

Tygarts Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes
 December 8, 2025, 10:00 AM
 Camp Pioneer in Beverly, WV & via TEAMS

Supervisors Present: Donnie Tenney (Chair), James Dean (Vice-Chair), Delbert Vandevander (Treasurer), Joseph Shaffer, Tim Cunningham, Tom Short, Jim Nester, Don Adams

Partners Present:

WVCA: Jim Roy, Cindy Shreve, Ben Heavner, Darian Carson, Amanda Grady, Amber Higgins; (TEAMS) Don Whetzel, Jocelyn Gaujot

WVACD: (TEAMS) Heather Duncan, Vanta Coda

WVU Extension: Brittany Leggett

NRCS: Tyler Putzulu, Robbie Shomo

Call to Order: Chair Tenney called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Nester led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes:

- December 8, 2025 Agenda
 - November 3, 2025 AgEP Committee Meeting Minutes
 - November 3, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - **Motion by Short, seconded by Shaffer, to approve Agendas and Minutes as presented; Motion carried.**
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Correspondence

- West Fork Conservation District is accepting sealed bids for a lime spreader until 1/9/26. Their equipment committee will vote on bids at their 1/14/26 meeting. Members will call a special meeting if the Equipment Committee decides to submit a bid.
 - A thank-you card was received from Bob True for flowers sent to his wife's funeral.
 - Info was shared about a non-regulatory air sensor partnership offering free sensors. The board agreed to share the opportunity via Facebook and the website with contact info provided. Members plan to discuss it further with county commissioners attending the banquet following the meeting. Facebook settings to disable comments were also noted.
 - Members were encouraged to contact representatives in support of the Ohio River cleanup bill.
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Treasurer's Report: Vandevander

- Account balances as of 11/30/25:
 - Checking: \$29,570.24
 - Savings: \$19,319.61
 - Secondary Checking: \$1,157
 - Accounts receivable: \$26,391
- Part of A/R is Forest Service job: \$10,029 Pecks & Shooks: \$8,950
- Key expenses: insurance, utilities, supplies, per diem, travel, legal
- **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Shaffer, seconded by Cunningham; motion carried.**

District Conservation & Crew Report: Vandevander

- Crew worked part-time in November, with the following expenses:
 - Fuel: \$499.77
 - Equipment Repairs: \$1,293
 - Payroll: \$4,508
- Nov. income: \$11,017; YTD total work crew income: \$131,034.16.
- Repairs to lime spreaders: replaced spring bolts, bushings, and shackles. Oiled & stored for winter.
- Jeff Sickler tested the repaired litter spreader and offered to make further repairs to the chain.
- Upcoming brush job in Marion County pending weather.

Watershed O&M Report: Roy

- Peck's Run completed minus some trimming.
- Elkwater Dam inspection will take place later this week.

Agency Reports**WVCA:**

- Whetzel noted the State AgEP Committee meets 12/15/25 at Elk District office to finalize FY27 items; call-in available.
- Written report and DEP air monitor info included in packets.
- Upcoming AgEP meeting in Flatwoods will cover program updates; board input can be sent to Dean. Call-in info to be shared.
- On behalf of Erin Coda who'd sent her regrets, Higgins reported that a candidate was selected for the ConSpec role assigned to TVCD, and that their start date is pending.

WVACD:

- Duncan announced the quarterly meeting will be held 2/17/26 at the Flatwoods office; committee meetings will be scheduled beforehand.
- Ag & Conservation Day at the Capitol is set for 2/18/26; members should arrange travel and prepare handouts or giveaways.
- NRCS payments are delayed due to backlog; districts may face year-end financial strain.
- Coda reported that the next article will feature National Maple Day.
- Tenney noted strong response to the recent hybrid chestnut article, with continued media interest and some public misconceptions about hybridization.

WVU Extension: Leggett

- Thanksgiving turkey processing: 13 participants, 27 turkeys.
- Wreath workshop held; greenery provided by French Creek Christmas Trees.
- Barbour County quiz bowl team placed 2nd in Morgantown.
- Fruit tree sale live; 2026 garden calendars available.
- Lunch & Learn Zoom series starts 1/15/26; Master Gardener classes begin 1/8/26.
- Pesticide recertification offered in Dec. for private applicators; categories 1, 4, 7, 11, 12; contact Extension office for details.
- Soil testing lab plans to expand testing options; not yet available.
- SARE and other grant opportunities discussed, including potential projects on soil health and biochar testing.

