



MINUTES

Western Conservation District Board Meeting

AUGUST 24, 2021

n Attendance at the 9:00 a.m. meeting at Mason County Extension Office

Supervisors Attending: Charles Lipscomb, Chairman; Oscar Harris, Vice-Chairman; Don Stephens, Treasurer; Jim Withrow, Secretary; Jeremy Grant via **Phone:** D. W. "Peachie" Arthur

Guest: Sally Shepherd, Supervisor CCD

Others Attending: Dennis Brumfield, CPA; Jordan Roush, SC, NRCS; Russell Kidwell, CT; Sherry Pearson, AS, WVCA.

Call to Order:

Chairman Lipscomb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at Mason County Extension, Pt Pleasant.

Adopt Agenda / Approve Minutes

Harris moved to adopt the agenda as presented, second by Withrow. Passed.

Chairman Lipscomb asked for approval of July minutes. **On a Withrow/Grant motion minutes were approved as presented. Passed**

Chairman Lipscomb asked for approval of the Special Board Meeting Minutes held August 5th. **On a Withrow/Grant motion minutes were approved. Passed.**

Financial Reports

CDO Financial Reports and General Fund for July 2021 were reviewed by supervisors as presented. Dennis reviewed the report with supervisors reading balances, income, and expenses for both the General and Grant funds. Asset summaries were provided for equipment. The report will be filed for audit.

Financial Transactions Report for June: Sherry went over the list of checks issued for the month. **On a Stephens/Withrow motion the payments were approved. Passed**

Chairman Lipscomb reported he renewed one of the CDs at City National for 7 mos. at .015%. The other CD had renewed in May at .01%. The next renewals are March 2022 and May 2022.

Co-Administered Fund: Supervisors were provided a copy of the funds cash balance report from WVCA District Fiscal Operations. Fund balances were reviewed. The board accepted the report which will be filed for audit.

Treasurer's Report: Don asked for any questions on the report. Treasurer Stephen noted he could only pay \$14 for an \$18 lunch. Comments about limits on meals followed. The State Committee sets the guidelines to follow using GSA rates. **The payroll of \$2,087.38 was accepted and approved as presented on a Stephens/Withrow motion. Passed.**

Sally Shepherd, Supervisor Capitol Conservation District

She said she had spoken with Chuck and thanked him for putting her and the issue on the agenda. She believes in Clements State Tree Nursery and gave a brief overview of the history, finances and workings of the nursery. She noted that Conservation Districts have power and with the right kind of people to use that power. It was suggested that the WCD do “emergency interim management” at the nursery. She mentioned possible funding opportunities. She has been in contact with Ed Gaunch who wants “highest best use” for Clements. DNR owns the land and forestry owns the equipment. Jim suggested to set up a meeting, look at moving our office to that location, advertise the position to oversee the nursery and move forward. Don had a long conversation with Sally he didn’t even know the nursery existed. He felt a good approach would be doing tissue culturing. Saying the Chestnut best quality could transfer in to several thousand of those. He guided Ravenswood FFA to be the first in the nation to sell to Walmart. CD’s need to be more involved with forestry. Chairman Lipscomb set up a board committee to work with Sally on a proposal. The committee members are Jim, Jeremy and Don. A meeting date was set to meet at Clements on Tuesday, September 7 at 10 a.m. She will invite Ed Gaunch and others to review the site with the district board.

Partnership Reports

WVCA Written Report - Kim Fisher, Area Director

In Kim’s absence the supervisor reviewed the August WVCA report.

Jordan Roush, SC, NRCS – Reporting for DC Jackie Byars

NRCS is finishing up contracts. Under AMA there are 17 contracts totaling \$272,000. EQIP has received \$2.9Million from the State’s budget of \$12Million with \$2.2Million approved in the Point Pleasant office and \$700,000 in Ripley. There are 15 approved CSP’s. Lots of construction is going on with one contract at \$300,000 - \$400,000. Regarding the USDA office relocation. The old NAPA building was look at and an empty lot near the Go-Mart. There were issues with the NAPA building being too close to the highway and the overhead train track. The Save-a -Lot building has been recently mentioned. It is located north of town.

