

# ***Southern Conservation District***

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2025

10:00 AM

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the conference room of the District Office located @ **263 Ragland Rd. Beckley, WV 25801.**

## **Those in Attendance:**

### Supervisors:

Randall Patton, Chairman

Bill Harris, Vice-Chair

Edgar Hendrick, Secretary

John Farell

Randy Prince (Teleconference)

Rachel Prince (Teleconference)

Steven Johnston

Curtis Murphy

Ron Testerman

### Others:

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Morgan Dial, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Open & Welcome

Randall Patton, Chairman

Ron Testerman led in prayer, Steve Johnston Led in Pledge

### **Southern Conservation District Operations and Business**

#### **Administrative Specialist Report:**

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

Jesus Nandi Roman reported on behalf of Katy McBride (NRCS), who remains furloughed due to the lapse in federal funding. Jesus Nandi Roman informed the Board that the planning meeting for the 2026 Agriculture Conference at the State Fairgrounds will be held on October 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the WVU Building on the fairgrounds. Edgar Hendrick, Ron Testerman, and Randy Prince confirmed their attendance to assist with the planning efforts.

Jesus Nandi Roman also continued collecting RSVPs for the upcoming Southern Conservation District Fall Banquet, scheduled to be held at Tamarack. Board members and guests were reminded to confirm attendance to ensure accurate meal counts and seating arrangements.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

***Steve Johnston made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2025 regular board meeting. Edgar Henrick Seconded, motion carried.***

***Ed Hendrick made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2025 special board/committee meeting. Curtis Murphy Seconded, motion carried.***

#### **Conservation Technician Supervisor Report**

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Dave Parkulo reported that operations have begun on Brush Creek, where several blockages were identified, including fallen trees and debris. It was noted that a local tree company had improperly dumped wood chips and branches on the riprap; EOC representative Keith Gano is addressing the issue directly with the company to ensure removal and compliance. Work continues in the lower section of Brush Creek, with crews focusing on cutting and clearing larger trees. Additional maintenance was performed at the Village Green Mobile Home Park to remove a blockage. Cost-share and non-cost-share projects remain ongoing, with approximately one to two hundred tons of material still to be delivered.

The SCD crew is currently working on a pond clean-out project in Princeton, with additional clean-out work planned for Pence Springs, Jumping Branch, and Pluto. Dave Parkulo further reported a compliance concern involving the North Beckley Public Service District (PSD), which is planning to install a sewer line crossing in the Little White Stick Channel without obtaining the required permissions from NRCS or the District. He also indicated that contact had not yet been made with John Wooton regarding Site 12 easement violation but anticipated a follow-up soon. Discussion followed concerning the travel per diem correspondence received from the state's legal office. Members expressed concern over inaccuracies in the response John Wooton

received and reaffirmed the Board's position that the \$120 per diem rate should remain in place pending further clarification from the State Committee.

Conservation Specialist Report

Morgan Dial, WVCA

Morgan Dial reported that James Webber had returned his land use agreement and that an invoice is expected. No other outstanding agreements were noted. Morgan Dial then reviewed the recent amendment concerning the use of additional drought assistance funds. It was clarified that the amendment authorized an additional \$26,000 under the West Virginia Department of Agriculture's drought assistance program. These funds must be fully utilized before accessing Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP) extension funds. The amendment allows sign-ups for the following eligible practices: cover crops, re-vegetation, feeding areas, irrigation water systems, and temporary fencing, excluding high tunnels and greenhouse repairs. The cost-share rate was set at 50 percent, up to a maximum of \$500 per practice, with expenditures tracked under a separate fund code.

Discussion followed regarding definitions of eligible materials and practices. It was confirmed that "temporary water systems" include portable water troughs, hauling tanks, pumps, and fittings, provided no used materials are submitted and no retroactive payments are made. Fixed or permanent watering systems and stationary troughs are not eligible. Temporary fencing materials may include electric chargers and related components necessary for functional installation. Supervisors agreed that landowners may apply for multiple practices if they qualify, with a maximum cost-share limit of \$500 per practice. Applications will remain open while one or more counties within the district remain under drought declaration or until the available funds are expended. The Board noted that the lifespan requirement was removed under this amendment, allowing landowners who participated in last year's program to reapply if a legitimate need exists. Supervisors emphasized that applicants must demonstrate a valid justification for additional assistance to ensure responsible use of public funds. Screening of applications will be conducted by staff prior to supervisor review and approval.

Area Operations Manager Report:

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer provided an update on correspondence with the Agricultural Dam Safety (ADS) Office regarding Senate Bill 941, which concerns the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) involvement with watershed dam projects. He explained that the bill reinforces DEP's regulatory authority but does not require DEP to be a signatory on routine agreements such as operations, maintenance, or planning contracts between conservation districts and local governments. DEP's interest primarily applies to larger-scale projects involving major rehabilitation or repairs in partnership with NRCS. The agency does not oversee standard channel maintenance or routine district projects.

