

The **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors held a Regular Board Meeting on *June 10, 2015* commencing at 9:02 a.m. at the district conference room in Philippi, WV. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman John Sencindiver.

Supervisors Present: Robert Wolfe, Joe Gumm, Sheldon Findley, Rex Reeder, Jim Nester, and John Sencindiver.

Others Present: Hillary Woofter – WVCA, Joyce Frey – TVCD, Jeremy Salyer – WVCA, Ben Collier- NRCS, Roger Poling – WVCA, Corey Lambert – TVCD, Josh Peplowski – WVU Ext., and Sigrid Teets –WesMonTy RC&D.

Nester led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors: None

Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:

June 10, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda and May 13, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes: **Gumm moved to approve the agenda and minutes as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**

Treasurer Report: Frey reviewed several monthly financial reports, including: an A/R aging summary, payment summary by vendor, profit and loss by class, and CDO funds.

Findley moved that the reports be accepted and filed for audit; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.

Sigrid Teets joined at 9:08 AM.

District Report: Lambert reported that maintenance on the district office complex was going smoothly, and only a few minor repairs have been needed, including the AC over the NRCS side. The district crew had spent some time weed eating and mowing around the property. The crew is now working almost every day, and has started OMR on dams. He had worked on an estimate to Little Kanawha CD for some debris removal, and did some SPRP jobs in Mon CD. The crew has started work in Gerard's EQIP contract, and while the design plan is very complex, they're managing to get through it. Frey added that a belt broke on the Ventrac mower, and Wolfe had asked for an estimate on purchasing an extra mower deck. Frey stated that the cost of an additional deck would be around \$3400.00.

Robert Wolfe joined at 9:14 AM. Vice Chairman Sencindiver turned the meeting over to Chairman Wolfe and the meeting resumed.

District Manager Report: Woofter stated that much of what she had been working on recently was up for board approval today, such as the 2015 TVCD Policy & Procedure Handbook. She had assisted with several small projects for the NE NACD Conference, and added that Brian Farkas had authorized her to attend the full length of the conference this August. With Poling's help, the spring session of AgEP was nearing completion and overall, went very smoothly. She attended the district farm tour. The district received only one entry in the poster contest, so it will be the only one entered in state competition. Lastly, she reported that she will be working on the district newsletter, quarterly report, and district of the year contest entry in the near future.

Dates (District Meetings/Work Sessions) to Remember:

- I. Special Meeting Regarding Elkwater June 17th 12:00 pm – TVCD Office
- II. WVU Ext. Regional Field Day June 27th – Roger Nestor's Farm
- III. TVCD Regular Board Meeting June 29th 9:00 am – TVCD Office
- IV. July 3rd – Office Closed in observance of Independence Day
- V. WVACD Quarterly Meeting July 6th & 7th – Flatwoods
- ~~VI. TVCD Regular Board Meeting July 8th 9:00 am – TVCD Office~~

As there was a conflict with the July 8th board meeting and annual supervisor training at Flatwoods, the board chose to hold only one meeting in July on the 27th.

Report of Officers and Agencies:

WVCA: Salyer reviewed his report (copy attached). He then reviewed Stickley's report (copy attached).

Poling reported on June 30th, he would be attending an AgEP meeting to discuss proposed changes that are going before the SCC in July. He summarized the TVCD AgEP Committee meeting that was held the day prior, and that he prepared the "Practice Information Forms" for the practices TVCD was interested in offering during the 2016 fiscal year. Due to the proposed changes in the program, Roger reported that the district needed to delay a sign-up period until after the SCC has approved the program revision and funding allocations, and that was per a conversation he had with Jennifer Skaggs earlier that morning.

Findley then reported on the recent State AgEP Committee meeting and the proposed funding allocations for FY16.

Findley moved to support proposed Allocation 4 for the FY16 AgEP; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.