CORRESPONDENCE

Emailed items were noted. WVACD Quarterly Minutes; National E-Thon Results; Tygart Valley CD Equipment bid; WVACD Executive Director Announcement; WVU Organic Farm Field Day. A request for Supervisors from Wayne McKeever to join the Envirothon Committee was received today.

Programs

O&M Watershed Dams- Written Report Submitted by Judith Lyons

Judith’s written report was reviewed.

A. Southern CD O&M Invoices

All invoices have been received from Southern CD. Judith has verified Poca 28 complete. The check is ready for approval today. Invoices for the six Mill Creek sites were also received and waiting on Judith to visit the sites for verification before payment. **On a Harris/Stephens motion contingent on Judith’s certification all six Mill Creek invoices were approved and the Poca 28 payment was approved. Passed.**

- B. LOR \$4,400 – Jackson County Commission’s sponsorship for MC 13 was received this past month. The LOR for WVCA for \$4,400 has been prepared. **On a Harris/Grant motion the LOR was approved. Passed.**
- C. Blakes Amour Rehabilitation . Jim Withrow reported the exploratory work has been done now waiting on the results.

CO-ADMINISTERED COST SHARE PROGRAMS

A. **Agriculture Enhancement Program (AgEP)**

1. Practice Approvals per Rankings.

The pre-set percentages for each practice funded for all cover crop, pollinator and exclusion fence. With the balances left from each practice a discussion on how to appropriate those funds followed. Don motioned to fund the next 3 in water systems and division fence with a Grant second. Oscar suggested leaving the budget at \$120,00 as set last month. Don withdrew his motion.

Don motioned to take any additional funds from the potato account to fund;

Division Fence #'s 5, 7 and 8; Frost Seeding - #'s 10, 11 and 12; Waters Systems-#'s 17, 19 and 20

This totals \$125,276.70 Oscar Harris made the second, motion passed.

As all practices are listed by ranking only, no names were available to list.

B. **Cherry Fork**

1. **Invoice for \$32 to SGS was approved on a Stephens/Withrow motion. Passed.**

Russell reported that he and Mike are working on packets to give to the Sanitarian as there has been some interest in septic systems. Also, there is no objection to a field day in the afternoon of the bid opening but not in conjunction with the bid opening.

C. **Pasture Weed Management Pilot Program**

Russell was on a teleconference this am about the program. They are sending changes back to the State Committee for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

A. WCD Grant Employee

No applications were received. **On a Stephens/Withrow motion the job will be re-advertised with no ending date. Passed.**

B. Century Farm Presentation

Oscar reported he had talked with Wilma Barnette about presenting the sign. She would like to have family members there and will get back to Oscar.

C. WVACD Legislative Documents

The board would like to see the farming requirement left in the requirements. Oscar suggested to add or related experience in agriculture. They were not in favor of changing the state code or the accountability issue. The consensus was to leave the code and accountability as is.

NEW BUSINESS

A. CDO Expenditures FY21 -

Figures from the CPA’s report were put in the WVACD template and sent by email to supervisors for review. One error was noted on supervisor per diem. This will be corrected with the June 30th figure.

On a Harris/Stephens motion the FY21 Expenditure Report was approved with correction. Passed.

B. Awards Banquet –

Oscar felt it would be poor judgement to have a banquet given the current covid19 variant increase. **On a Harris/Stephens motion the board will not host an awards banquet. Passed.**

C. Support of County Fairs

A discussion about supporting the crop exhibits at local county fairs or just providing funding. Also suggested, was presenting Century Farms awards at county fairs. Jim would like WCD to fund \$1,000 annually to each county fair. It was decided to keep this on the agenda to make a decision before next year's fairs.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Great Kanawha RC&D

Jeremy reports he had received a call about attending their meeting in Chapmanville to represent Mason County.

The next meeting was changed to Thursday, September 16th, 9:00 a.m. at the Mason County Extension meeting room if available. With no further business Chairman Lipscomb adjourned the meeting.

Minutes recorded by:
Sherry Pearson

Approved by: _____
James Withrow, Secretary