

# Tygarts Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisors

## Regular Board Meeting, 9:00 AM, Monday, August 11, 2025, Philippi District Office, Philippi, WV and via TEAMS

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Supervisors Present: Donnie Tenney (chair), Joseph Shaffer, James Nester, Don Adams, Delbert Vandevander, James Dean, Tim Cunningham, Mateal Poling, Virtual: Chad Proudfoot  
WVCA: Jim Roy, Erin Coda, Steven Burner, Amber Higgins, Virtual: Don Whetzel  
NRCS: Tyler Putzulu, Robbie Shomo  
WVDOF: Rudy Williams  
WVACD: Virtual: Vanta Coda  
WVU Cooperative Extension: Brittany Leggett

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**The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Donnie Tenney.** Nester led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:** 08/11/25 Agenda, 8/04/25 Education Committee Meeting Minutes, 7/18/25 AgEP Committee Meeting Minutes, 7/14/25 Regular Meeting Minutes presented; **Shaffer moved to approve as presented; Nester seconded; motion carried.**

Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors: Tenney welcomed new WVCA Conservation Specialist Steven Burner, whose first day at the TVCD office was 7/28/25.

Correspondence: The following received & acknowledged by the board:

- Thank-you letter: West Virginia Watershed Symposium
- WV DEP SB 941, Powers and Duties of Conservation Districts and Supervisors
- WVACD SB 941 Concerns as Related to Conservation Districts and Responsibilities
- 8/4/25 NACD Updates on Recent Congressional and Executive Actions
- DEP Stephen Collins' Barbour Solid Waste Authority Reappointment through 6/30/29

### **Sponsorship Requests:**

- CCD Homesteading-ish Conference: No motion presented.
- **Women in Agriculture Conference:** Leggett thanked the board for voting at the 7/14/25 meeting to match prior years' sponsorship once Vandevander determined the amount. Unfortunately, it turned out that there had been no prior request. **Shaffer moved to donate \$115 to cover conference registration; Vandevander seconded; motion carried.**

**Treasurer Report:** Vandevander presented; **Nester moved to accept Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Poling; motion carried.**

District Conservation & Work Crew Report: Vandevander reported skid steer repair, finished dam mowing in Lewis County, Shooks & Pecks Run. National Forest job is now signed & confirmed, several more jobs are coming up, other estimates in the works.

**Watershed O&M Report:** Roy reported that **dam inspection dates** have been set as follows:

- **10/07/25: Elkwater inspection**
- **10/16/25: Shooks & Pecks Run inspections**

**Shaffer moved to accept dates as scheduled; Poling seconded; motion carried.**

Higgins agreed to send letters to notify interested parties prior to inspection.

WVCA: Whetzel reminded the group of September 1<sup>st</sup> nominations deadline and noted that they are also listed further down on the meeting agenda. State Farm tours August 27/28, two traditional and two nontraditional; winners will be announced at the quarterly meeting in October. State Fair is going on now.

WVACD: Vanta Coda stated that three articles are ready: One on the recent GLCI Field Day on 7/26/25, second article announces the Field Day upcoming 9/6/25, both to be published in August. Third is on biochar for September publication. WVACD has been asked to write an article for the upcoming Market Bulletin, so he's currently working on that. Higgins agreed to send the three articles to the press release mailing list and post on the TVCD Facebook page at the appropriate times.

WVU Cooperative Extension Service: Leggett reported 38 exhibitors and multiple projects sold at show & sale in Upshur County. Upshur FFA took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in state dairy cow judging, Randolph County FFA participated in National Wildlife competition & won 5<sup>th</sup> nationwide. Woods & Wildlife seminar to be held in Elkins on 9/10/25 at 6pm. Barbour, Randolph, Upshur, Tucker, Harrison doing a grow-your-own turkey project for November processing.

NRCS: Putzulu gave report in place of Nestor who was at State Fair. Shomo currently alternating between Philippi & Elkins. Getting established in new office location at 12 Daycon Dr, Philippi, WV 26416. Applications for FY26 funding deadline is August 29<sup>th</sup> and FY25 eligibility ends Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

WesMonTy: Poling stated they've had several grants applications approved, and the funding is in, so they're excited to get started on the planned projects.

DOF: Williams brought several Smokey Bear items for the next field day; reported new forester hired for Wetzel County.

#### Old Business:

Supervisor Name Tags & Shirts: Poling stated she'll need to gather additional information on sizes & preferences if shirts are desired, but she did speak to someone at Caplan's Jewelers in Weston who quoted approximately \$20 apiece for badges. She agreed to have a couple wording options made to bring to the next meeting for a vote.

Community Outreach Grant: Tenney reported that he & Poling are working on options for how the funding will be spent and plans to report at September board meeting. Stated he'd like to see the money spent closer to the 9/30/25 deadline since TVCD will need to wait for reimbursement.

#### Committee Reports:

**Building/Finance/Budget Committee**: Vandevander presented several potential tenant relocations and lease adjustments:

Vandevander reported that WVU Extension has requested to relocate to the offices formerly occupied by NRCS. Their current lease rate is \$11 per square foot and remains in effect until the end of 2025. Vandevander reminded the board of two prior decisions: first, on March 10, 2025, the board voted that any leases below \$15 per square foot should be renewed at that rate; and second, on April 21, 2025, the board approved a \$14 per square foot rate for a tenant who declined cleaning services.

WVU Extension explained that both the relocation and any lease rate changes would require prior approval from the Barbour County Commission. They requested to maintain the \$11 per square foot rate until the original lease expiration date, after which they would enter a new lease at \$14 per square foot, with cleaning services declined.

