

Southern Conservation District

Board Meeting Approved Minutes

February 13, 2025

10:00 AM

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 10:00am in the conference room of the district office located at 463 Ragland Road Beckley, WV, 25801.

Those in attendance:

Supervisors:

Bill Harris, Vice Chair
Randall Patton, Chairman (Teleconference)
Randy Prince (Teleconference)
Rachel Prince (Teleconference)
Ron Testerman
Curtis Murphy
Ed Hendrick
Bill Cook
John Ferrell (Teleconference)

Others

Attorney, John Wooton (Virtual)
Dave Parkulo, SCD
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA (Virtual)
Jacob Lavender, WVCA
Morgan Dial, WVCA
Jesus Nandi
Katy McBride, NRCS
Brandon Duckworth, NRCS
Julie Simmons, WVACD (Virtual)
Angela Feamster-Sawyers, WVCA

Open & Welcome

SCD Vice Chair, Bill Harris

Ed Hendrick led in the Pledge of Allegiance; Bill Cook led in Prayer.

Southern Conservation District Operations & Business

Approval of Minutes

Angela Feamster – Sawyers

Curtis Murphy moved to approve the minutes of the January 09, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. Ed Hendrick seconded; motion carried.

Ed Hendrick moved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2025, Special Board / Committee Meeting with the correction of a clerical error. Ron Testerman seconded; motion carried.

February 13, 2025, Southern Conservation District, Regular Board Meeting Approved Minutes

Attorney John Wooton followed up with the board of supervisors about the recent decrease in supervisor per diem and discussed related policies. He stated that after sending a letter to the State Conservation Committee, he received a call from the WVDA's attorney and is now awaiting a written response. He stated that once he receives a written response, he will share it with the board, and they can proceed from there.

Following further discussion between the board of supervisors, *Ron Testerman moved to table the Per Diem policy update discussion until further information is received. Ed Hendrick seconded; motion carried.*

Administrative Specialist Report/Updates

Angela Feamster- Sawyers

Ed Hendrick moved to approve and submit the Proposed CDO Budget for FY26 as presented. Curtis Murphy seconded; motion carried.

Ed Hendrick moved to approve and submit the Personnel Plan for FY26 as presented. Ron Testerman seconded; motion carried.

Financial Reports

District Operating Account

District Building Account

Supervisor Travel & Per Diem Account

CDO Account

District Reserve Account

Curtis Murphy moved to table the review and approval of the January district financial reports until the February 25, 2025, Special Board Meeting due to not having ample time to review. Ed Hendrick seconded; motion carried.

Projects Account

Curtis Murphy moved for the approval of the December Co-administered WVCA Financial reports. Ron Testerman seconded; motion carried.

Randall Patton moved for the approval of the January Co-administered WVCA Financial reports. Ron Testerman seconded; motion carried.

Review/Approval of Accounts Receivable/Aging Summary

SCD/Dave Parkulo

Following review and some discussion, Ed Hendrick moved for the approval of the accounts receivable aging summary. Curtis Murphy seconded; motion carried.

Conservation Technician Supervisor Report

Dave Parkulo, SCD

District Work Project Updates Dave Parkulo reported that the last stream blockage removal in Spanishburg has been completed. He also noted that the administrative specialist's office has

been remodeled. Dave also stated that he has put together estimates for mowing dams and creek channels. He mentioned that the temporary easement for Little White Stick had been forwarded to Judith Lyons, as the easement was deeded to the State Conservation Committee rather than the district. Bill Harris inquired about the trailer. Following some discussion and updates, Dave suggested that the 25-ton trailer be purchased outright from the operating account rather than financing. *Randall Patton moved to approve paying for the 25- ton trailer out of the operating account, in full. Curtis Murphy seconded; motion carried.*

Conservation Specialist Report

Morgan Dial, WVCA

319

Randall Patton moved to approve returning the 319 State (Fund 1023-00 / Program 20503-S) and Federal (Fund 1018-00 / Program 20003-S) Pipestem Creek funds for the balances, as of February 13, 2025, and any accrued interest. Ed Hendrick seconded; motion carried.

