

SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 8, 2018

The Southern Conservation District held their regular monthly board meeting on March 8, 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. Randall Patton opened the meeting with prayer.

Supervisors Present

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

Supervisors Absent

Don Windon
Travis Prince

Others Present

Becky Floyd, WVCA	Jeremy Salyer, WVCA (via video)
Dave Parkulo, SCD	Marty Walker, WVCA
Danielle Stewart, PCWA	Mat Bailey, WV DOF
Mark Hudnall, WV DOF	

Randall Patton moved to approve the February 8, 2018 board meeting minutes as mailed. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.

Review/Approval of SCD Financial Reports

Ray Lafferty moved to approve the SCD February financial reports as prepared by Akers and Associates. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.

Dvon Duncan questioned the past due invoices and if payments are being made by the landowners. Dave Parkulo reported Jack Taylor has stated he will not pay the invoice for his pond work. This has been submitted to Harold Wolfe for legal advice. Dave stated the invoice for Beverly Whitehead will not be paid until he can complete a minor repair to the pipe going into her pond. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve the February accounts receivable report as prepared by Akers and Associates. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

WV Conservation Agency Administrative Services Assistant III/District Manager Report

Becky Floyd reported copies of the 2018 SCD Photo Contest has been placed in each notebook. The information has also been posted on the SCD website and Facebook page.

Curtis Murphy moved to approve the March financial reports for the SCD/WVCA co-administered funds as prepared by WVCA fiscal staff. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.

Copies of the revised Conservation Farm Contest guidelines were distributed to the board members. Becky and Jeremy Salyer reviewed the changes. Oscar suggested Keith Hunt's farm in Fayette County as a possible county conservation farm. Oscar, Randy Prince and Gary Redden will visit with Mr. Hunt to see if he is interested in participating in the contest this year. Becky encouraged supervisors to select county farms by the April board meeting.

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the OM&R Statements of Review for Brush Creek sites 9,14 and 15 as prepared by the WVCA. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.

Becky discussed the Expression of Interest and reported the current agreement with Civil Engineering Consultants expires in April of 2018. **Dvon Duncan moved to renew the agreement with CEC if rates can remain the same as in the current engineering agreement. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky discussed purchasing name badges for supervisors who do not have name badges. **Dennis Bailey moved to purchase name badges for supervisors. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky presented the letter from WVU Soils Team requesting donations towards the cost of the team attending the national soils contest. **Dennis Bailey moved to donate \$100.00 from the CDO funds to the WVU Soils Team to help with the cost of the trip to the national contest. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky presented the information on Jr. Conservation Camp for this spring. **Dvon Duncan moved to donate \$500.00 to the Jr. and Sr. Conservation Camps from the CDO funds. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky reported the district has been asked if they want to co-sponsor a land judging contest at the Plant Material Center with Greenbrier Valley CD. **Ray Lafferty moved to authorize Becky and Virgel to determine if this is feasible this year after contacting the Greenbrier Valley CD to see what the sponsorship would include including the cost. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky reported she met with Dvon Duncan and Chad Fox with Daniel Vineyard earlier this month to discuss plans for the 3rd annual Women in Agriculture workshop. The event will be held June 5 at the Vineyard with lunch being catered by Fruits of Labor if the board agrees to the location and date. **Oscar Vecellio moved to approve the date and location for the 2018 Women in Agriculture Workshop. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.** Becky stated she has been in contact with several local producers and various agriculture agencies to line up speakers for the event.

Visiting Agency Reports

WV Conservation Agency

Jeremy Salyer reviewed the WVCA March report including review of Conservation District Operation (CDO) grant fund budgets, Engineering Expression of Interest contracts, and WV Legislature Calendar and House Bill 4162.

Jeremy stated Jennifer Skaggs hopes to have the FY19 funding allocation amounts by the March 29th State AgEP Committee meeting. The FY19 funds would not be available at that time but districts could begin planning budgets based upon their allocation amounts.

Jeremy stated a committee is working on revamping the plans for Ag Day and encouraged supervisors for their input on the event.

Jeremy reported Judith has approved estimates on Soak Creek and DF-CF Channel and is reviewing the other estimates.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Gary Redden reported on the Field Office programs and projects. The RCSWA submitted the WVACD/NRCS grant application for two high tunnels. Gary stated he will continue to work with the RCSWA on the proposed project.