**Dean made a motion to amend WVU Extension's lease to allow relocation to the former NRCS offices (pending approval from the Barbour County Commission), to maintain the \$11 per square foot rate until the original lease expiration, and to set the subsequent lease at \$14 per square foot with cleaning services declined. Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Vandevander also reported that Rebecca Knotts of WVU Extension wishes to lease 221 square feet for her personal business. He stated that he quoted her rates of \$14 and \$15 per square foot, pending the board's decision. **Cunningham moved to lease the 221 square feet to Knotts at \$14 per square foot, with cleaning services declined. Poling seconded. Motion carried.**

Finally, Vandevander stated that Darian Carson of WVCA has requested to relocate along with WVU Extension and lease 123 square feet of the former NRCS offices. Carson currently rents the back room of the offices adjacent to TVCD, which has proven difficult to re-lease due to shared space concerns. Her relocation would make the space more marketable. **Dean moved to approve Carson's relocation to 123 square feet in the former NRCS offices (pending Barbour County Commission approval of WVU Extension's move) at \$14 per square foot, with cleaning services declined. Nester seconded. Motion carried.**

Vandevander then stated that John Mosesso has informed TVCD of his plans to offer for sale the approximately one-acre parcel of land located along the southeastern boundary of TVCD's property on US Route 250. **Shaffer made a motion to offer \$2,000 to purchase the adjacent land; Poling seconded; motion carried.**

Higgins reported that she and Vandevander will be working with Suttle & Stalnaker PLLC on the FY23 audit, and although the time commitment will be significant, the cost is reimbursable. This will complete their contract with TVCD, and the next audit will go out for bidding.

Equipment/Safety Committee: Nester stated there's nothing new to report.

**Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee: Cunningham made a motion that TVCD pay up to \$500 for 9/6/25 Grazing Outreach Field Day refreshments; Nester seconded; motion carried.** Supervisors signed a thank-you card to Jeff & Lisa Sickler for hosting the 7/26/25 Grazing Outreach Field Day.

Legislative Committee: Tenney stated there's been talk of a proposal regarding CD's involvement in cost share for septic tank pumping & repair. He voiced intention to investigate and report back since he could find nothing mentioned regarding compensation for the time commitment.

**Grassland/AgEP Committee: Conservation Agreement for Janice & Mark Antos (Upshur County) presented; Dean moved to approve; Shaffer seconded; motion carried.**

Water Resource Committee: Shaffer reported that he attended Save the Tygart meeting where they discussed concerns regarding coal wastewater in Little Sandy Creek.

WVACD Directors Report: Nester reported on a drone demonstration at quarterly meeting, and said several other districts aren't joining WVACD this year so there's a funding reduction. Tenney highlighted membership benefits.

Personnel Committee: Dean stated nothing to report.

New Business: Tenney referred to former TVCD Supervisor John Hyde's obituary in Supervisor packets, noting memorial on Sunday, 8/24/25 at Hyde home. Supervisors signed a sympathy card to be mailed to family.

**The following LOR's were presented:**

**LOR # 16413:** FY26 Allocation for WesMonTy RC&D, \$17,575.00

**Shaffer moved to accept; Nester seconded; motion carried**

**LOR # 16424:** FY26 O&M Allocation, \$9,165.00

**Nester moved to accept; Shaffer seconded; motion carried**

**LOR # 16439:** FY26 Ag Enhancement Program Allotment, \$77,800.00

**Shaffer moved to accept; Poling seconded; motion carried.**

**Board Meeting Scheduling:**

Due to the Labor Day holiday on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the Field Day on the 6<sup>th</sup>, **Cunningham moved to reschedule the September board meeting to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Nester seconded; motion carried.**

**Award Nominations Discussion:**

The group reviewed upcoming award nomination deadlines, all due by September 1st. Awards include:

- Carroll Greene Nomination
- WVACD Honorary Member At Large
- WVACD Lifetime Honorary Member
- WVACD Excellence in Conservation Communication

**Shaffer moved to nominate Joe Gumm for any of the listed awards that he has not previously received. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Shaffer then moved to nominate John Sencindiver for any remaining awards he has not yet received, excluding those for which Joe Gumm is being nominated. Nester seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Cunningham moved to nominate Vandevander for Rookie Supervisor of the Year. Poling seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Higgins shared correspondence from Gene Hovatter, who was invited to the meeting but was unable to attend. In his message, he provided an update on plans for the upcoming Grazing Outreach Field Day scheduled for September 6, 2025. He also noted that he will be presenting on Soils on September 23 at 6:00 PM in the district conference room.

Shaffer inquired whether Proudfoot was still attending the meeting virtually via TEAMS. Upon discovering that he was no longer present, **Shaffer moved that the board send Proudfoot a letter encouraging more consistent participation. Nester seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Supervisor Reports:**

**Shaffer:** Education Committee, RC&D, Save the Tygart, New Horizons, Economic Development Meeting, TVCD Field Day

**Poling:** Education Committee, TVCD Field Day

**Nester:** Area Meeting, Quarterly meeting, TVCD Field Day, RC&D, TVCD Board

**Adams:** Today's board meeting, otherwise busy farming, aerial application of fungicide to 52 acres by drone

**Cunningham:** Board meeting, TVCD Field Day

**Dean:** TVCD Board Meeting

**Vandevander:** See multiple reports above, TVCD Field Day

**Tenney:** RC&D Meeting, Quarterly Meeting, Education Committee, TVCD Field Day

**There being no further business, Nester moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 am; Shaffer seconded; motion carried.**

Minutes recorded and prepared by Amber Higgins – WVCA Administrative Specialist