

Southern Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting Draft Minutes

June 12, 2025

10:00 AM

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the conference room of the District Office located at **253 Ragland Rd. Beckley, WV 25801.**

Those in attendance:

Supervisors

Randall Patton; Chairman

Bill Harris; Vice Chair

Ed Hendrick; Secretary

Curtis Murphy

Steven Johnston

Ron Testerman

Rachel Prince (Teleconference)

Randy Prince (Teleconference)

Others

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

Jacob Lavender, WVCA

Jeremey Salyer, WVCA

Brian Fry, WVCA

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Hannah Thacker, NRCS

Ruby Daniels Holland, NRCS

Katy McBride, NRCS

John Pitsenbarger, WVACD, ECD/President

Open & Welcome:

SCD Chair, Randall Patton

Steve Johnston led in prayer; John Farell led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Southern Conservation District Operations and Business

District Conservationist Report

Ruby Daniels Holland, NRCS

Ruby Daniels Holland presented the District Conservationist Monthly Report for May and June 2025. A total of 26 field visits were conducted across both offices—12 in Beckley and 14 in Princeton. Conservation planning included 14 plans covering 1,419.3 acres for the Princeton Field Office and 10 plans covering 1,704.7 acres for the Beckley Field Office, with practices implemented under ECP and EQIP programs. Completed practices totaled \$84,171.66 in Princeton and \$36,536.49 in Beckley. Funding obligations included four EQIP contracts in Beckley for \$84,401 and ten EQIP contracts in Princeton totaling \$54,003. Two EQIP applications in Beckley (\$10,960) and one in Princeton (\$133,408) remain pending. Beckley has one AMA preapproved application, and Princeton has one remaining EQIP preapproved application. Ongoing priorities include marking trees for FY24–FY25 FSI practices, completing contract maintenance tasks, and preparing for upcoming deadlines: June 20 for FY26 CSP renewal sign-up and July 1 for FY25 AMA and EQIP Round 1 obligations. Ruby noted the Appalachian Grazing Conference Committee Meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams on June 27, 2025, and encouraged attendance. Updates were also provided on special projects and training, including successful high tunnel workshops hosted by Beth Villers and an upcoming JED Training on July 8, 2025 focused on resource concerns and practice selection. Staffing updates noted that José has reported to the State Office in Puerto Rico, where he will serve in a remote IT support role for NRCS; the duration of this assignment remains uncertain.

Administrative Specialist Report

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

Jesus Nandi Roman provided an update on recent invoices related to project work. The invoice for Dave's Fork/Christian's Fork totaled \$5,800.00, and the invoice for Brush Creek totaled \$21,400.00, bringing the combined total to \$27,200.00. Both invoices have been submitted to Jacob Lavender for verification.

LORS

A motion was made by Bill Harris to approve the FY26 District Support Allotments as presented, including the following:

- FY26 Q1 District Support Allotment in the amount of \$47,163.00 (LOR ID: 16359)
- FY26 Q2 District Support Allotment in the amount of \$26,750.00 (LOR ID: 16360)
- FY26 Q3 District Support Allotment in the amount of \$26,749.00 (LOR ID: 16361)
- FY26 Q4 District Support Allotment in the amount of \$18,703.00 (LOR ID: 16362)

The total FY26 allotment approved under AGR 1024-09 is \$119,365.00. The motion was seconded by John Farrell. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Curtis Murphy made a motion to approve the May 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; Ed Hendrick seconded. Motion carried.

Ed Hendrick made a motion to approve the May 12, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes; Ron Testerman seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Harris made a motion to approve the May 28, 2025 Special Board/Committee Meeting Minutes; John Farrell seconded. Motion carried.

Review/Approval of April Financial Reports:

District Operating Account
District Building Account
Supervisor Travel & Per Diem Account
CDO Account
District Reserve Account

A motion was made by Bill Harris to approve the April 2025 financial reports as presented. The motion was seconded by John Farrell. Motion carried.

Review/Approval of Accounts Receivable/Aging Summary

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Dave Parkulo provided an update on the current Accounts Receivable and Aging Summary. He reported that the largest outstanding item involves Demo; he has accepted a \$7,000 payment for the bench, following a recent call from the customer. He plans to visit the location in person to collect the payment. The customer had attempted to visit the office the previous day but was unable to meet due to scheduling conflicts. An unresolved balance with Shane Lilly was also discussed. Despite multiple follow-up attempts, payment has not been received. Dave stated that the account may need to be written off if no resolution is reached and recommended that no further business be conducted with the individual until all outstanding payments are satisfied. A

separate outstanding balance of \$200 is still being pursued. Dave also noted that he will follow up again with the Charleston DNR office regarding a delayed process related to work at Plum Orchard Lake. The WVCA-related issue is currently in process and is being handled by Jacob Lavender, with no anticipated concerns. Dave also noted invoices with a few other minor accounts. No major issues were reported.

