

SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
OCTOBER 11, 2018 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Southern Conservation District held their regular monthly board meeting on October 11, 2018 at the SCD office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Curtis Murphy led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Randy Prince opened the meeting in prayer.

Supervisors Present:

Oscar Vecellio	Virgel Caldwell
John Farrell	Ray Lafferty
Curtis Murphy	Don Windon
Randall Patton	John Brenemen
Dennis Bailey	Randy Prince

Supervisors Absent

Dvon Duncan

Others Present

William Hughes, Town of Pax	Leo Lester, Visitor
Greg Stone, NRCS	Dave Parkulo, SCD
Becky Floyd, WVCA	Gary Redden, NRCS
Marty Walker, WVCA	Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

**Randall Patton moved to approve the September 13, 2018 board meeting minutes as mailed. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

**SCD Financial Reports:**

**Randall Patton moved to approve the September financial reports as prepared by Akers and Associates. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.**

Board members reviewed the accounts receivable report for September. Virgel Caldwell suggested the board submit Beverly Whitehead's delinquent invoice to Harold Wolfe for legal action. He has tried several times to work with Ms. Whitehead, but she said she is not responsible for the invoice. Virgel stated he has the signed Request for Service from Dave Parkulo for the work completed. **Dennis Bailey moved to proceed with legal action on the Whitehead invoice. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.** The board discussed Jack Taylor's invoice. **Randall Patton moved the Taylor invoice be taken off the accounts receivable report as a write off due to not being able to pursue the payment as advised by Harold Wolfe. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried. Dennis Bailey moved the Tony Reese invoice be taken off the accounts receivable as a write off due to the landowner being unreachable by phone and not responding to mailed invoices. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried. Randy Prince moved to approve the September board meeting accounts receivable report as prepared by Akers and Associates. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

**Southern Conservation District Conservation Technician Supervisor Report:**

Dave Parkulo reviewed the work completed by the crew during the last month. Lime deliveries are being scheduled as weather permits along with other farm work projects.

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

Becky Floyd reported 55 people attended the October 9 annual awards banquet held at Tamarack. Becky thanked Marty Walker and Dave Parkulo for their assistance. Four conservation farm families and two century farm families were present to be honored at the banquet.

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The group reviewed the memo from Brian Farkas concerning the State Committee's decision to approve districts to increase supervisor per diem from \$60 to \$80 based upon each district's decision. The WVCA allocation for supervisor travel and per diem will not change. Board members asked Becky to place this on the November agenda for board motion.

Becky presented the September financial reports for the co-administered funds. **Ray Lafferty moved to approve the September financial reports for co-administered funds as prepared by WVCA staff. John Brenemen seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky discussed the non-interest-bearing account the district opened for federal 319 monies. The Agency now has approval to place 319 funds in the interest-bearing account since the funds are received from WVDEP when sent to the Agency. **Ray Lafferty moved to close the non-interest-bearing account at First Community Bank. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky discussed the Request for Quotation (RFQ) for FY18 and stated Lowe and Associates has agreed to perform the work for the same cost as FY17. **Ray Lafferty moved to accept the RFQ from Lowe and Associates for FY18. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.**

The group reviewed the request from the state Grazing Land Committee for each district to donate \$1,000.00 towards the cost of the 2019 Appalachian Grazing Land Conference. A discussion was held on the need for the conference to be in different locations around the state. Becky suggested a board member serve on the committee to encourage the change in the location. Ray will check on the committee and when they meet at the upcoming WVACD meeting. **Randy Prince moved to donate \$1,000.00 from the CDO account to the 2019 Appalachian Grazing Land Conference. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky reported supervisors met with Thrasher Engineering and Civil and Environmental Consultants on September 21, 2018. Jeremy Salyer and Becky assisted with the meeting. **Curtis Murphy moved to accept the Expression of Interest submitted by Civil and Environmental Consultants (CEC) based upon their experience and available staff. Dennis Bailey seconded.** The EOI will be accepted for a two-year period with the option to renew. **The motion carried.** Becky will work with Jeremy on the process of the agreement with CEC.

**Visiting Agency Reports:**

*WV Conservation Agency*

Jeremy Salyer reviewed the WVCA report and upcoming dates for special events and meetings.

Jeremy reported final program documents for the new streambank stabilization and restoration program (SSRP) program are not yet available to staff. He will keep the board informed as program moves forward.

OM&R inspections in the SCD will be held October 16, 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Gary Redden gave an update on the two high tunnels that will be constructed at the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority. Bids have been opened by the RCSWA and construction will begin this year.

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Gary reported he is working to schedule several meetings on the pollinator program and high tunnel programs in addition to a meeting being scheduled in Wyoming County to promote NRCS programs. Greg Stone discussed the October 16 scoping meeting being held at Twin Falls State Park. The purpose of the meeting is to meet with state and federal agencies to discuss the two watershed projects NRCS is working in McDowell and Wyoming County. They are looking at possible alternatives to the flooding problems, including a “buy-out” option and need input from partnering agencies on any unforeseen issues or concerns that may arise because of the proposed project.

