

The **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors held a Regular Board Meeting on *February 11, 2015* commencing at 9:00 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, and Joe Gumm.

*Others Present:* Roger Poling – WVCA, Hillary Woofter – WVCA, Joyce Frey – TVCD, Josh Peplowski – WVU Ext., Sigrid Teets – WesMonTy RC&D, Jeremy Salyer – WVCA, Corey Lambert – TVCD, and Chris Winslow – FSA.

Reeder led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors:** Wolfe led the introduction of Chris Winslow from the Whitehall, WV FSA office to everyone present.

**Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:**

*February 11, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda:* **Reeder moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Nester; motion carried.**

*January 26, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes:* **Wright moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**

**Treasurer Report:** Joyce Frey provided a CDO Account summary, showing expenditures thus far into FY15.

**District Report:**

Lambert thanked the board of supervisors for the opportunity to work for TVCD. He reported that earlier in the week, he met with Dave and Karl to discuss servicing the district equipment. Dave was taking two water troughs to Baker County that morning for Trout Unlimited. A party has shown their interest in purchasing the unused 900 gallon storage tank up by the shop. There was no formal offer made, but Lambert will follow up on it for a future meeting. Wolfe added that all district vehicle state inspections run out in March. *The board discussed at length the equipment and vehicles in need of repair and possible future purchases.* Lastly, Lambert reported that a safety meeting with the crew was planned for that afternoon at the district office.

*Josh Peplowski joined at 9:09 AM. Sigrid Teets joined at 9:13 AM.*

**District Manager Report:**

Woofter reported that the 2014 1099-Misc tax forms were e-filed through the Guthrie office and was given copies if the supervisors wished to see them. She reported that she is still working on the revisions of the district Policy & Procedures Manual, though it is taking longer than anticipated as she has to reformat a large portion of it. She hopes to have it ready for board approval by the end of March. Roughly 30 applications had been received for the AgEP cost-share signups and an AgEP Committee meeting was scheduled for Friday, February 20, 2015 at 9:00 AM. Lastly, Woofter had several bank statements and account reports to be passed around for the supervisors to review and initial.

**Dates (District Meetings/Work Sessions) to Remember:**

**I. February 12, 2015 – Eat & Reap Dinner “Baleage” 6:30 PM @ Parsons Senior Center**

- II. February 12, 2015 – Pollinator Workshop, 6:30 PM @ TVCD Office (1<sup>st</sup> class of 6)
- III. February 16, 2015 – AgEP Applications due to TVCD Office @ 4:00 PM
- IV. February 17, 2015 – RC&D Meeting Weston 10:00 AM
- V. February 23, 2015 – TVCD Regular Board Meeting 9:00 AM District Office
- VI. February 25, 2015 – OM&R Training, Elk CD Office 9:30 AM- 3:30 PM (Tom Warner)

**Report of Officers and Agencies:**

**WVCA:**

*Jeremy Salyer* first reviewed the report submitted by Karen Stickley, East Area Program Manager (copy attached). Salyer then summarized his written report (copy attached) and began an in-depth review and discussion on the WV Attorney General's ruling on the use of public funds for scholarships. Afterwards, Sencindiver raised concerns over two possible SPRP jobs in Upshur County and asked that Kevin Jones inspect them. Salyer commented that all SPRP jobs and stream blockages must first be reported to the WVCA office in Romney. Sencindiver said he would forward the information on to Woofter so a formal request could be made.

*Roger Poling* shared that the Harrison County 4-H program would be offering a presentation on woodland soil testing on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

**WVU Extension:**

*Josh Peplowski* reported that the land judging team was still practicing frequently and that he hoped to start practicing at the 4-H camp soon. The pollinator & beekeeping classes in junction with TVCD would be starting soon and the next Eat and Reap dinner planned for Parsons had roughly 30 signups. Lastly, he reported that the Lewis and Upshur Ext. offices will be holding a master gardeners class in the coming months.

**NRCS:**

*Ben Collier* reviewed his written report (copy attached).

**FSA:**

*Chris Winslow* discussed the variety of loan programs that FSA offers to both youth and adults. He will look into contacting the FSA outreach coordinator for material which TVCD can publish in the next district newsletter that highlights their programs.

**WesMonTy RC&D:**

*Sigrid Teets* reported that the next RC&D meeting will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in Weston. She also still developing an invasive weed management program for the districts.