Jeremy Salyer also noted that the State Conservation Committee is still awaiting formal written guidance from DEP to clarify the extent of its involvement. Until further direction is provided, any potential questions or project-related issues will be reviewed and coordinated through the proper channels with DEP representatives, including Aaron Concrete. It was also confirmed that

DEP is not currently concerned with minor easement violations unless a regulatory enforcement action is required.

Letter of Support - Southern Conservation District:

Jesus Nandi Roman reported that he had been in communication with Tammy Jordan of Sprouting Farms regarding a request for a letter of support from the Southern Conservation District for an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) POWER Grant application. Ms. Jordan provided a template letter outlining the project details and requested signed letters of support by October 15. Nandi collaborated with Ms. Jordan to draft the District's letter of support, which was reviewed and presented to the Board by Chairperson Nandi Roman. Upon review, the Board approved and signed the letter in support of Sprouting Farms' grant submission.

***Following discussion, Randall Patton made a motion to sign and accept SCD's letter of support. John Farrell seconded, motion carried.***

Southern Conservation District Building - 50th Anniversary:

Bill Harris noted that the Southern Conservation District Building will mark its 50th anniversary this year. While reviewing photos and plaques displayed in the office, he observed that the building's dedication took place on October 23, 1975. The original facility housed Rural Development, FSA, and related offices. Harris suggested that the District acknowledge this milestone, possibly by including a brief recognition during the upcoming Fall Banquet—such as featuring historic photos in the slideshow or creating a small display to honor those who contributed to the building's establishment. The Board agreed that while a formal celebration is unnecessary, the anniversary should be recognized as part of the District's ongoing history.

Supervisor Report:

Bill Harris, SCD

Bill Harris reported that the solicitation for bids for the Brush Creek Site 15 Rehabilitation Project was posted on the West Virginia Purchasing website on September 30. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the 4-H Camp near Site 14, where contractors will receive a project briefing followed by a site tour. Bid submissions are due January 7, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. Harris noted that the project is moving forward and invited interested Mercer County Supervisors to attend the pre-bid meeting. Harris also summarized recent and upcoming meetings. He reported that the WVACD Quarterly Meeting and Awards Luncheon will be held October 22–23 at the Days Inn in Flatwoods. He and Ron Testerman plan to attend, and Jason Tart will also participate, with previously approved travel funding limited to mileage reimbursement. Supervisors interested in attending the awards luncheon were encouraged to do so. The next Central Area Quarterly Meeting will be held January 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Elk Conservation District, followed by the next WVACD teleconference on February 17. Ag and Conservation Day at the Capitol will take place on February 18, during which districts will host joint display tables. The Southern Conservation District plans to bring a banner and informational materials for outreach.

He further reported that the 2026 West Union Envirothon will be held at Camp Caesar in Webster County in April. The event will feature regional qualifying contests, and training opportunities for local student teams will be coordinated with the Elk Conservation District. Harris then reviewed portions of the District's Travel and Per Diem Policy. He reminded Supervisors that travel and per diem forms must be submitted monthly, and that late or incomplete forms will be

deferred until the following month's meeting. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that all submissions comply with District policy; any forms not meeting requirements will be returned for correction prior to payment. He clarified that compensated travel is authorized for board-appointed positions—specifically the Solid Waste Authority and the Farmland Protection Board—limited to one meeting per month for each appointment. Attendance at other meetings requires prior board approval. Harris cautioned that public funds cannot be used to support or promote quasi-political organizations such as the Farm Bureau and advised that any related participation should be approved in advance. He recommended that the topic be placed on the November meeting agenda for further discussion.

Finally, Harris reviewed allowable reimbursements, stating that out-of-district travel qualifies for three-quarters per diem on travel days, while in-district meal expenses require itemized receipts. He also requested that attendance at upcoming WVU Extension Winter Meetings be included on the next agenda for formal board approval.

**Public Remarks/Comments: None Received**

Meeting Adjournment:

***Following discussion, Randall Patton moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Edgar Hendrick, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:44:28 PM EST.***

Dates To Remember:

SCD Committee Meeting: October 28, 2025 at 10:00 AM @ 463 Ragland Rd WV, 25801.

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Respectfully Submitted: Jesus Nandi Roman, West Virginia Conservation Agency,  
Administrative Specialist

**F. William Harris, SCD Vice-Chairman**

X F William Harris

**Edgar Hendrick, SCD Secretary**

X Edgar Hendrick

BH/EH/AS

**Motions: Quick Summary**  
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- Motion by *Steve Johnston*, seconded by *Edgar Hendrick*, to approve the minutes of the **September 11, 2025** regular board meeting. *Motion carried.*
- Motion by *Ed Hendrick*, seconded by *Curtis Murphy*, to approve the minutes of the **September 30, 2025** special board/committee meeting. *Motion carried.*

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- Motion by *Randall Patton*, seconded by *John Farrell*, to **sign and accept** the SCD **Letter of Support** for Sprouting Farms' ARC POWER Grant. *Motion carried.*

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- Motion by *Randall Patton*, seconded by *Edgar Hendrick*, to **adjourn** the meeting at **12:44:28 PM EST**. *Motion carried.*