Following discussion, Steve Johnston made a motion to approve the Accounts Receivable and Aging Summary as presented. Bill Harris seconded. Motion carried.

Conservation Technician Supervisor Report

Dave Parkulo, SCD

All outstanding cost-share practices have been completed, including work in Wyoming and McDowell counties. Remaining invoices are pending but are expected to align with original cost estimates. SCD is starting projects at Jumping Branch, and preparations are in place for upcoming work in the area. Channel maintenance has been completed across all sites except Brush Creek, which is scheduled for fall. Electrical trenching at the district building has been completed, with final breaker installation pending. Payment and documentation for the excavator have been finalized, and fencing materials are being processed.

A detailed discussion was held regarding ongoing stormwater runoff issues impacting district property. The SCD met with representatives from the City of Beckley, the Beckley Sanitary Board, the DEP, and engineering consultants. A short-term fix was agreed upon, involving the replacement of the existing drainage pipe and resurfacing of the parking lot. The sanitary board has acknowledged temporary allowances to divert stormwater, though the current discharge setup is technically noncompliant. Long-term solutions are being explored through grant funding to potentially reroute runoff underground to Cranberry Creek.

The board emphasized that open-channel solutions or gravel alternatives are not acceptable due to liability and federal property restrictions. The DEP identified a mine shaft currently receiving runoff as a potential hazard, and discussions are ongoing regarding ownership and responsibility. It was noted that the district is currently being charged for stormwater runoff despite runoff originating upstream and being funneled across district property. The board discussed the potential of revisiting the terms of payment or imposing a usage fee to upstream contributors. Before any further stormwater bills are paid, the board agreed that a formal discussion and vote should be held to determine whether continued payment is justified.

Conservation Specialist Report

Brian Fry, WVCA

- Curtis with delegated authority approved AgEP payments on 5/22/25 for:
 - Debra Berry's Nutrient Management Fertilizer in the amount of \$1,495.00
 - Steve DeHart's Nutrient Management Fertilizer in the amount of \$1,500.00
 - Pamela Bailey's Nutrient Management Fertilizer in the amount of \$1,430.00

- Jamey Gwinn's Nutrient Management Fertilizer in the amount of \$682.50
- Clifton Lester's Nutrient Management Fertilizer in the amount of \$390.00
- Charles Lane's Pond Cleanout in the amount \$1,755.00
- Jewell Plumley's PDF in the amount \$2,500.00
- James Hartwell's Lime Fertilizer in the amount \$1,752.30

Motions

A motion was made by Ed Hendrick to approve the cancellation of Jackie Gill's Nutrient Management Contract in the cost-share amount of \$65.00. John Farell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Steven Johnston to extend the deadline for the High Tunnel Soil Health AgEP practice to May 22, 2026. The motion was seconded by Curtis Murphy. Motion carried. It is noted for the record that Bill Harris, Vice Chair, abstained from the motion due to his participation in the program.

Additional information in regards to Brian Fry's report is attached below.

Budget Clarification and Fund Allocation Update

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

It was clarified that an internal oversight led to \$18,000 being mistakenly intermingled with state funds due to the absence of a designated sub-account. This has since been identified and is being corrected. A separate sub-account will be created and properly coded to ensure these local contributions are tracked independently and do not interfere with the state allocation form or reporting.

All state funds have already been fully expended, and current spending is drawing from local funds. Moving forward, any local contributions will be deposited into the separate account to avoid showing a positive year-end balance in the state fund, which could affect future allocations. The state fund account will be zeroed out as bills are paid but will remain active and available for future use. Any remaining balance in the local account at year-end will carry over and may be redirected or returned to the contributing source if desired.

WVCA, NRCS & SCD Updates:

Watershed Manager South Report

Jacob Lavender, WVCA

An update was provided on Rush Dams 14 and 15. The additional funding request is being processed, with the PSD expected to sign a revised agreement. Once finalized, it will be submitted to the federal level, with plans to bid Dam 15 this summer if funding is approved in time. Regarding Dam 9, there is an issue at a nearby stormwater retention pond, which is causing

backup into the channel. Although the issue is not the district's responsibility, it could become a concern if left unaddressed. The property owners are responsible for repairs, and dam safety officials have been notified. Staff continue to monitor the situation.

