

The **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors held a Regular Board Meeting on *January 14, 2015* commencing at 9:02 a.m. at the district conference room in Philippi, WV. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Wolfe.

Supervisors Present: Robert Wolfe, John Sencindiver, James B. Nester, Sr., David C. Bonner, Sam Wright, Rex Reeder, Sheldon Findley, Joe Shaffer, Tom Warner, and Joe Gumm.

Others Present: Roger Poling – WVCA, Hillary Woofter – WVCA, Joyce Frey – TVCD, Martin Christ - WVDEP, and Corey Lambert.

Reeder led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors: Wolfe led the introduction of Corey Lambert to the board and everyone present.

Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:

January 14, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda: **Reeder moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**

December 29, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes: **Nester moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**

Treasurer Report: Joyce Frey provided an A/R aging summary report and commented that she would have a full report for presentation at the next district board meeting.

District Report:

Frey reported that the crew was currently on low earnings due to the recent weather. Frey ordered a new sign attachment for the district office complex that advertises our office space for rent. The sign cost \$219.00 and the office will be notified when it's completed. She recently spoke to James Powers, Deputy Director of the WV Commission of Special Investigators. The Kanawha County Prosecuting Attorney has asked the district provide as much information as possible regarding the checks to Carco Automotive and All Sites Services. Frey commented that we received the new hay auger for sampling. She also reminded supervisors that they needed to plan on performing employee evaluations.

Wolfe commented that he would like a paper copy of all work estimates to be sent out with the work crew to each job site. This will help avoid overages. He had recently spoke to Karl about several pieces of district equipment that had been left in Lost Creek, and will speak to Dave about getting them brought in. Karl and Dave went through a list of the district equipment and noted any that are in need of repairs. He has been receiving a lot of complaints recently about their being a lack of heat in the building. His cousin has offered to give the district a free estimate on what work could be done to improve the buildings heating and cooling. The handicapped modifications to the Spokes bathroom have been completed. John Weller retired from the NRCS and that office space is now available. The WVU Extension office recently purchased a gun safe to keep firearms in for the competitive teams, however it is against NRCS policy for firearms to be kept on the same premises. It could possibly be put in the shop, but it would need board approval. Requested that it be added to the next district board meeting agenda.

Wright showed an interest in trying to rent the entire building space to one business in the future.

District Manager Report:

Woofter suggested that the personnel committee be made into a permanent body, and suggested that the district committees meet once a month as needed and move to hold one district board meeting a month. She reported that she had secured travel plans for her to attend WV Ag Day at the Capitol and she would be driving down the night before. Woofter then reminded the supervisors that they each needed to select a candidate for sponsorship to the 2015 Appalachian Grazing Conference in March. She had made travel arrangements to stay overnight in Morgantown for the conference to help with registration and other functions.

Dates (District Meetings/Work Sessions) to Remember:

- I. January 15, 2015 – WV Grazing Lands Steering Committee Meeting @ 10 a.m.**
- II. January 15, 2015 – Eat & Reap Dinner Belington F.D. @ 6:30 p.m.**
- III. January 20, 2015 – WV Ag Day**
- IV. January 22, 2015 – AgEP Committee Meeting @ 10 a.m.**
- V. January 26, 2015 – District Board Meeting @ 9 a.m.**
- VI. January 31, 2015 – Upshur County Hay & Silage Show B.U.H.S. @ 6 p.m.**

Report of Officers and Agencies:

WVCA:

Jeremy Salyer was not in attendance but provided a written report to be presented to the board. (Copy attached)

Roger Poling reminded everyone that there is an AgEP Committee meeting on Thursday the 22nd and signups for the spring 2015 program start on January 19th.

WVU Extension: None

NRCS: *Ben Collier* was not in attendance but provided a written report to be presented to the board. (Copy attached)

FSA: None

WesMonTy RC&D: John Sencindiver reminded everyone that applications for new projects are due at the end of month. They will be purchasing a crimper, but will need a place to store it. It could possibly be kept in the district workshop, or at another district. It was requested that it be added to the next meeting agenda for further discussion. The next meeting will be on February 17, 2015 at 10:00 AM at the steakhouse in Weston. Lastly, their grant money is in the process of being dispersed.

WVDOF: None

Others: Martin Christ with the WVDEP reported that he was no longer the project manager of the Roaring Creek project. He has encouraged the new manager to contact us for support, however, they have not shown interest in doing so at this time. There weren't any further updates on the project, but he would try to keep the district updated on in the future.

Correspondence Received: Brickstreet Authorization Decisions; DEP Junior Conservation Camp Request Letter

Old Business:

Farmland Preservation: Reeder reported that the next meeting would be January 15, 2015 at the Upshur County Courthouse at 4:00 PM.

AgEP Cancellations: None

WVU Extension Service Internet Use and Lease: No update - Josh Peplowski was still waiting to hear back from their IT department on the matter.

Approval of funds for SPRP/OM&R: None

Committee Reports:

Building/Finance/Budget Committee: No report.

Equipment/Safety Committee: No report

Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee: Sencindiver reported how the committee was planning to host an Envirothon training session for participating district schools, sometime in the later part of March. Woofter had contacted Camp Pioneer in Beverly about hosting the event, and received a rental contract. The cost to rent the Agricultural Complex for 1 day is \$150.