WVU Extension: Peplowski reported that the national competition went well, and the team was awarded Reserve Champion in Homesite Judging and 5th place in Land Judging. A 4-H horse camp was planned for the upcoming weekend, and regular camp would be the following week. Mt. Vernon's high tunnels had been very productive, and the kids enjoyed picking the last of the produce and eating a salad for their school lunch. The Master Gardeners have shown interest in funding a similar project at Kasson. Lastly, a livestock weigh-in would be this weekend.

NRCS: Collier reviewed his written report (copy attached).

FSA: No report. Chairman Wolfe mentioned that youth and farm loans are still available for signups, per Chris Winslow.

WesMonTy RC&D: Teets commented that it is crimping season and that she had worked on crimping at her property. There is an RCD meeting on June 16th. She, Peplowski, and Frey are coordinating with Adaland Mansion, the installation of a pollinator motel. She had attended recent Potomac Valley Weed Management Area meetings.

WVDOF: None

Others: None

Correspondence Received: (3) Authorization decisions for Everson from BrickStreet insurance; DEP pending mine permit application – Randolph Co., Monongahela River; Annual Elk CD picnic invitation; July WVACD quarterly meeting invitation/meal registration

Old Business:

Farmland Preservation: No update.

Approval of funds for SPRP/OM&R: After reviewing the ranking list of eligible SPRP sites, and there still being limited project funding available, the board requested that all eligible sites with an inspection date older than one year, be revisited and re-evaluated. At the time of the meeting, that would be Stephanie Coates in Barbour County, and Joe Gooden in Tucker County. Woofter stated she would inform Kevin Jones and Karen Stickley with the request.

WVU Ext. Internet Use: Peplowski reported that they cannot change their internet provider, and that Frey will have to instead start charging for the service as part of their lease.

Ongoing Myles Lumber Case: Wolfe reviewed the progress of the settlement, and that the WVCA and NRCS had asked to arrange a meeting with the board and their attorney on June 17th.

Ongoing investigation with Mr. Powers Deputy Director- Commission on Special Investigations: Wolfe reported that the new trial date was scheduled for August 10th.

Committee Reports:

Building/Finance/Budget Committee: Findley and Frey reported that a new lease had been drafted between the district and Orders Construction for a one year period.

Equipment/Safety Committee: Nester reported that a safety was held that morning. Was thankful that when the excavator broke the tailgate recently on the pickup, that nobody was hurt.

Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee: Sencindiver reviewed his notes from the Education Committee meeting the day prior. Findley will contact the Cheat Salamander about organizing a train excursion to Spruce, tentatively for October 6th or 8th. Frey was asked that she plan to attend the NE NACD meeting on Monday August 3rd.

Legislative Committee: Gumm encouraged that everyone call their local legislators and thank them for their work and support.

Grassland/AEP Committee: Reeder shared that their next meeting will be on July 17, 2015. Woofter added that she had recently e-mailed a notice/reminder to all district managers, asking that they add the meeting date to their agendas and encourage their supervisors to attend.

Conservation Agreements: Ben Neustadt (Tucker) 17 Acres - **Gumm moved to accept the agreement as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**

AgEP Applications: None

AgEP Cancellations: None

AgEP Payments:

C. Bell	Barbour	Heavy Use	\$500.00
G. Cutright	Upshur	Heavy Use	\$500.00
M. Cvechko	Barbour	Water Development	\$2312.14
P. Dean	Randolph	Exclusion Fence	\$2400.00
A. Duckworth	Barbour	Heavy Use	\$500.00
C. Hamner	Upshur	Invasive Species	\$300.00
P. Hamner	Upshur	Exclusion Fence	\$2560.00
S. Hamner	Upshur	Invasive Species	\$300.00
D. Harris	Barbour	Invasive Species	\$300.00
W. Hinter	Upshur	Fertilizer	\$840.00
M. House	Randolph	Pollinator Planting	\$140.00
R. Hull	Upshur	Fertilizer	\$1080.00
R. Kennedy	Barbour	Water Development	\$2136.41
G. Miller	Barbour	Water Development	\$2088.29
N. Raschella	Upshur	Heavy Use	\$500.00
L. Rogers	Taylor	Fertilizer	\$930.00
C. Shrader	Barbour	Heavy Use	\$500.00
T. B. Short	Barbour	Fertilizer	\$1200.00
K. Westfall	Upshur	Invasive Species	\$232.96
C. Winslow	Barbour	Heavy Use	\$500.00
		TOTAL	19,819.80

Reeder moved to pay the AgEP contracts as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.