The district was informed that the WVU Extension-administered grazing grant (part of the Climate-Smart Commodities program) is no longer active. As a result, any previously requested funds under that program must be returned. No funds were expended, and no contracts were approved before the program ended. WVU Extension may reapply under a future grant cycle, but new rules will prohibit pass-through administration by conservation districts. The university will be responsible for direct administration moving forward.

This item will be added to the next board agenda for formal action.

Progress continues on the federal flood hazard mitigation planning grant covering Mingo, McDowell, Wayne, and Wyoming counties. WVU Extension, Cindy and Sigrid are leading the effort. Recent meetings with county officials helped gather input for the planning phase. This grant, funded through the Department of Homeland Security, is designated for planning only. Upon completion of the plan, the district may apply for construction and implementation funding under future grant cycles.

Area Operations Manager Report:

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer provided brief updates on his report. A copy is provided below.

Supervisor Reports/Approvals:

Approval of District Policy Revisions for 2025-2026:

Bill Harris made a motion to accept the revised policy. Ed Hendrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Plan of Work for 2025-2026:

Ed Hendrick made a motion to accept the revised Plan of Work for 2025–2026. Curtis Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Site 12 Easement Violation:

An update was provided regarding an ongoing easement violation at Site 12, where a roadway was constructed across the outlet channel without authorization. Despite prior notice sent by certified mail to the current landowner, no corrective action has been taken, and sedimentation in the channel continues to worsen. NRCS has provided specifications for a compliant crossing—twin 12-foot box culverts or a 24-foot span bridge with specified channel elevations—which were shared with the landowner. No response or return receipt has been received. Although long-term drainage improvements may be addressed through future

rehabilitation work, immediate action is needed to address the current obstruction and drainage issues.

Following discussion, Bill Harris made a motion to turn the matter over to the district attorney, John Wooton, to issue a formal letter to the landowner establishing a time frame for completion of the required repairs. John Farrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Supervisor Per Diem Discussion: FY25 Closeout:

In accordance with established policy, all supervisor travel reimbursement requests must be submitted prior to the close of the fiscal year. Any expenses not received by the established deadline will be considered untimely and will not be eligible for reimbursement. These unsubmitted expenses will be forfeited, with no exceptions.

Supervisors are strongly encouraged to maintain accurate records and submit all required documentation—such as itemized receipts, mileage logs, and reimbursement forms—in a timely manner to ensure compliance. This policy is in place to maintain fiscal accountability and to ensure that year-end financial reporting remains accurate and complete. Late submissions will not be carried forward or reimbursed from the following year's budget under any circumstances. Supervisors with outstanding expenses are advised to submit their claims well in advance of the fiscal year-end deadline to avoid forfeiture.

WVACD Dues:

John Pitsenbarger, President of the WVACD, addressed the Board regarding continued membership and payment of annual dues. He acknowledged tight district budgets but emphasized the importance of representation at both the state and national levels. WVACD advocates on behalf of districts in Charleston and Washington, D.C., and provides access to grant-funded employees, educational outreach, and promotional support.

The Association is actively pursuing grants—both federal and private—to support conservation districts. Membership also includes eligibility for program reimbursements (e.g., \$150 for hosting area meetings/food), voting rights on organizational bylaws, and participation in scholarships and recognition programs. Pitsenbarger noted that, although some grant opportunities were paused due to funding issues, others are reopening, and member districts are informed as they become available. He referenced the longstanding partnership between the WVCA and WVACD encouraging the Board to renew a usual, meaningful partnership.

Bill Harris made a motion to continue membership with the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts (WVACD) and to approve payment of the \$5,000.00 annual dues for the upcoming year. Steven Johnston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Officer Elections:

All current officers expressed their willingness to continue serving in their respective roles. The Board proceeded with the formal election process to confirm each position:

- **Secretary:** *Bill Harris made a motion to close nominations for the position of Secretary. John Farrell seconded. Motion carried. Edgar Hendrick will remain in the role.*

- **Treasurer:** *John Farrell made a motion to nominate Curtis Murphy as Treasurer. Ed Hendrick seconded. Steve Johnston made a motion to close nominations; John Farrell seconded. Motion carried. Curtis Murphy will remain in the role.*

- **Vice Chairman:** *Steve Johnston made a motion to close nominations to retain Bill Harris as Vice Chairman. John Farrell seconded. Motion carried. Bill Harris will remain in the role.*

- **Chairman:** *Steve Johnston made a motion to close nominations to retain Randall Patton as Chairman. Ron Testerman seconded. Motion carried. Randall Patton will remain in the role.*

All officer positions remain unchanged for the upcoming term.