AgEP

Application Adjustment Approval

Following some discussion, *Curtis Murphy moved to increase the cap for Robert Keaton's Nutrient Management application from \$780.00 to \$1500.00. John Farrell seconded; motion carried.*

***Ed Hendrick recused himself from the meeting due to a conflict of interest regarding the next item of business.*

Payments for Approval

Ed Hendrick - Frost Seeding - \$263.75

Curtis Murphy made a motion to approve the payment to Ed Hendrick for frost seeding, totaling \$263.75. Ron Testerman seconded; motion carried.

*** Ed Hendrick returned to the meeting.*

In addition, Morgan reviewed some of the highlights of her report, which is attached.

Reported Action Between Board Meetings:

On January 31, 2025, Curtis Murphy, acting with delegated authority, approved the following for SCD's AgEP Exigency Program:

1. Cancellation of Pam Bailey's application
2. Payment of \$624.99 to Charles Oxley Jr.

WVCA, NRCS & SCD Updates/Approvals

WVACD Updates

Julie Simmons, Outreach & Communications Specialist

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

Julie Simmons provided an overview of the Grazing Conservation Initiative's virtual Pasture Walk grant. She explained that the initiative is overseen by the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) and funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). She stated that the grant's primary goal is to develop educational videos on soil health, grazing techniques, forages, weed control, and nutrient management for both cooperators and technical staff learning. She stated that the videos will be produced in 2025 and available for use in early 2026. She stated that each district is encouraged to host a field day, pasture walk, workshop, or other conservation outreach events, with a \$3,000 budget set aside for these activities. She explained that the funds can be used for a variety of purposes, including speaker fees, literature, hand out cost, rental of tables, chairs, and facility rentals. She mentioned that district collaboration encourages larger-scale events. She also stated that districts will be given a \$400 budget to purchase devices such as laptops or tablets, as well as furniture for viewing educational videos.

District Conservationist

Katy McBride, Brandon Duckworth NRCS

Katy McBride and Brandon Duckworth discussed topics from the Southern Conservation District's Monthly Report, which is attached.

Watershed Manager South Report

Jacob Lavender, WVCA

Jacob Lavendar provided a staffing update on the vacant conservation specialist position.

Discussions were held regarding the sponsorship agreements for the Cranberry Creek and Little White Stick Channels.

Following some discussions regarding the Brush Creek 14 and 15, Operation & Maintenance, plans, and agreements: *Rachel Prince moved to approve and sign the Brush Creek 14 & 15 O&M Plans & Agreements. Randall Patton seconded; motion carried.*

In addition, Jacob Lavendar provided the board of supervisors with information on a Grazing Outreach Field Day initiative.

Area Operations Manager Report

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer stated that he needed information on participation for the farm tour by June 15th. He mentioned that the AgEP Administrative Review had taken place. Jeremy also discussed the correspondence from Judith Lyons regarding funding transfers.

Supervisor Reports/Approvals

Following some discussion regarding the building Lease, it was decided to table this item of business until the March board meeting.

- (M) to approve purchase of the 25-ton Trailer – **this item of business was addressed and voted on earlier on the agenda.**

Following some discussion, *Randall Patton moved to approve that the AgEP funding source for the second round of sign-ups, in the amount of \$17,000.00, be deducted from the building account and, at the end of the year, any funds remaining in the CDO account be transferred back to the building account. Ed Hendrick seconded; motion passed.*

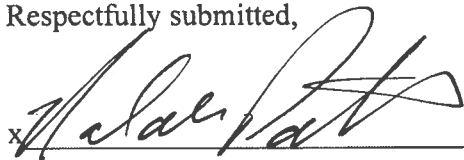
Public Comments

Closing Remarks & Meeting Reminders:

