

Southern Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting Draft Minutes

August 14, 2025

10:00 AM

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the conference room of the district office located at **263 Ragland Rd. Beckley, WV 25801**

Those in Attendance:

Supervisors:

Randall Patton, Chairman (Teleconference)

Bill Harris, Vice-Chair

Edgar Hendrick, Secretary

Randy Prince (Teleconference)

Rachel Prince (Teleconference)

Steven Johnston

John Farell

Curtis Murphy

Others:

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Morgan Dial, WVCA

Katy McBride, NRCS

Julie Simmons, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Carolyn Hefner, Executive Assistant & Constituent Services

Jose Angeles Rios, FPAC-NRCS

Open & Welcome

Bill Harris, Vice-Chair

- Steven Johnston led in the pledge; Ed Hendrick led in prayer.

Southern Conservation District Operations and Business

LORS:

LOR ID: 16438

Purpose: FY26 AgEnhancement Program Allotment

Amount: \$63,900.00

AGR: 1508-00

Curtis Murphy made a motion to approve LOR ID: 16438 for the FY26 AgEnhancement Program Allotment in the amount of \$63,900.00. The motion was seconded by Ed Hendrick and the motion carried.

LOR ID: 16423

Purpose: FY26 O&M Allocation

Amount: \$58,045.00

AGR: 1478-00

Ed Hendrick made a motion to approve LOR ID: 16423 for the FY26 O&M Allocation in the amount of \$58,045.00, AGR 1478-00. The motion was seconded by Steve Johnston and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Review Approval of July 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Curtis Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ed Hendrick and carried.

Review Approval of July 29, 2025, Special Board/Committee Meeting Minutes

Ed Hendrick made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2025, Special Board/Committee Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Steve Johnston and carried.

Review/Approval of July Financial Reports:

District Operating Account

District Building Account

Supervisor Travel & Per Diem Account

CDO Account

District Reserve Account

August 14, 2025, Southern Conservation District, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Randall Patton made a motion to approve the July Financial Reports for the five accounts: District Operating Account, District Building Account, Supervisor Travel & Per Diem Account, CDO Account, and District Reserve Account, as presented. The motion was seconded by Steve Johnston and the motion carried.

Review/Approval of Co-Administered WVCA Financial Reports:

- July 2025

Steve Johnston made a motion to approve the July 2025 Co-Administered WVCA Financial Reports as presented. The motion was seconded by John Farrell and carried.

Review/Approval of Accounts Receivable/Aging Summary:

Dave Parkulo, SCD

- June 2025
- July 2025

Dave Parkulo, presented the Accounts Receivable/Aging Summary for June 2025 and July 2025. John Farrell made a motion to approve the Accounts Receivable/Aging Summary for June 2025 and July 2025 as presented. The motion was seconded by Randall Patton and carried.

Conservation Technician Supervisor Report:

Dave Parkulo, SCD

During the Conservation Technician Supervisor Report, Dave Parkulo stated that the Potomac Valley dams have been mowed, with the exception of remaining debris removal. He noted that his team will return to complete the debris removal once work on the Western dams is finished. After these dams are finished, the team will move to the dams in the Capitol area before returning to other sites as needed. Parkulo expressed concern about running out of space to store the debris, noting that he has discussed the matter with Jacob Lavender to determine next steps. The inability to dispose of debris has delayed mowing in certain areas, a situation made worse by rain.

Parkulo reported the completion of a pond expansion in Summers County for John Swagger, which included the installation of a water system. Additional work included installation of a water system in Jumping Branch, completion of a pond cleanout in Pluto, and various other projects throughout the Southern Conservation area. He also stated that while part of the crew was working out of town, the remaining staff continued to perform work in Raleigh County. He further noted ongoing coordination with Jacob Lavender regarding challenging channel restoration projects, including a riprap installation at Christian Fork and work at Brush Creek #12, where an FAA tower and electrical service were removed. The report concluded with confirmation that these projects will continue as weather and resources allow.

Bill Harris entered the room after motion was carried.