Farm Tour Results:

Bill Harris and Jeremy provided an update on the 2024 Conservation Farm Program nominations. Two farms were visited for consideration as the District's Typical Conservation Farm:

1. Tim and Sue Ward's farm in Raleigh County
2. Jason Tarp's TNT Organics in McDowell County

Although the Wards' farm was a strong candidate, it was determined they are ineligible to compete at the state level due to a conflict of interest—Sue Ward is a current NRCS employee, and despite not being involved in daily operations, NRCS confirmed she qualifies as a close family member. Their farm will still be recognized locally. With the Wards' disqualified, TNT Organics remains the sole candidate for the District's nomination. While the operation is a work in progress, it shows promise, particularly in small-scale Appalachian farming and community outreach. The Board acknowledged Jason Tarp's strengths in education and local engagement but noted that certain aspects of the farm may need further development before competing at the state level. A recommendation was made to provide support and guidance to help the operation become more competitive in future years.

The District also plans to recognize additional farms at the local level, including Steve Dehart's operation in Mercer County. Outreach attempts were made to a farm in Wyoming County, but no response was received. The tour of nominated farms is tentatively planned for the week of July 7, 2025, with final details pending. It was also noted that no food should be served during official judging tours due to conflict of interest concerns, though off-site meals remain acceptable.

Public Remarks/Comments

Meeting Adjournment:

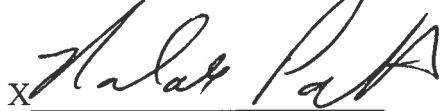
Randall Patton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steven Josnston and carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Dates To Remember:

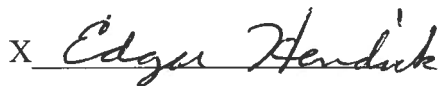
SCD Committee Meeting: June 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM @ 463 Ragland Rd WV, 25801.

Respectfully Submitted:

Randall Patton, SCD Chairman

X 

Edgar Hendrick, SCD Secretary

X 

RH/EH/as

Recorded By, Jesus Nandi Roman, Administrative Specialist

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June 2025 WVCA Report

Request to Conservation Districts

The WVCA is encouraging Conservation Districts to review and update their District Policy Manuals. In addition to your policy manual, you are encouraged to review your CD Employee Manual (if you have one) and your CD Plan of Work. If you are already doing these reviews, please disregard this request.

Annual Work Plan

Reminder - District **annual** work plans are due **June 30** to Guthrie. A new template from NACD has been prepared and provided.

CDO Budget

CDO budget closeout needs submitted to Guthrie by August 1

Conservation Farm Tour

CDs should have their district farm selection to their Area Directors by **June 16**.

Timelines:

- **July** - Area judging.
Southern area week of July 7
Northern area week of July 21
- **August** - Statewide judging.
- **October** – Presentation of Area and State awards at WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference

O&M Agreements:

CDs are encouraged to continue to work with local sponsors for O&M funding. This process started last year these agreements will not be matched dollar for dollar as they were in the past. The WVCA will be allocating funds on a watershed basis moving forward to help with O&M costs.

SB 941

WVCA is waiting for correspondence from DEP regarding the bill. As we receive information it will be shared. In the meantime, CDs should continue regular operation and maintenance work.

Ag Enhancement Program Timeline

- **May/June/July** – CDs to finalize upcoming FY program, update AgEP agreement addendums, take action to approve LORs

June 15 – Deadline for CDs submit final practice list to WVCA (CDs can submit final list any time after SCC approval of practice list)
- AgEP data base needs closed out by July 15

WV State Fair Sign Ups

The schedule for state fair volunteers is now available under the WVCA admin webpage. If you would like to schedule a time frame to work at the fair, please contact your Administrative Specialist.