Committee Meetings – February 25, 2025 @ 10:00am

Ed Hendrick moved to adjourn the meeting. Rachel Prince seconded; all in favor, meeting adjourned at 12:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

x 

Randall Patton, SCD Chairman

x 

Ed Hendrick, SCD Secretary

RP/FH/as

Recorded by: Angela Feamster-Sawyers, Administrative Specialist

Southern Conservation District DC Monthly Report

February 2025

- **Field Visits**

Beckley: 15 (all ECP applications with FSA)

Princeton: 17 (8 ECP applications with FSA)

- **Planning Status**

Beckley Field Office: 12 AMA Applications, 30 EQIP Applications, and 3 CSP Applications

Princeton Field Office: 5 AMA Applications, 25 EQIP Applications, and 1 CSP Applications

Ineligibility Letters were sent to applicants (didn't update AGI or 902 with FSA, etc.)

- **Completed Practices**

Princeton: \$15,250.70 (590,327,561,382,106, and 165)

- **Field Office Priorities**

* Working on FY25 Contract Reviews. Beckley Field Office: 85 reviewed (still need to review 7). Princeton Field Office: 64 reviewed (still need to review 31). These are active AMA, EQIP, and CSP Contracts (Ruby, Jose', and Katy).

* Finish field and CART assessments and cost estimates for FY25 AMA and EQIP application (all staff).

*Work with Area Office on engineering design needs (Ruby and Angela).

*Working on ECP applications -engineering surveys and designs. (Brian and Angela).

*Get trees marked for FY24 and FY25 FSI Practices (Carl and Stacy).

- **Upcoming Deadlines**

*03/19/2025: FY25 Round 1 AMA & EQIP Assessment and Ranking Deadline

- **Upcoming Events**

- WV Grassland Evaluation Contest (April 11th @ Jackson's Mill). This is the 25th Anniversary of this contest in WV.

- WV Envirothon (April 15th-17th @ Cedar Lakes).

- OJT for new SCT, CET, and SC / NRS employees on LWS engineering designs (scheduled for some time in March in Beckley).

- **Special Projects / Updates / Trainings**

*Katy is still currently Acting District Conservationist for Greenbrier North (Lewisburg and Buckeye Field Offices). Assisting with contract management, field visits, practice certification, etc.

*Katy attended the Brush Creek Dam Rehab TEAMS Meeting (Site 9, 14, and 15) on 2/6.

*Received the Brush Creek Dam Certifications (1/28/25).

***Received the Daves Fork & Christians Fork Sites 1 & 2 Updated Emergency Action Plans from Thomas Sites (2/7/2025).**

***Katy attended the Appalachian Grazing Conference Committee Meeting on 01/16. Discussion on possibly breaking it out into smaller conferences throughout the state instead of having one large conference in Morgantown (possibly in the Eastern Panhandle, Northern Panhandle, Western part of the state, and the Southern part of the state). We're still discussing this. No final decisions have been made at this time.**

- **Staffing Updates**

- *National Hiring Freeze**

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February 2025 Regular Board Meeting
Conservation Services Division (AgEP, Pipestem 319)
Morgan Dial, Conservation Specialist

AgEP 1st Signups:

- **Allocation:**
 - FY25 Allocation: \$60,000
 - District Funds Obligated: \$10,537.73
 - Total FY25 AgEP Funds for approved practices: \$70,537.73
- **Landowner Agreements:**
 - Received all but 1

Approved Contracts:

- **Lime**

Extension	Approved For:
Rosita Maley	\$165.00
Cody Jones	\$518.10
James Hartwell	\$1,752.30

- **Woodland Exclusion Fence**

Extension	Approved For:
Marty Walker Owen	\$834.00

- **Pasture Division Fence**

Extension	Approved For:
Jewell Plumley	\$2,500.00

- **Pond Cleanout**

Extension	Approved For:
Curtis Murphy	\$2,500.00
Charles Lane	\$2,500.00
Angela Gilkerson	\$2,500.00