Greg reported NRCS has been approved as part of a national arrangement for a full-time forester to be headquartered in Princeton or Beckley. He will keep the board informed as this moves forward. The forester will assist with forestry plans, FCA projects like the maple syrup project, wildlife projects and forestry improvement projects.

Oscar introduced Leo Lester. Mr. Lester is retired from WV Forestry and is interested in assisting the district with forestry workshops. He discussed the need for assistance to landowners with small acreage and forestry practices including chain saw safety. He hopes the district will look at agro-forestry in the future. Oscar suggested the first workshop be held at Ghent Fire Department. The SCD Forestry Committee will meet on October 23 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss plans for the first workshop. John Brenemen and Oscar Vecellio were added to the Forestry Committee. Becky Floyd and Marty Walker will assist the committee and Mr. Lester in the planning.

John Brenemen introduced William Hughes. Mr. Hughes discussed the ongoing water line problems the town is experiencing which is creating additional bank erosion during flood events. Mr. Hughes reported he met with WVCA and the site is not eligible for assistance. Jeremy reviewed the site report prepared by Brian Fry. Mr. Hughes discussed the Army Corp of Engineers and possible options the town is looking at to have water levels changed and grant options for repairs to be made to the creek. Randall Patton suggested Mr. Hughes contact Jennifer Pauer with WVDEP to discuss 319 funding. Greg Stone suggested NRCS engineers meet with Mr. Hughes to look at natural stream design to address the erosion problems.

**WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report:**

Marty Walker presented the following completed AgEP contracts for payment approval:

Water Systems

Joel Neil Gwinn           \$1,000.00

Lime

Wayne Blankenship   \$750.00

James Pate             \$425.00

**Randall Patton moved to approve the payments as presented. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Marty Walker presented the following AgEP applications for approval:

Heavy Use Are Protection

Harry Hylton           \$1,000.00

Paul Fink                \$1,000.00

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Water System  
Dean Bailey                      \$500.00

**Randall Patton moved to approve the payments as presented. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

Marty reported the SCD AgEP Committee met earlier this month and recommends the following statement be included to the current AgEP document:

A cooperators leasing government lands may apply for AgEP at the SCD if he or she is an eligible applicant, the individual themselves apply for the program and they have a written lease stating a period for their farming operation on said land.

**Dennis Baily moved the statement be added to the current AgEP document as recommended by the SCD AgEP committee. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky will note the changes to the document and send the updates to Jennifer Skaggs.

Marty reported the SCD AgEP committee will meet on October 23 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss specific ideas to submit to Jennifer Skaggs this winter to prepare for the spring State AgEP Committee meeting when factors for the AgEP allocations are considered.

The marketing committee will be finalizing the 2019 SCD Calendar using the 2018 Conservation Farm on the front cover.

**319 Update:**

Becky reviewed the email update from Dennis Burns on the Pipestem Creek Watershed Based Plan. Dennis Bailey reported he is working with a local group of people to help form Pipestem Creek Watershed Association. Dennis is working with Becky to send the meeting information to Jennifer Pauer and Dennis Burns to request their attendance at the group's next meeting.

**WV Association of Conservation Districts:**

John Farrell, Ray Lafferty and Randall Patton will be attending the October WVACD annual meeting. Becky reported Dvon Duncan had to cancel due to family illness.

Ray Lafferty read the thank you card from Joe Gumm thanking the board for payment of their NACD dues.

**Randall Patton moved to approve Ray Lafferty to attend the February 2-6, 2019 NACD meeting in San Antonio Texas as a representative of the SCD. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.**

**Supervisor Committee Reports/Updates:**

Randall Patton reported the SCD equipment committee met earlier this month and is recommending the district purchase a 2017 JD mini excavator with a monthly finance amount of approximately \$930.00 a month for up to 4 years to meet the payoff. Randall stated he worked with Dave Parkulo to obtain 3 written quotes. Virgel discussed concerns on the monthly payment. **Randall Patton moved to purchase the mini excavator from Leslie Equipment for \$64,590.00. Dennis Bailey seconded. The Chairman called for a show of hands. The motion carried with no negative votes.**

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Oscar Vecellio reported he is working with Mike Akers and Becky Floyd on the renewal of the federal lease for offices in the SCD building. The current lease expires November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Oscar reported he is working with Jeremiah Johnson on continuing concerns on the storm water drainage issues creating high water in the NRCS parking area and at times in the district parking lot. Greg thanked Oscar for his assistance with this and offered assistance if needed on engineering options to address the concerns.

Dave Parkulo reported the fence estimate for Site 9 is \$3,736.75. The board agreed for Dave to submit the estimate to Judith Lyons.

John Farrell discussed a call he received from a cooperater concerning his pond leaking after construction by the district. John discussed Mr. Wickline's concerns and the problems the leaks are creating in his fields. John stated it is his understanding 319 dollars and in-kind costs from the landowner were part of this project and he feels the problem needs to be addressed to make the project successful. Dave Parkulo discussed his history on the project and the discussions with the landowner and Dennis Burns on several issues that occurred during the project. Dave stated the pond was built to specs and he did not approve any work to be done by another contractor. Dave suggested John Farrell contact Dennis Burns to discuss the concerns. Dennis was the project manager for the 319 project. John will contact Dennis.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell