

**WEST FORK CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
February 4, 2014**

**MINUTES**

With a quorum being present, Chairman Foster called the February Board of Supervisors meeting to order on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, Mt. Clare, WV. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the call to order.

**Supervisors Present:** **Tim Butler**                                 **William Coffindaffer**  
  **Jane Collins**                                     **James Foster**  
  **Bernadette Law**                                 **Bill McClain**  
  **Randy Plaughter**

**Supervisor Absent:** **Mary Lee Hines**

**Others Present:** **Herb Andrick, Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Joel Barnosky, Farm Service Agency**  
**Amy Cosco, WV Conservation Agency**  
**Chuck Copeland, WV Division of Forestry**  
**Kim Fisher, WV Conservation Agency**  
**Jeff Griffith, Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Dinah Hannah, WV Conservation Agency**  
**Belva Junkins, West Fork Conservation District**  
**Bruce Loyd, WVU Extension Service**  
**Stephen McAnarney, WV Division of Forestry**  
**Jim Roy, WV Conservation Agency**  
**John Schmidt, US Fish & Wildlife**  
**Robin Ward, West Fork Conservation District**

**Introductions:** John Schmidt, US Fish & Wildlife Service was introduced.

**Agenda Approval:** Coffindaffer/Plaughter motion carried to approve the agenda for today’s meeting, February 4, 2014.

**Public Comments:** No one was present to comment.

**Minutes:** The January 8, 2014 minutes will stand approved as mailed.

**Financial Report:** The financial reports are in the Supervisors folders for their review for the District Bookkeeper General and CDO Funds report. The General and CDO funds report will be filed for audit. The accountant has also attached the Income Statement compared with the budget for both the General and CDO accounts. This will be filed for audit. The WVCA Year-to-Date Revenue and Expenditure Balance Report for January has also been sent. The report will be filed pending audit.

**Approval of Invoices & Payments:** There are none at this time.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Ag Enhancement Program:** Bill reported the AgEP committee met last Friday, January 31, 2014 where they discussed practices for the coming fiscal year program. They will be going to two signups every 6 months. They also approved the following payments;

- Mike McDonald – lime – 12 acres - \$230.20
- Greg Moore – lime – 18 acres - \$500.85
- John Watson – lime – 50 acres - \$3,300.00
- Michael McDonald – lime – 42.9 acres - \$2,678.00

**Coffindaffer made a motion to approve these practices for payment.** The committee also approved the following practice;

- Creed Ward – Division Fence 2,500 feet - \$4,000.00

**Butler moved for approval of the Creed Ward practice of division fence for \$4,000.00.** Amy reported that when the committee was looking at the lime practices, John Spiker had been paid more than he was approved for. There is a note in the file as to why that is the way it is. Everyone has until the end of May to get the receipts into Amy for all practices except lime. Also, Edison Law and Edward Garrett were also paid more than they were approved for the lime program. They will be getting letters requesting the overpayment be returned to the district. Concern was expressed regarding their 1099's. The committee has recommended sending the letters to cooperators. **Butler moved to send letters to these cooperators regarding their overpayment. Plaugher seconded. Motion carried.**

**WFCB Personnel Form:** The form has been completed and ready for review today. It was noted that we should change soil tester title to conservation technician before sending it to Charleston.

### **New Business**

**Clarksburg Water Board Proposal:** John Schmidt, USDA Fish & Wildlife had asked to address the group today. He wanted to give a short presentation on their proposal to assist the Clarksburg Water Board with the removal of three West Fork dams and the construction of aquatic life passage structure of a fourth dam. The Clarksburg Water Board gave the Guardians of the West Fork Watershed Association a number of years to find a way to alleviate the board of the dams' ownership and their associated maintenance costs and liability. These efforts have been fruitless. The water board would now like to move forward with removing the dams and he asks to explain another side of the issue in an effort to educate the District and possibly gain their support for the project. This District has remained neutral on it. US Fish & Wildlife is ready to take them down due to the club shell mussel, an endangered species. He has been working in Hacker's Creek to save these species. They have dwindled and now they will be going into a recovery effort to save them. He has helped a lot of landowners restoring riparian habitat. Their job is to safeguard endangered species and this population is going to blink out. The oil and gas

industry is also endangering this species in Doddridge County on Middle Island Creek. There are 3-4 landowners who are concerned with the irrigation for their cattle if these dams are removed. If we have any questions, please let him know. Schmidt reports they submitted the grant to remove the dams at the end of January and it will be March before they hear anything.

**WVCA Fall Dam Inspection Meeting and Public Meetings:** Ed Martin has put together a proposal on the O & M work in Polk Creek & Salem Fork this summer. Bill Coffindaffer reports they will be finalizing the proposal soon. The public meetings had good attendance. The meeting in Salem was a good meeting. On Site 11-A, there are tree tops in the dam where they are logging. Trees are piled in the flood pool at the present time. If we get the rain we are anticipating tonight and tomorrow, there may be a problem. Jim Roy will be monitoring this situation. They are timbering inside the easement. **Coffindaffer made a motion to send a letter to the landowner regarding the effects of this logging on Site #11-A in Salem. McClain seconded. Motion carried.** The meeting in Weston had about 50 attending. Landowners were upset about not policing the trash. Bill feels we need to be very pro-active with those folks in the watershed dam area. He would like to have another meeting with them to discuss O & M items this year, getting them on the same page.

**Grassland Contest:** The annual contest is being held on April 11, 2014 and the committee is asking if the District will be paying for the lunch again for the teams and have volunteers for the contest. We need to find a good sponsor for the Grassland Contest, if we are going to continue with this worthwhile program. **Butler moved we provide funds of up to \$200.00 to purchase pizza for the grassland teams and it was seconded by Collins. Motion carried.**

**WV Beef Expo:** Ronnie Helmondollar, WVU Extension Service has sent the paper work for the WV Beef Expo which is being held April 10, 11 & 12, 2014. **Coffindaffer moved for the District to have a display at the Beef Expo and it was seconded by Plaughter. Motion carried. Coffindaffer made a motion to spend up to \$300.00 for handout items for the Beef Expo and it was seconded by Plaughter. Motion carried.**

**Correspondence:**

WVSCC Draft Winter Quarterly Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2014.

WV Envirothon Draft Committee Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2013.

Jim Moore: Proposed language change to exempt Supervisors from the \$1,000.00 limit.

WVACD Draft Minutes for the January 7 & 8, 2014 meeting.

Tygarts Valley CD – Advertisement for sealed bids.

Kevin Wickey, NRCS- National Cover Crop & Soil Health Forum – February 18, 2014.

**Funding Requests:** WVU Soils teams are requesting a donation for assistance with the 2014 National Collegiate Soils Contest. In the past, the District has donated \$300.00. **Coffindaffer moved to sponsor \$300.00 to the WVU Soils Team and it was seconded by Butler. Motion carried.**

**Letters of Request:** There were none to request.

**SPRP Project:** There are none at this time.

**Board Member Reports:** Tim reported on the conservation field day on May 14 in Gilmer County. It looks like this would be earliest to do the program due to other conflicts. The Envirothon meeting has been cancelled due to bad weather. The scenario is finished. The Site Committee for the Envirothon is meeting on February 20.

**Report of Cooperating Agencies:**

**Herb Andrick, NRCS:** Herb distributed his report to the group. He discussed under Farm Bill programs, NRCS selected applicants for funding in WHIP and EQIP. Here in West Fork CD, they are working to complete contracts on five WHIP and 15 EQIP applications. Twenty-nine counties in WV were designated as new additions to the Secretary's StrikeForce initiative (attached map). USDA's StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity Initiative is part of the Secretary's commitment to growing economies, increasing investments and creating opportunities in poverty-stricken rural communities. NRCS is receiving additional EQIP funding and will be announcing a special ranking period for this funding in the near future. NRCS-WV and the Monongahela National Forest were selected by the USFS and NRCS to participate in a special initiative between the two USDA agencies. NRCS will be receiving special funding for this joint effort targeting water quality and habitat preservation/enhancement activities and will be announcing a special ranking period for this funding in the near future. By coordinating our efforts, both NRCS and the Mon National Forest will be able to show enhance benefits. The Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) sign-up deadline has been extended to February 14, 2014. He also mentioned the National Cover Crop and Soil Health Forum which is scheduled for February 18, 2014.

**Jeff Griffith, NRCS:** Jeff commented on Herb's report, they will be busy putting their EQIP contracts together. It looks like they have 4 WHIP contracts in Gilmer County and hopefully they can be obligated before the Farm Bill is signed. They have 530 practices that are planned in the four counties. There is a volunteer working at the Glenville office, who is a student at Glenville State, majoring in forestry.

**Bruce Loyd, WVU Extension Service:** Bruce reported next Wednesday is the dinner meeting at Jackson's Mill. The Small Farms conference is coming up at the end of the month in Morgantown. The dinner meeting in March is at West Milford and the topic is small farm diversification. On March 14, he has set up a breeding examination at Jackson's Mill. State 4-H and FFA officials are mandating that all youth are provided quality assurance training that has livestock projects.

**Joel Barnosky, FSA:** Joel reported that with the potential passage of the Farm Bill, it looks like there are indemnity losses included in the bill. Make sure that you let everyone know that if you are losing livestock due to weather related situations, you need to keep good records. This would be an opportunity to recoup some losses.

**Chuck Copeland, Forestry:** Chuck has brought the pocket planners to everyone today.

**WVCA:** Kim reported on the WVCA report for February. Senate Bill 454 was introduced in the state senate on January 30. The bill seeks to place in the state Dam Control Act definitions of ownership. The bill was introduced in the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee with a second reference to Judiciary. Annual O & M inspections are out and available for District review. WVCA watershed staff will be in contact with districts soon to schedule annual O & M. The WVCA annual report is ready and being distributed to the districts by the area directors. The next meeting for WVSCC is scheduled for April 15, 2014 at Guthrie. Supervisors are reminded to submit their

travel and per diem monthly. Brian is monitoring the costs and has noted that several supervisors have not submitted a travel or per diem for several months. For budget purposes, it is very important to have the reimbursements sent on a timely schedule. The WVACD scholarship applications are due to district offices by the first Monday in March. The WVCA report is out and is being distributed today. Dinah reported that she finally received the date of February 14 for the audit to be done by Suttle & Stalnaker. Cooperators and contractors have received their 1099's in the mail. The Women in AG committee met last week and had a good meeting. The next one is on February 25. Harold Matlick's wife has passed away and she has the visitation information.

**WFCD:** Robin reported on the Women in AG program where the WVCA wants to do a success story on our women supervisors. Robin serves on the communication committee for the WVCA and Andrew Stacy mentioned that the Districts should be thinking of our own logo.

**Conservation Agreements:** The following Conservation Agreement has been received for new cooperators;

- John Allen – 84 acres – Gilmer County
- Donnie Sabatelli – 63.5 acres – Harrison County
- Susan M. Rogers – 214 acres – Harrison County

**Coffindaffer/Plaugher motion carried to approve the Conservation Agreements for Allen, Sabatelli & Rogers.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

**Set Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on March 4, 2014 at the USDA Service Center, Mt. Clare, WV to begin at 9:00 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Bernadette Law, Secretary**

**Minutes Recorded by Dinah Hannah, Administrative Officer**