Pipestem Creek watershed area. Pam reviewed the role of the Agency and the District and provided a hand out for review. Dennis Burns will be writing the watershed based plan if the board chooses to move forward with the proposal. A discussion followed as to the agency's role and how the funds would be administered and the plan carried out by the staff and the district. **Dennis Bailey moved to accept the WVCA proposal to develop a watershed based plan for the Pipestem Creek watershed area. Dvon Duncan seconded the motion. Motion carried.** A discussion was held on water monitoring in the Pipestem Creek watershed area. John Farrell reported he is meeting with the Friends of the Lower Greenbrier to discuss plans water monitoring.

Piney Creek Watershed Association

Danielle Stewart reported on the Earth Week Activities Piney Creek Watershed Association has planned for April. Oscar Vecellio will be representing the district at the PCWA April 21 Earth Day Event being held at the Maxwell Hill Community Center.

### New Farming Operation

David Munsee introduced himself to the board. Mr. Munsee is new to the area and is current leasing property at Cool Ridge to begin industrial hemp farming. A discussion was held on this possibly becoming an agricultural practice for marginal lands.

### WV American Chestnut Chapter

Robert Sypolt discussed the WV Chapter of the American Chestnut Association and their goal to develop a "Mother Tree Orchard" in both the northern and southern part of the state. Board members will check with Pipestem State Park, Twin Falls State Park and Camp Creek State Park to see if they would be interested in developing an orchard on park property and report back at the May board meeting. Dvon will follow up with Mr. Sypolt following the May board meeting.

### Southern Conservation District Crew Foreman Report

Dave Parkulo reported the District Equipment Committee met and reviewed equipment and rental rates. The committee did not set increases in the rates for 2018. **Dvon Duncan moved the rates for 2018 remain the same as the 2017 equipment and rental rates. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.**

Dave reviewed work scheduled for the spring.

Dave stated the 3 army trucks recently advertised for sale by sealed bids will be advertised again with a minimum bid set.

### WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report

Marty Walker updated the board on the contracts completed and field visits with landowners. New AgEP brochures were distributed to supervisors showcasing the SCD cost share practices for the AgEP program. Marty asked the board to schedule a SCD AgEP Committee meeting to begin plans for the FY19 program. Dvon asked the committee to begin looking at industrial hemp for marginal lands as a soil amendment practice. Jennifer reminded the board practices are set for FY19 and encouraged the board to begin looking at practices for FY20. The board scheduled a SCD AgEP Committee meeting for May 4 at 10:00 a.m. at the SCD office.

Marty presented the following Conservation Agreements for board approval:

Harold W Wright	Summers County
Kim Lane	Raleigh County

**Randy Prince moved to approve the Conservation Agreements as presented. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

Marty discussed the extended Pasture Division Contract for John Harless. The deadline for the extension was March 30. Marty stated Mr. Harless has not started the project and recommended the board cancel his Pasture Division Fence Contract totaling \$1,581.25. **Randy Prince moved to approve the cancelation of the Pasture Division Fence Contract for John Harless. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.**

Marty presented the following AgEP completed Frost Seeding Contracts for payment approval:

*Virgel Caldwell	\$161.44
Mitchell A. Dech	\$63.99
Harry M. Hylton	\$500.00
Alan Harper	\$500.00

Dennis Lilly	\$500.00
Pam Bailey	\$255.20
Robert Littreal	\$240.00
Josette Richmond	\$271.25

Virgel Caldwell turned the meeting over to Curtis Murphy, SCD Vice Chairman, and recused himself from the meeting for the vote on his completed contract and payment. **Oscar Vecellio moved to approve the frost seeding cost share payment for Virgel Caldwell as presented. John Farrell seconded. Motion carried.** Virgel returned to the meeting.

**Randy Prince moved to approve the remaining frost seeding contracts payments as presented. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.**

#### **WV Association of Conservation Districts**

John Farrell reported on attending the April 9-10 WVACD meeting at Canaan Valley representing the SCD. Ray Lafferty and Dvon Duncan were unable to attend the meeting.

#### **SCD Supervisor Reports/Updates**

Randall Patton was unable to attend the meeting. The proposed project for McDowell County, which Mr. Patton had requested be on the April agenda will be moved to the May agenda.

Dvon suggested supervisors work with their bookkeeper on direct deposit for the travel and per diem account. The majority agreed to continue issuing checks instead of direct deposit.

Dvon updated the board on the plans for a VISTA worker. The VAD has been submitted for review and approval from Coal Heritage.

Dvon thanked Pam Russell for attending the meeting and presenting the proposal to assist the district with 319 projects and the development of a watershed based plan for the Pipestem Creek watershed.

Dvon discussed campaign financial reporting for elected supervisors. Dvon stated this is the first time Wyoming County Clerk's office has provided information on the financial reporting for supervisors.

Becky asked supervisors to stay for individual pictures for the new WVACD Directory being developed.

Dennis Bailey encouraged supervisors to attend the April 23 public meeting for Pipestem Creek Watershed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell  
Chairman

Dvon Duncan  
Secretary