Southern Conservation District DC Monthly Report

May / June 2025

- **Field Visits**

Beckley: 12

Princeton: 14

- **Planning Status**

Princeton Field Office: 14 Conservation Plans Written for 1,419.3 ac (ECP & EQIP)

Beckley Field Office: 10 Conservation Plans Written for 1,704.7 ac (ECP & EQIP)

- **Completed Practices**

Princeton: \$84,171.66 (382,642,314,106,165,642,533,516,614,558,620,666)

Beckley: \$36,536.49 (106,165,590,382,516,367,649,666,325,558,430,821,420,533,642)

- **Field Office Priorities**

*Obligated 4 EQIP Contracts for Beckley Field Office: \$84,401

*Obligated 10 EQIP Contracts for Princeton Field Office: \$54,003

*Waiting to be obligated: 2 EQIP Applications for Beckley Field Office: \$10,960 and 1 EQIP Application for Princeton Field Office: \$133,408.00

*Beckley Field Office has 1 AMA preapproved application to get completed

*Princeton Field Office has 1 remaining EQIP preapproved application to get completed

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

*Work on Contract Maintenance (Modifications, 153s, etc.)

- **Upcoming Deadlines**

- June 20th: FY26 CSP Renewal Sign-Up

- July 1st: FY25 AMA and EQIP Round 1 Obligation Deadline

- **Upcoming Events**

- June 27th: Appalachian Grazing Conference Committee Meeting (TEAMS)

- **Special Projects / Updates / Trainings**

*Beth has hosted several High Tunnel workshops (has had good turnouts for them).

*Upcoming JED Training: Tuesday, July 8th (Resource Concern and Practice Selection)

- **Staffing Updates**

*Jose' reports to the State Office in PR today; will be working on things for WV

**June 2025 Regular Board Meeting
Conservation Services Division (AgEP)
Brian Fry, 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:	Amount Paid
Rosita Maley	\$165.00	\$165.00
Cody Jones	\$518.10	\$518.10
James Hartwell	\$1,752.30	\$1,752.30
Total		\$683.10

▪ **Woodland Exclusion Fence**

Extension	Approved For:
Marty Walker Owen	\$834.00

▪ **Pasture Division Fence**

Extension	Approved For:	Amount Paid
Jewell Plumley	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00

▪ **Pond Cleanout**

Extension	Approved For:	Amount Paid
Curtis Murphy	\$2,500.00	Completed
Charles Lane	\$2,500.00	\$1,755.00
Angela Gilkerson	\$2,500.00	

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

Practice	Cost Share Approved	Spent as of now...	Extensions Approved Cost Share	*Leftover as of now...
Lime	\$25,737.73	\$24,540.68	\$0.00	\$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	\$5,600.00	\$0.00	\$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	\$2,923.30	\$5,000.00	\$4,576.70
Total:	\$70,537.73	\$54,895.98	\$5,834.00	\$9,807.75

****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: \$18,289.52
- Landowner Agreements:
 - Received 18/18

Approved Contracts:

- Nutrient Management

Name	Cost Share Amount Maximum	Amount Paid
Jeffrey McLaughlin	\$1,105.00	\$1,105.00
Robert Keaton	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Chase McLaughlin	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Debra Berry	\$1,495.00	\$1,495.00
Adrian A. Harper	\$1,495.00	\$1,495.00
Wayne Rhodes	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Steve DeHart	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Pamela Bailey	\$1,430.00	\$1,430.00
Andrew Mullins	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
Jamey Gwinn	\$682.50	\$682.50
David H White	\$520.00	\$520.00
Clifton Lester	\$390.00	\$390.00
Brenda Nelson	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Jackie Gill	\$65.00	Canceled
Total:	\$15,982.50	\$15,917.50
	NM \$ Leftover	\$65.00

- Frost Seeding

Name	Cost Share Amount Maximum	Amount Paid
Luther Bennett	\$500.00	\$500.00
Edgar Hendrick	\$307.02	\$263.75
Joel Stauffer	\$500.00	\$330.00
Teresa Butts	\$500.00	\$454.97
Ronald Testerman	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total:	\$2,307.02	\$2,048.72
	FS \$ Leftover:	\$258.30

BENEFITS OF BEING A WVACD MEMBER

The West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts (WVACD) has provided benefits to districts since 1963. We are a unified voice of conservation districts at the local, state, and federal levels, advocating for funding to promote improved management practices in agriculture and to enhance conservation stewardship for the public.

BENEFITS OF YOUR \$5,000 MEMBERSHIP



Grant Opportunities:

The West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts (WVACD) supports improved management practices in agriculture and conservation by sponsoring grants from state and federal agencies.

- Annual agreement with NRCS: \$100,000
- NACD Outreach and Technical Assistance grant: \$163,129 (to increase to \$165,000)
- NRCS agreement for \$125,000 (on hold)
- Thousands of dollars in opportunities for grants partnering with WVACD



Educational Opportunities:

Educating our youth on the importance of conservation is vital to protecting the future of West Virginia's conservation agricultural heritage for generations to follow.

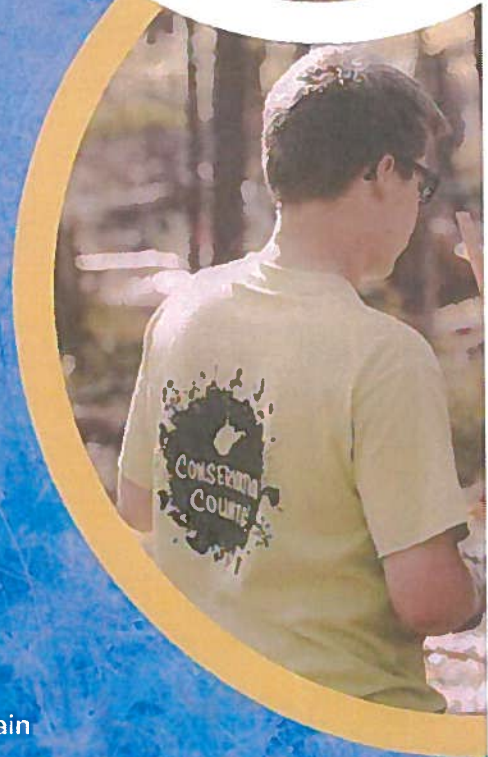
- Over \$40,000 WVACD scholarships since 2017 for high schoolers
- Photo/poster contest with monetary awards
- Educational and community grants



Inclusion Opportunities:

Within the WVACD membership you will be able to do certain procedures in meetings and events for the conservation district you represent

- Voting and representation at quarterly meetings
- Representation at meetings and events
- Supervisor awards and recognition
- Membership to National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)



NACD BENEFITS

WVACD GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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GRANT BENEFITS OF YOUR \$5,000 MEMBERSHIP

Your membership opens the door to new opportunities and funds for conservation across West Virginia

PARTNERING GRANTS WITH WVACD

GRASS Grant

- \$4.8 million total funding between WV/VA
- West Virginia University Extension is leading the five-year Grazing for Appalachian Sustainability (GRASS) grant project
- The goal of the GRASS project is to improve knowledge and management practices for 135 small and underserved farmers in Central Appalachia

WV SMART Farms Grant

- \$211,500 in funding to the West Virginia Conservation Agency and West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts
- Funding is intended to help underserved farmers improve water quality, habitat resilience, and information exchange to benefit ecosystems within the Gulf of America watershed
- WVACD dues go toward supporting specific grant partnerships

Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forest and Water

- \$585,824 in funding will enable the Partnership to continue to advance its mission to create a collaborative network that leverages resources to manage, restore, and conserve forests and protect water resources
- The vision of resilient and well-managed forests that improve water resources and create healthy watersheds will guide this effort

WVACD PARTNERING GRANTS CONTINUED

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The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

- \$240,192 in funding to produce educational videos on the topics of Soil Health, Grazing, Techniques, Forages, Weed Control, and Nutrient Management both for cooperator and technical staff learning
- The funds will also be used to fund district educational field days or events, as well as fund a workstation in conservation district offices for constituents in conservation districts



NACD Technical Assistance Grant

- \$163,129 in funding for conservation operations technical assistance (COTA), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funding
- TA operations also provide communication and outreach to conservation districts
- This is only available to WVACD members



WVACD Leadership Project

- \$100,000 in funding of employing of an executive director to promote outreach, partnerships, and organizational advancement



NRCS Agreement (\$200,000 total)

- The goal of this agreement is to support conservation districts and partners to submit proposals that will provide an opportunity for urban agriculture, small scale agriculture, and to service historically underserved communities.

- **Two Community Outreach Grants**

- \$125,000 (two rounds of \$75,000) in funding to promote outreach and installing climate smart practices in historically underserved areas of West Virginia
- The second round of COG grants funded 9 projects with \$8,166 in funding for each.
- This is only available to **WVACD members**

- **Community Development Grant**

- \$50,000 in funding promote outreach and climate smart development projects in historically underserved areas of West Virginia



WVACD EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF YOUR \$5,000 MEMBERSHIP

Your dues support meaningful programs, education, and recognition for conservation across West Virginia

Scholarships

- \$40,000+ in scholarships awarded to high school students since 2017
- \$6,000 in scholarships awarded in 2024 alone to students pursuing agricultural careers
- WV Grasslands Contest: Annual competition teaching students to identify grasses and complete assessments
 - \$15,500 awarded to participants since 2017
- Support for the Southern Bull Test: WVACD helps manage and promote their scholarship program

Contests & Recognition Programs

- Photo & Poster Contests with monetary prizes
- Envirothon participation support
- District of the Year Award
- Conservation Teacher of the Year Award
- Conservation Photo Contest
- WVACD Excellence in Conservation Communication Award
- WVACD Rookie Award

Grants & Support

- Educational Grants for schools and conservation outreach
- Community Grants to support local conservation efforts
- Century Farm Program – honors farms in continuous operation for 100+ years



WVACD INCLUSION OPPORTUNITIES

INCLUSION BENEFITS OF YOUR \$5,000 MEMBERSHIP

Your membership empowers you to lead, represent, and shape the future of conservation in West Virginia and beyond

Member Participation & Representation

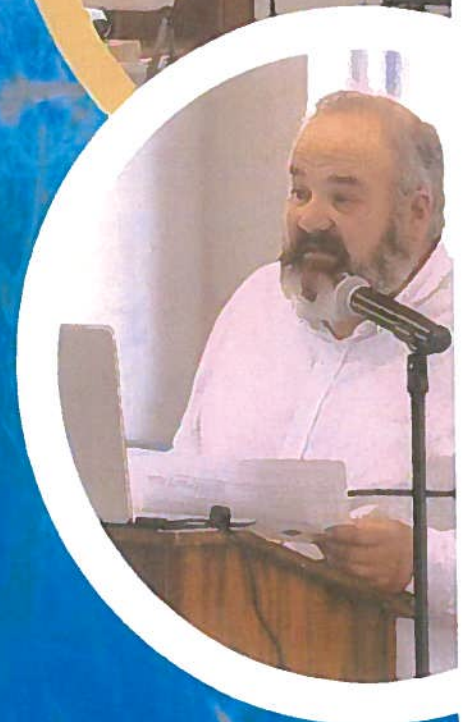
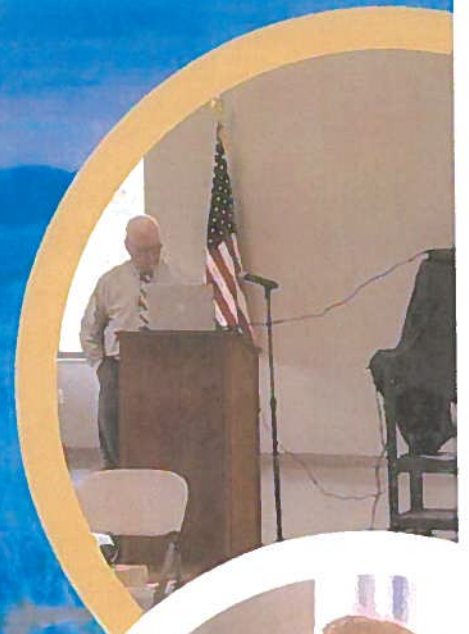
- Vote at WVACD Quarterly Meetings
- Represent your conservation district at state-level meetings, workshops, and events
- Be eligible for Supervisor Awards & Recognition
 - Engage in decision-making processes that impact conservation policies and programs