Gary suggested the board visit the Hylton Farm as a possible farm for Raleigh County. He will work with supervisors on a day to visit the farm and speak with Harry Hylton on the contest. The main farm is the area Gary is looking at for the contest which is approximately 800 acres.

Dvon discussed the local work group meeting held in February. The committee decided to move forward with the partner application with Guyan CD for the coming year. This would be the only practice to submit for the coming fiscal year. Gary reported Corine Powell with NRCS in the Guyan CD will let him know if there is interest in their area for the proposed project. Gary will keep the board informed.

Piney Creek Watershed Association

Danielle Stewart reported Seth Burdette has resigned from DEP as of the 15th of March. Jennifer Pauer would be the contact until this position can be replaced.

Danielle gave an update on PCWA activity. Danielle reported 23 projects are scheduled for Earth Day events. One of which will be held at Bradley Elementary. Dvon asked Gary to check with the PMC to see if they would have trees for the Bradley school event. Forestry representatives will check with Bradley Elementary to see if they can assist with trees and possibly attend the event.

Forestry

Mark handed out brochures on fighting invasive species and pests in West Virginia. They also handed out spreadsheets on their programs including programs with NRCS.

Southern CD Crew Foreman Report

Dave Parkulo reported the crew is working on a fence project at Cool Ridge as weather permits. Dave stated he has accepted a couple of mowing jobs for this spring. Dave reported he is working with Dennis Burns on an issue that came up on the 319-pond project on the Wickline site and repairs will be made as weather permits. Dave stated he has looked at several farms that have signed up for cost share on heavy use areas and he is stockpiling stone to be available for the projects. Dave will also have fabric available for landowners. Dave is working with Judith Lyons and Brian Fry on the OM&R estimates. He will obtain the land rights needed on the Soak Creek Channel property where he will be crossing over landowner properties to work on the channel. Dave will contact the county commission on a mass communication to the landowners on Soak Creek prior to beginning the channel work.

Dave reported he sent a letter to Western CD to discuss why the district did not receive the mowing work last year and to express he will be happy to attend a meeting if they are interested in the district doing the mowing this spring.

Dave suggested the 2018 Farm Field Day be held at Camp Creek State Park due to the field day usually being held during hay time. The board agreed for Dave to work with Virgel and the Park Superintendent to finalize and date and plans for the spring Farm Field Day to be held at the park.

WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report

Marty Walker reported after completing field visits and ranking it changes the numbers some on the additional amount that may be needed to fund all applications submitted for Frost Seeding and Heavy Use Protection. Marty stated with current AgEP funds on hand the additional estimated amount needed to cover all contracts is \$1,070.00. **Curtis Murphy moved to approve taking \$1,070.00 from the SCD general funds if needed to cover the frost seeding and heavy use contracts approved during this sign-up period. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.** Marty reported the extended fence contract may not be completed by the landowner so this would free up AgEP funds allocated for the fence contract. Marty will be in touch with the landowner on his extended contract and deadline date.

Marty presented the list of Frost Seeding applications and contracts approved by Curtis Murphy under delegation of authority by the board:

Homer Plumley	\$500.00
Cheryl Williams	\$179.00
Harry Hylton	\$500.00
Robert Littreal	\$255.00

Mitchell Dech	\$179.97
Alan Harper	\$500.00
Dennis Lilly	\$500.00
Jim Tolliver	\$404.89
Pam Bailey	\$434.91
Charles Oxley	\$179.97
Josette Richmond	\$329.92
*Virgel Caldwell	\$254.94

Randall Patton moved to approve the Frost Seeding applications and contracts as presented and approved by Curtis Murphy as delegated by the board, excluding the application for Virgel Caldwell. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.

Jeremy Salyer reported the WVCA has approved the frost seeding application for Virgel Caldwell.

Marty presented the following Heavy Use Area applications and contracts for board approval:

Steve Dehart	\$500
Michael Barnes	\$500
Stoughton Gilkeson	\$500
Stuart Oxley	\$500
Kim Lane	\$500
Paul Fink	\$500
Michael Fink	\$500
Travis Redden	\$500
Richard Pate	\$500
Kevin Okes	\$500
Shannon Daniel	\$500
Luther Bennett	\$500
Jerry Bennett	\$500
Harold Wright	\$500
Ronald Testerman	\$500

Beverly Landers

\$500

Curtis Murphy moved to approve the Heavy Use Area applications and contracts as presented. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.

Marty discussed two potential farm sites in the New River Watershed that she may be able to write proposals for possible AGO funding. Dennis Bailey moved for Marty Walker to develop the proposals for the farm sites in Raleigh and Summers county which are in impaired areas noted in the TMDL report for submission to the WV Conservation Agency for possible 319 or AGO funding. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried. Marty will submit the proposals to the Agency to submit for AGO grant funds.

WV Association of Conservation Districts

Ray Lafferty reviewed dates for the spring and summer quarterly meetings.

Supervisor Reports

Dvon Duncan discussed the revisions to the Mountain RC&D request to the WVCA for FY18 project grant funds. This revision removes the WVU Extension request for assistance with safety days and submits the PCWA request for a trail improvement project along Piney Creek. **Dennis Bailey moved for the board to approve the revised Mountain RC&D application to SCC and WVCA. Ray Lafferty seconded. The motion carried.** Dvon stated with the fiscal year being underway they need to move forward on the projects once the request has been approved by the SCC. She encouraged the board to submit ideas to her by the April board meeting to be in the FY19 request.

Dvon reported Coal Heritage Authority has looked at the revisions made to the VISTA concept paper and she has been advised to move forward with the VISTA work plan to submit to Coal Heritage Authority for a 2-year period. Dvon stated the activities in the concept paper are based on the SCD work plan. Dennis questioned what the salary is for a VISTA worker. Dvon stated the VISTA receives an education siphon in addition to salary plus health care for the two-year period thru the Coal Heritage Authority.

Randall gave an update on the McDowell County Clean-up Campaign. Elkhorn Watershed held a public meeting and approximately 35 people attended. They plan to start holding monthly meetings. Randall is also working with the County Commission on two blockages in McDowell County. He has an additional site he has taken pictures of that appears to be about a 90 percent blockage. He will send the information and pictures to Becky to submit to Judith Lyons.

Dvon reported she attended a Wyoming County Commission meeting yesterday. During the meeting Brian Farkas and Judith Lyons discussed the agreement with the McDowell County Commission and the blockage being looked at by Randall and that the in-kind services by the McDowell County Commission could be used as their cost share for that project. Dvon stated the agency and the County Commission are looking at revising the Wyoming County agreement

to include in-kind services can be used as match for the County monies. Dvon encouraged Raleigh, Summers and Fayette County supervisors to take the MOU to their county commissioners to begin discussions on the agreements.

Dennis Bailey discussed a flyer being developed to provide information to landowners that would give conservation contacts and agency information to cooperators. The flyer could include contact information listing local conservation and agriculture agencies. Oscar will work with Dennis and John Farrell to develop a one-page sheet to provide to landowners.

Becky distributed the information sheet Dvon requested her to develop to use for Facebook information. Dvon discussed the SCD Facebook page and encouraged supervisors to complete the information sheet and submit it to Marty for the Facebook page.

Dennis discussed the district applying for the WVDEP 319 AGO grant. Dvon has talked with Civil & Environmental Consultants and they will be submitting a quote for the cost to develop a watershed based plan for the Pipestem Creek area. Dennis questioned with Seth Burdette resigning who would write the application for the AGO grant? Dvon stated maybe this something she could do for the district. Dennis will contact Seth to see if he can still assist the district with the application.

Dennis discussed holding a community “meet and greet” dinner meeting to see if there is interest in 319 projects and volunteers to help promote 319 projects in the future by creating a watershed association. The volunteers could help with in-kind services if 319 projects develop in the future. **Dennis Bailey moved to set up and fund a dinner meeting for the Pipestem creek project not to exceed \$500.00 from the CDO fund. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.** Dennis will set up the meeting.

John asked the April agenda include time for him to present a power point presentation on his recent trip.

Virgel reported a safety meeting will be held March 30 at 9:00 a.m. and an equipment committee meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Virgel announced a tour has been set at the landfill following the meeting today. The RCSWA will be providing lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Virgel Caldwell, Chairman

Dvon Duncan, Secretary