Steven Johnston made a motion to authorize the chair of the AgEP Committee (Curtis Murphy) to use any funds from cancellations to approve additional contracts as needed, based on either ranking score or maximum cost share. The motion was seconded by Ed Hendricks and carried.

Discussion on Deadlines:

Following the board's decision to approve Option 3, tie-breaker drawings were held for practices with identical ranking scores. For **Heavy Use Area Protection**, the tie between two applicants was resolved with Hubert selected for approval. For **Water Systems**, the tie between Douglas Grimmert of Summers County and Jim Tolliver was resolved with Grimmert selected for approval. For **Pond Cleanout**, the tie between Steve Harrell and Linley was resolved with Harrell selected for approval.

Steven Johnston made a motion that these tie-breaker winners will receive priority for additional funding if funds become available through cancellations or under-obligations. The motion was seconded by John Farrell and carried.

District Conservationist Report:

Katy McBride, NRCS

During her report, Katy McBride stated that field visits since the last meeting included 14 in Beckley and 8 in Princeton. She noted that both the Princeton and Beckley Field Offices are working on FY26 AMA, CSP, and EQIP field assessments. Completed practices totaled \$5,066.10 in Princeton and \$11,435.81 in Beckley.

McBride outlined current priorities, including completing FY26 CSP renewals, obtaining FY25 CSP documentation for payment approval, managing expiring contracts, marking trees for FSI practices, and surveying and designing LWS projects. She reminded the board of the August 29 deadline for FY26 Round 1 EQIP, AMA, and CSP applications and announced the State Conservation Farm Tour scheduled for the week of August 25. She also provided staffing updates, noting that José Angeles Rios will return to the Beckley Field Office by October 1, and that Brandon Duckworth is serving as Acting Area Conservationist for the North Area while Julie Stutler is serving as Acting Area Conservationist for the South Area. A copy of her report is attached below.

Area Operations Manager Report:

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

During his report, Jeremy Salyer reminded the Board that nominations for the Carolle Greene Award, which honors a lifetime honorary member or supervisor of the year, must be submitted by September 1, 2025. He clarified the difference between the two recognitions, noting that one award may be given to an honorary member and the other to a supervisor, both intended to acknowledge contributions to the association. Jeremy Salyer reported that Jesus Nandi Roman

will be working with Angela Feamster-Sawyers this year and will also be visiting Greenbrier to prepare and work on the internal audit.

He announced that the Conservation Farm Tour in McDowell County, the District's non-typical entry into the state competition for Conservation Farm of the Year, will be held on August 27, 2025. Jeremy Salyer also provided an update regarding Senate Bill 941, stating that he is still waiting on correspondence addressing questions previously sent to the appropriate agencies. While the district received a letter from the DEP, no copy was received from the agency itself. He noted that the Water Resources Committee of the Western Association of Conservation Districts has sent a letter to the DEP's Dam Safety division requesting clarification on how the bill impacts supervisors' duties.

Randy Prince Reappointment (Fayette County Solid Waste Authority):

Ed Hendrick made a motion to reappoint Randy Prince to the Fayette County Solid Waste Authority for a four-year term, retroactive to July 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Randall Patton and carried.

Farm Field Discussion:

During the Farm Field Day discussion, it was noted that the board had previously expressed interest in holding the event but had not yet finalized plans. The need for a committee, possibly the Education Committee Chair, to coordinate the event was discussed, including determining the date, location, and invited speakers or demonstrations. It was acknowledged that staff, including Dave Parkulo, would be relied upon for assistance. Dave Parkulo proposed moving the matter to committee to allow time to develop ideas and a more complete plan. It was noted that the GLCR grant could reimburse up to \$3,000 for qualifying field day expenses, provided the event includes topics such as soil grading techniques, forages, weed control, and nutrient management. Eligible expenses include speaker fees, literature, handouts, rentals, equipment, tables, chairs, facility use, and portable restrooms. Demonstrations of equipment could be included, but the board discussed the importance of selecting a location where fencing or other agricultural practices could be shown in a practical setting.