**WVDOF:** None

**Others:** None

**Correspondence Received:** WVU soils team funding request; WVACD supervisor training idea request; Brickstreet Insurance authorization decision; Invitation to Barbour Co. Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

**Old Business:**

*Farmland Preservation:* Reeder reported that the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

*AgEP Cancellations:* None

*Approval of funds for SPRP/OM&R:* None

*WesMonTy RC&D crimper storage:* Woofter reported that Frey had followed up with the district's insurance agent about whether or not the crimper would be covered under the current policy. It was found that the crimper would be covered only if it belonged to the district. Since Teets had previously mentioned a possibility of giving the equipment to the district, with an understanding that it would be rented free of charge for the duration of the grant, Woofter developed a draft lease agreement for the crimper and presented it for the board for approval.

**Wright moved to approve the lease agreement as presented and take ownership of the crimper for RC&D storage and rental; seconded by Findley; motion carried.**

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**Committee Reports:**

**Building/Finance/Budget Committee:** No report.

**Equipment/Safety Committee:** Nester reminded everyone that a safety meeting was scheduled with the district work crew for later that afternoon.

**Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee:** Sencindiver reminded everyone that the Century Farm Applications are due to the district by April 1<sup>st</sup>, and that the WVACD scholarship nominations are coming due as well.

**Legislative Committee:** Gumm reported a fly-in to D.C. was scheduled for the week of March 16<sup>th</sup> and that he will be accompanied by Brian Farkas and Kevin Wickey.

**Grassland/AEP Committee:** Reeder reported that the next WV Grazing Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in Weston.

**Conservation Agreements:**

- *Portia Dean – Randolph County*
- *Kenneth Westfall – Upshur County*
- *Gary Cutright – Upshur County*
- *Charles Bell – Barbour County*
- *Ralph Ware – Randolph County (200 acres)*
- *Jeffrey Hart – Barbour County (30 acres)*
- *Evan Workman – Barbour County (150 acres)*

**Wright moved to approve the agreements as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**

**AgEP Payments:** Nina Melvin Fencing (Barbour Co.) \$936.00 – **Wright moved to approve the payment as presented; seconded by Shaffer; motion carried.**

**AgEP Applications:** None

**Water Resource Committee:** Shaffer commented that he appreciates Capito's efforts on improving stream restoration and air quality.

**WVACD Directors Report:** Findley reported that the next WVACD quarterly meeting will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Flatwoods.

**New Business:**

- **District Personnel Plan** – Reeder moved to approve the plan as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.
- **Sponsorship of Corey Lambert to attend 2015 Appalachian Grazing Conference** – Nester moved to pay Lambert's conference registration; seconded by Shaffer; motion carried.
- **Ongoing investigation with Mr. Powers Deputy Director - Commission on Special Investigations** – Wolfe and Frey reported that Mr. Powers inquired about getting several copies of old bank statements and checks for the ongoing investigation of Mr. Smith. They expressed concerns over personal information such as names, addresses, and phone numbers that aren't relevant to the investigation being on the statements. **Findley moved to pay the bank fees for copies of the bank statements, only after receiving in writing what the investigator needed for the investigation and if the sensitive information could be redacted; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**

**Report of Individual Supervisors:**

*Sencindiver* – Attended the Upshur County Hay & Silage Show on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2015.

*Nester* – Encouraged the supervisors to attend the Eat and Reap dinner in Parsons on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Expressed concern of the EPA's proposed regulations on wood burning stoves.

*Bonner* – No report but encouraged everyone attend the Eat & Reap dinner in Parsons.

*Shaffer* – No report.

*Findley* – No report.

*Wright* – Expressed concern in Amy Swan eliminating PSDs and their water regulation.

*Reeder* – The Upshur Co. Hay & Silage Show went well and thanked Peplowski and Poling for their help. It was the last one to be held at L&T Equipment. They plan on holding an auction later in the month for the remaining equipment.

*Gumm* – The NACD conference in New Orleans had roughly 1000 attendees, five of which were from WV. There was a large discussion on the national Envirothon. He will have a more in-depth report for the board at the next meeting. Lastly, he attended a meeting regarding the NACD NE Conference on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Wolfe* – Expressed concerns that the Barbour Co. tax reassessment will include farmlands next year.

**Public Comment Period:** None

There being no further business to attend to, Shaffer moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Reeder; Chairman Wolfe declared the meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.

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Secretary

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As prepared by