Committee and Statewide Initiatives

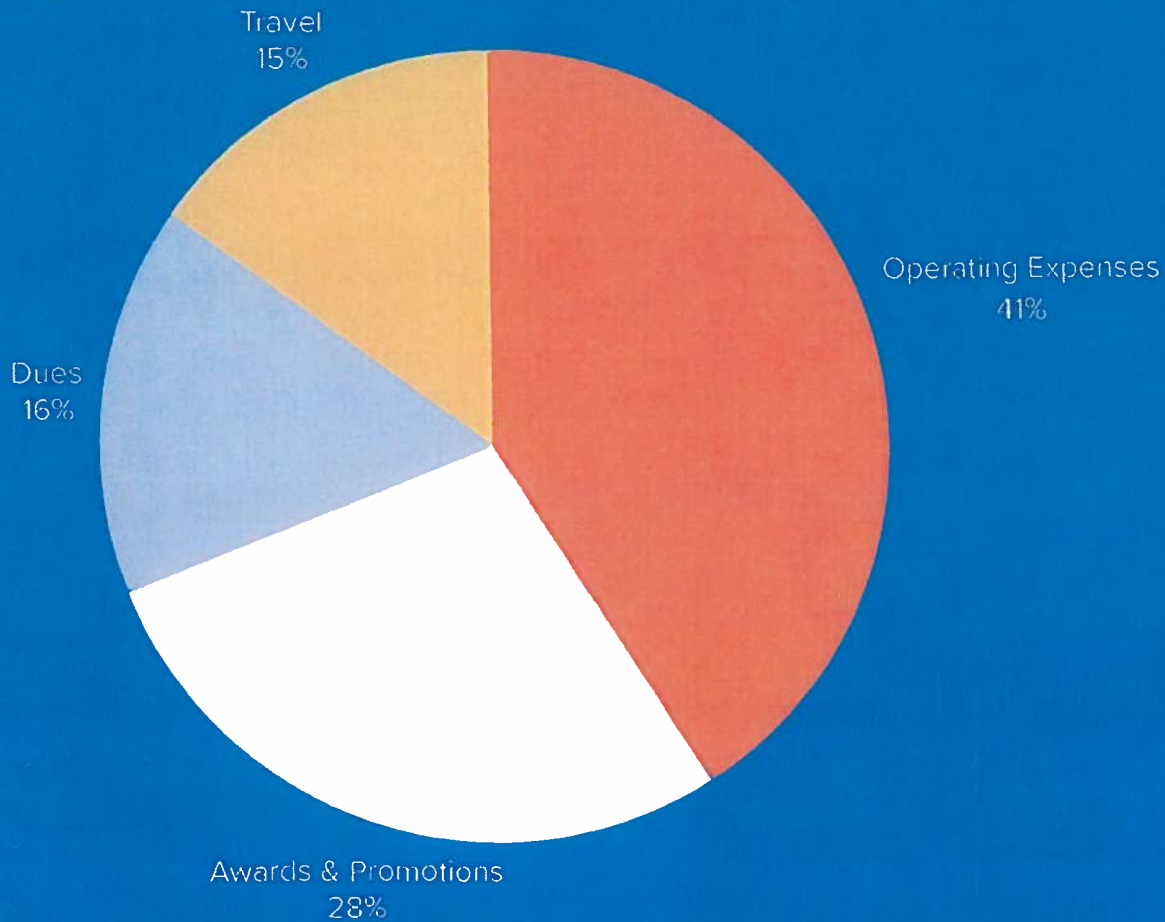
- Serve on WVACD Committees such as Education, Legislative, Water Resources, etc.
- Contribute to statewide initiatives that support conservation districts, schools, and communities
- Participate in Agriculture and Conservation Day at the Capitol, where WVACD speaks with a unified voice on behalf of all districts

National Representation with NACD

- Your WVACD membership includes affiliation with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), the national voice for conservation districts across the U.S. and its territories.
- NACD Provides:
 - Member Services
 - National Communications
 - Conservation Stewardship Tools
 - Grassroots advocacy



BUDGET PIECHART & REPORT



Operating Expenses: \$30,900.00

- Bonding: \$228.00 (which will increase to \$271.00 this year)
- Copier Lease: \$969.00
- Custodial Services: \$540.00
- Liability Insurance: \$250.00
- Office Assistant Salary: \$10,608.00
- Phone: \$1,296.00
- Office Supplies: \$1,200.00
- Rent: \$13,050.00 (This includes rent on the shared meeting/conference space in the back)
- Reserves: \$644.00
- WV Business License: \$25.00
- 3-year Audit Accrual: \$2,000.00

Awards & Promotions: \$20,600.00

- Conservation Camps: \$2,000.00
- Capitol Conservation Day: \$2,000.00
- Grasslands: \$2,500.00
- Meetings: \$8,400.00
- Awards/contests: \$2,700.00 (this is Photo, Poster, Rookie, Member at Large, Communications and Years of Service)
- State Fair: \$3,000.00

Dues: \$11,725.00

- NACD: \$10,850.00
- National Watershed Coalition: \$75.00
- WV Ag Hall of Fame: \$25.00

Travel: \$11,550.00

- NACD: \$6,000.00
- NENACD: \$2,000.00
- NGLC and National Watershed Conference: \$2,875.00
- Ohio River Basin: \$675.00