Total for all approved practices: \$70,537.73: 1st Signups

Practice	Cost Share Approved	Spent as of now...	Extensions Approved Cost Share	*Leftover as of now...
Lime	\$25,737.73	\$22,105.28	\$2,435.40	\$1,197.05
Woodland Exclusion Fence	\$10,834.00	\$7,500.00	\$834.00	\$2,500.00
Water Exclusion Fence	\$866.00	\$832.00	\$0.00	\$34.00
Pasture Division Fence	\$5,600.00	\$3,100.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Heavy Use Area Protection	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Water System	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Pond Cleanout	\$12,500.00	\$1,168.30	\$7,500.00	\$3,831.70
Total:	\$70,537.73	\$48,205.58	\$13,269.40	\$9,062.75

****These leftover totals account for if the extensions utilize their maximum cost share amounts. This number could be higher but not lower. ****

AgEP 2nd Signups:

- **Allocation:**
 - District Funds Obligated: \$18,525.02
 - Total FY25 AgEP Funds for approved practices: \$17,569.52
 - Leftover for potential added applicants: \$955.50

****These numbers can change due to extensions for first signups****

- **Landowner Agreements:**
 - Received 4/19

Approved Contracts:

- **Nutrient Management**

Name	Cost Share Amount Maximum	Upon Approval Changes
Jeffrey McLaughlin	\$1,105.00	
Robert Keaton	\$780.00	\$1,500.00
Chase McLaughlin	\$1,500.00	
Debra Berry	\$1,495.00	
Adrian A. Harper	\$1,495.00	
Wayne Rhodes	\$1,500.00	
Steve DeHart	\$1,500.00	
Pamela Bailey	\$1,430.00	
Andrew Mullins	\$1,300.00	
Jamey Gwinn	\$682.50	
David H White	\$520.00	
Clifton Lester	\$390.00	
Brenda Nelson	\$1,500.00	
Jackie Gill	\$65.00	
Total:	\$15,262.50	\$15,982.50

Frost Seeding

Name	Cost Share Amount Maximum	Amount Paid
Luther Bennett	\$500.00	Completed
Edgar Hendrick	\$307.02	\$263.75
Joel Stauffer	\$500.00	
Teresa Butts	\$500.00	
Ronald Testerman	\$500.00	
Total:	\$2,307.02	

February 2025 Regular Board Meeting
Conservation Services Division (AgEP, Pipestem)
Morgan Dial, Conservation Specialist

Exigency Program: Final Report

- **Applications:**

1	Lindsey Gwinn	Cost Share Payment \$109.99
2	Travis Redden	Cost Share Payment \$176.82
3	Curtis Murphy	Cost Share Payment \$238.16
4	Derek Johnson	Cost Share Payment \$848.00
5	Debra Cadle	Cost Share Payment \$327.68
6	Ed Hendrick	Cost Share Payment \$89.99
7	Shannon Daniel	Cost Share Payment \$944.92
8	Dean Bailey	Cost Share Payment \$152.99
9	Billy Johnson	Cost Share Payment \$649.95
10	William J Redden	Cost Share Payment \$249.99
11	Charles Oxley	Cost Share Payment \$624.99
12	Dale Shrewsbury	Cost Share Payment \$497.50
13	Teresa Butts	Cost Share Payment \$399.99
14	Michael Acord	Cost Share Payment \$285.98
15	John Richmond	Cost Share Payment \$246.24
16	George Ford	Cost Share Payment \$157.49
17	Marty Walker Owen	Cost Share Payment \$67.49
18	Chase McLaughlin	Cost Share Payment \$711.99
19	Jeffery McLaughlin	Cost Share Payment \$1,500.00
20	Matt Thomas	Cost Share Payment \$499.98
21	Ricky Moye	Cost Share Payment \$494.48
22	Benjamin Dickenson	Cost Share Payment \$297.85
23	Pam Bailey	Cancelled

- **Budget:**

- Exigency Program: \$20,000.00
- Money Spent: \$9,572.47
- Funds Left: \$10,427.53