Findley moved to approve the \$150 rental payment and to sign the contract once a date had been coordinated with the schools; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.

An Education Committee meeting was then planned to be held directly following the district board meeting on January 26, 2015.

Legislative Committee: Gumm encouraged all the supervisors to attend WV Ag Day and the make appointments with their legislators. Commented that Woofter had finished the district display and that he would be taking it down with him. Woofter will be available to take pictures of the event.

Grassland/AEP Committee: Reeder reminded everyone that the next WV Grazing Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for the next day at 10:00 AM in Weston. He apologized for having to change the date due to a walkthrough of the Waterfront Hotel conference facilities that Friday.

AgEP Spot-check Results: Salyer provided Woofter with a final draft of the spot check results for the board to review and accept. (Copy attached)

Wright moved to approve the spot-check results as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.

Conservation Agreements: Margaret Kelly – Upshur County, 69 acres

Sencindiver moved to approve the agreement; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.

AgEP Payments: James Rohr (Upshur County) Fertilizer - \$1200.00

Poling reported that when he had collected hay samples for Mr.Rohr, he had turned in his receipts for his cost-share application. He had forgotten to submit them to the office, however, the receipts were all dated before the program deadline of November 14, 2014.

Reeder moved to approve payment to Mr.Rohr; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.

AgEP Applications: None

Water Resource Committee: Shaffer reported that he had been out with Kevin Jones of the WVCA to look at several blockages in the area due to the recent storms. The local electric companies had cut down some trees, but left them and have since formed blockages. Kevin will have several removal jobs to put before the board in the future. Shaffer hadn't received any updates on the Barbour County Water Project.

WVACD Directors Report: Sencindiver provided a written report from the WVACD Quarterly Meeting on January 5th and 6th. (Copy attached)

Gumm discussed supervisor training at length. He wants supervisors to lead training modules, and see the WVACD officers and committees be more active and involved. He would also like for training days to be offered several times a year, rather than just one session.

Findley commented on the WVACD adding new forestry practices. This is due to 70-80% of the state being woodland areas, and at the suggestion of the WVACD Natural Resource Committee.

Tom Warner elected to attend the Dam Maintenance Training session on February 25, 2015 at 9:00 AM at the WVACD office.

New Business:

- **Conservation Technician New Hire** – Applicant Corey Lambert introduced himself to the board of supervisors. He gave a brief summary of his education and work backgrounds.

Gumm moved to go into executive session per WV state code 6-9A-4a to discuss a personnel issue; seconded by Reeder; motion carried. The board went in to executive session at 10:32 AM.

Reeder moved to resume regular board meeting at 10:55 AM; seconded by Shaffer, motion carried.

Nester moved to offer the conservation technician position and salary/benefits package to Corey Lambert; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.

- **Community Service Outreach** – Wolfe reported that he would like to work with Jeff Roy and other probation officers within the district to offer community service projects to their participants. Examples of projects include highway cleaning and high tunnel construction. The board raised concerns over the liability of the children and who would ultimately be responsible for them while participating in district projects. Wolfe elected to gather more information and bring before the board at a later date.
- **LOR CD FY 15 Operating Grant (2nd Allotment) \$6152.00** – Gumm moved to approve the LOR as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.
- **LOR FY 14 Audit Reimbursement \$7800.00** – Gumm moved to approve the LOR as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.

Report of Individual Supervisors:

Gumm – The Appalachian Grazing Conference committee has a meeting planned for January 16, 2015 to tour the Waterfront Hotel. He spoke to Susan Schultz about coming to speak at the April quarterly meeting. He is still coordinating a price of the commemorative 80 years conservation license plates with Brian Farkas. He reminded everyone that he would be attending the NACD Annual Meeting in New Orleans in February.

Reeder – Reminded everyone of the grazing steering committee meeting in Weston and the Upshur County Hay & Silage Show on January 31, 2015.

Wright – No report.

Findley – No report.

Warner – Contacted Lynn Phillips about Manchin attending the 2015 NE Regional NACD meeting. Sencindiver commented that the latest word he had received indicated that Manchin wouldn't be able to attend. Warner reported that Andy Swecker contacted him about the Myles Lumber Easement and said that he is willing to talk and negotiate. He said he would not speak with him or June Myles unless he got the OK from Walt Helmick and the TVCD board of supervisors.

Shaffer – Commented that he thinks the Keystone Pipeline and other related projects are a good idea as they promote jobs and help the economy, though he is unsure of the environmental and conservation impacts.

Bonner – No report.

Nester – No report.

Sencindiver – Collected quarterly reports from the other districts for Woofter and Frey. Received Appalachian Grazing Conference registration cards to be kept in the district office. The statewide communication committee held a teleconference meeting on January 12th. The WVCA changed their website and are trying to work out any issues. Issues can be reported to Andrew Stacy or himself. He asked that Woofter keep Andrew informed of any district events and major updates.

Wolfe – Reminded everyone that nominations for the Ag Hall of Fame are coming due and that the district needs to submit an entry.

Public Comment Period: none

There being no further business to attend to, Chairman Wolfe declared the meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Secretary

As prepared by