The board agreed to table the discussion until the committee meeting scheduled for August 26, 2025.

Pax & Paint Creek Flooding Discussion:

Carolyn Hefner addressed the board regarding recurring flooding issues within the Pax area, explaining that her office had received numerous constituent calls on the matter. She provided historical context, noting that there had previously been discussions and some form of common understanding between multiple parties, including the conservation district, Alpha Coal, the County Commission, the DEP, the Corps of Engineers, and other local representatives.

She stated that Alpha Coal had expressed willingness to assess the situation and determine how they could assist. Hefner has sent an email to all involved parties to schedule a meeting, which would serve as an assessment and planning session rather than a decision-making forum. She requested to hold the meeting at the district office due to its central location. Dave Parkulo gave additional background, stating that past meetings often became contentious, with the County Commission accusing the district of failing to fulfill obligations—claims he disputed. He clarified that no binding sub-agreement had ever been established, though certain blockages had been removed in the past. Dave Parkulo explained that some flood issues could be addressed without permits, such as removing blockages or creating floodplain benches, but that Alpha Coal had not acted on certain opportunities to perform that work. The discussion concluded with agreement that progress would depend on clearly defining responsibilities, securing funding, and formalizing commitments in writing. The board expressed willingness to host the meeting, provided it did not conflict with other obligations, and supervisors were invited to attend. Bill Harris stated Jesus Nandi Roman would coordinate scheduling with Caryl Hefner once proposed dates were available.

Public Remarks/Comments:

Meeting Adjournment:

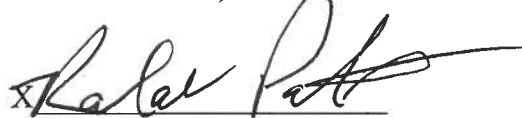
Ed Hendrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.

Dates To Remember:

SCD Committee Meeting: August 26, 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

Motions – Quick Summary:

Approval of LOR ID: 16438 for the FY26 AgEnhancement Program Allotment in the amount of \$63,900.00 (Page 2)

Motion: Curtis Murphy

Second: Ed Hendrick

Action: Motion adopted.

Approval of LOR ID: 16423 for the FY26 O&M Allocation in the amount of \$58,045.00 (Page 2)

Motion: Ed Hendrick

Second: Steve Johnston

Action: Motion adopted.

Approval of July 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes (Page 2)

Motion: Curtis Murphy

Second: Ed Hendrick

Action: Motion adopted.

Approval of July 29, 2025, Special Board/Committee Meeting Minutes (Page 2–3)

Motion: Ed Hendrick

Second: Steve Johnston

Action: Motion adopted.

Approval of July Financial Reports for the five accounts (Page 3)

Motion: Randall Patton

Second: Steve Johnston

Action: Motion adopted.

Approval of July 2025 Co-Administered WVCA Financial Reports (Page 3)

Motion: Steve Johnston

Second: John Farrell

Action: Motion adopted.

Approval of Accounts Receivable/Aging Summary for June and July 2025 (Page 3)

Motion: John Farrell

Second: Randall Patton

Action: Motion adopted.

Motions – Quick Summary, Continued:

Approval of Option 3 for AgEP allocations (Page 4–5)

Motion: Steve Johnston

Second: John Farrell

Action: Motion adopted.

Authorization for Chair of AgEP Committee to use funds from cancellations to approve additional contracts as needed, based on either ranking score or maximum cost share (Page 5)

Motion: Steven Johnston

Second: Ed Hendrick

Action: Motion adopted.

Tie-breaker winners to receive priority for additional funding if funds become available through cancellations or under-obligations (Page 5)

Motion: Steven Johnston

Second: John Farrell

Action: Motion adopted.

Reappointment of Randy Prince to the Fayette County Solid Waste Authority for a four-year term, retroactive to July 1, 2025 (Page 6)

Motion: Ed Hendrick

Second: Randall Patton

Action: Motion adopted.

Adjournment of meeting (Page 7)

Motion: Ed Hendrick

Second: Curtis Murphy

Action: Motion adopted.

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