Water Resource Committee: No report.

WVACD Directors Report: Sencindiver stated that there was an Area 3 meeting the next day.

Personnel Committee: No report

New Business:

- **2015 District BBQ for Conservation Farmers-** *Gumm will contact the Kwasniewski's about tentatively hosting the BBQ on Friday August 7th.*
- **Conservation farmer signs-** Nester moved to approve the purchase of the signs for the three county winners; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.
- **WVCA Supervisor Travel and Per Diem Policy draft approval-** Findley moved to approve and accept the draft policy as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried with Gumm voting no.
- **WVCA MOU draft approval-** Sencindiver moved to approve the draft as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.

- **2015 TVCD Policy & Procedure Handbook-** Reeder moved to approve the 2015 handbook as presented; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.
- **Elkwater Fork EAP review and approval-** *Materials were not received in house from Romney, would be tabled to next district meeting.*
- **FY16 AgEP practice approval –** Nester moved to approve the committee's recommendations for practices offered in FY16; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.
- **Workers comp policy renewal for FY16-** Nester moved to finance payments for the policy renewal; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.
- **Steptoe & Johnson Bill for April 2015 Services \$15,760.62-** Gumm moved to pay the invoice as presented; seconded by Findley; motion carried.
- **1 year rental agreement with Orders Construction-** Sencindiver moved to accept the lease with Orders Construction as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.
- **Location of 2015 legislative dinner-** *Will be held in Barbour County; Wolfe to research.*
- **Review of applications for Barbour Co. District Supervisor-**

Findley moved to go into executive session per WV state code 6-9A-4a; seconded by Gumm; motion carried. The board went in to executive session at 11:15 AM.

Findley moved to resume regular board meeting at 11:28 AM; motion carried.

Findley moved that the board nominate Sigrid Teets to the SCC as a replacement for the vacant Barbour County supervisor position; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.

- **Office cleaning services job posting-** Sheldon moved to advertise the housekeeping position in the local paper for \$8.15/hour; seconded by Nester; motion carried.

Report of Individual Supervisors:

Sencindiver – Attended the district farm tour on May 21st. Assisted with the Central land judging competition at Tim Woody's farm on May 26th. Went to the Elkwater Dam inspection on May 28th. Chris Winslow has a wetland issue, and he attended a site visit with Wolfe and the NRCS. We as a district can only give an opinion on the matter.

Nester- Attended an FFA banquet as a guest speaker. Found the district farm tour very interesting. Awarded a WV Farm bureau scholarship at a recent meeting. Continuing to work on the NE NACD Conference in August.

Reeder- Attended the Central land judging competition at Tim Woody's. The Upshur County Farm bureau college scholarship was awarded to a student who will attend Potomac State.

Gumm – The muddy water at Elkwater is due to a gate not closing properly. On June 19th there is a NE NACD Conference meeting. On July 23rd there is an Appalachian Grazing Conference meeting. Mike Kwasniewski has shown interest in becoming an associate supervisor, and has asked that he try to attend a few meetings to see if he would like to be appointed.

Wolfe- Would like to see the private property sign located at the Cheat Salamander train depot by removed as it causes public concern and speculation. Suggested that a US Forestry Property sign would be more appropriate.

Public Comment Period: None

There being no further business to attend to, Chairman Wolfe declared the meeting adjourned at 11:53 AM.

Secretary

As prepared by