NRCS: Putzulu

- Since reopening from the federal shutdown, NRCS has been making Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payments.
- Local office hoping to receive guidance at the following day's meeting in Morgantown.

WesMonTy RC&D: Tenney

- Grant funds were distributed in full upfront to streamline project completion and reporting.
- Five 12" pollinator hotels ordered from Monongalia County; additional units may be produced.
- Vandevander will build two bluebird house prototypes with different roof styles for future use.
- Board discussed distributing larger pollinator hotels to schools or via Master Gardener programs.
- Next RC&D meeting: 1/16/26 at 10:00 AM at the Farm Bureau office.

Old Business**Committee Assignments & Re-Election Reminder: Tenney**

- Committee assignments from the 11/3/25 TVCD regular board meeting were confirmed. with Don Adams added to the Personnel, Work Crew, Equipment & Safety Committee.
- **Motion to approve the 11/3/25 committee assignment list with Adams' addition made by Shaffer, seconded by Cunningham; motion carried.**
- WVACD Directors Committee appointments (currently Tenney and Nester) will be reviewed; terms are two years.
- RC&D county appointments are also two-year terms; board will review and document status to ensure compliance.
- Reminder to file for re-election if term is ending. Recent code change requires filing to retain a seat, even if unopposed.

Eat & Reap Dinners:

- 1/14/26 dinner in at Outpost in Upshur County confirmed; Jesse Richardson (WVU Law) presenting on landowner rights.
- \$10 registration, capped at 30 attendees; grant may cover costs for the 1/14/26 dinner only.
- Tenney agreed to be present for payment at 1/14/26 event; Vandevander agreed to be present for 2/11/26 event.
- RSVP deadline for the 2/11/26 dinner at Tygart Lake Lodge is 1/26/26 since headcount is due to venue by 1/27/26.

- Estimated cost for 2/11/26 hot roast beef dinner at Tygart Lake Lodge: \$16.49/person + 20% gratuity.
- Shaffer agreed to check with venue regarding drinks and room charge.
- **Motion by Cunningham, second by Short, to approve up to \$800 for 2/11/26 dinner. Motion carried.**

Northern Panhandle CD / Wheeling Watershed Association Case:

- Dean reported that Dan Taylor withdrew as counsel for Wheeling Creek; case remains pending.
- **Motion by Nester, second by Dean, to take no further action and wait to see if case progresses. Motion carried.**

Committee Reports

Building/Finance/Budget Committee:

- Vandevender reported no inquiries regarding the vacant office space.
- WVU Extension will vacate by 12/31/25 due to previously discussed relocation.
- Committee agreed to advertise and explore options.

Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee:

- Tenney shared updates on grant-funded raised bed projects, including plant deliveries and photos from participating facilities.
- Holbrook Nursing Home reported positive feedback from residents after harvesting their first salad.
- Photos will be compiled and shared via board email and social media.

Legislative Committee:

- Members encouraged to attend Ag Conservation Day on 2/18/26 in Charleston.
- Contact Tenney to coordinate.

Grassland/AgEP Committee:

- **Dean presented the following for approval:**
 - **AgEP Payments:**
 - **Lime:**
 - **Gary Elbon \$1,567.36**
 - **Frank Turansky \$934.20**
 - **Justin McAtee \$1,103.20**
 - **Bryan Mitchell \$811.20**
 - **Litter Transfer:**
 - **Todd Bolyard \$2,200.00**
 - **Douglas Wimer \$708.40**
 - **Conservation Agreements:**
 - **Regina Whitehair, Taylor County**
 - **Franklin Runner, Taylor County**
 - **Bernard Stuart, Taylor County**
- **Motion by Shaffer, second by Short, to approve as presented. Motion carried.**

New Business: WVACD Area Meeting at TVCD on Monday, 1/5/25

- Board reviewed plans for hosting the upcoming area meeting.
- Agreed to provide meat, cheese, and fruit tray for attendees to make sandwiches.
- **Motion by Dean, second by Cunningham, to approve a \$300 lunch budget. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Reports: Supervisors reported attending various meetings, signing checks, and participating in field work. Weather conditions caused delays in some outdoor projects. Tenney attended a pollinator training at Jackson's Mill, which drew over 100 participants and offered continuing education credits.

Motion to adjourn made by Short, seconded by Nester. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes compiled and prepared by Amber Higgins, WVCA Administrative Specialist.