

Southern Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2026

10:00 AM

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of the District Office, located at **463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV 25801.**

Those in Attendance:

Supervisors:

Randall Patton, Chairman

Bill Harris, Vice-Chair

Edgar Hendrick, Secretary

John Farrell

Bill Cook

Randy Prince (Teleconference)

Rachel Prince (Teleconference)

Curtis Murphy

Ron Testerman

Steve Johnston

Others:

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

Brian Fry, WVCA

Morgan Dial, WVCA

Katy McBride, NRCS

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Julie Simmons, WVACD

Heather Duncan, WVACD

Open & Welcome

Randall Patton, Chairman

Ed Hendrick led in prayer, and Steve Johnston led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Southern Conservation District Operations and Business

Approval of Minutes

Following the review, Curtis Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. Steve Johnston seconded, motion carried.

Following the review, Ed Hendrick made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 30, 2025, Special Board/Committee Meeting. Steve Johnston seconded, motion carried.

Review/Approval of November Financial Reports

District Operating Account

District Building Account

Supervisor Travel & Per Diem Account

CDO Account

District Reserve Account

Following review of the November Financial reports, Bill Harris made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.

Conservation Technician Supervisor Report:

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Dave Parkulo informed the Board that he has completed all but one lime cost share and one pond cleanout. Additionally, the section of Brush Creek near Village Green in Mercer County is now complete.

Conservation Specialist Report:

Brian Fry, WVCA

Brian Fry presented the January 8, 2026, Cost Share report, providing an update on remaining obligations, available funds, and current sign-up activity. The report identified remaining lime producer cost-share commitments for David Tiller in the amount of \$262.90, Kevin Okes in the amount of \$2,211.00, and Jimmy Joe Ballengee in the amount of \$677.60, as well as one remaining pond cleanout obligation for Judd Lindley totaling \$2,500.00. Mr. Fry further reviewed remaining program balances, including \$7,222.82 in lime funds, \$10,540.00 in woodland exclusion fence funds, \$1,500.00 in pasture division fence funds, \$380.00 in HUAP funds, \$4,312.19 in water system funds, and \$7,656.75 in pond cleanout funds.

Based on these balances, total funds remaining for second sign-ups, inclusive of district obligations, were reported as \$31,611.76, with the clarification that this amount may increase but will not decrease. Mr. Fry concluded his report by noting current participation levels, stating that

to date, there have been ten sign-ups for Nutrient Management and one sign-up for Forestry practices. A copy of his report is attached below.

District Conservationist Report:

Katy McBride, NRCS

Katy McBride presented the Southern Conservation District Monthly Report for January 2026, outlining current workload, planning activities, and upcoming priorities. During the reporting period, staff conducted a total of 20 field visits, including 11 through the Beckley Field Office and nine trips through the Princeton Field Office. Both offices are actively working on FY26 program applications for AMA, EQIP, and CSP, with the Princeton Field Office completing one conservation plan covering ninety acres. Completed practices under FY25 CSP totaled \$73,118.26 in the Beckley Field Office and \$102,380.72 in the Princeton Field Office, reflecting progress across multiple conservation practices. The report further noted that all 2025 expiring contracts have been addressed, agronomic spot checks for FY25 have been completed, and all CSP payments have been approved, except for one pending payment, as per the checklist. Staff continue to coordinate with the Area Office on contract modifications, practices behind schedule, and preparation for FY26 field visits, pending receipt of final guidance.

McBride also reviewed upcoming deadlines and events relevant to district operations. All FY25 applications are required to be promoted to FY26 in ProTracts by January 16, 2026. Scheduled meetings and events include multiple teleconferences, the WVSU Community Educator Project Review, and participation in the 2026 West Virginia Small Farms Conference in Charleston. Special projects underway involve planning for the Appalachian Grazing Conference, providing assistance with the WV Envirothon and Grassland Evaluation Contest, and coordinating the scheduling of the SCD/GVCD Land Judging Contest at Princeton-Mercer County Airport. The report concluded with a staffing update, noting that there were no changes to district staffing during the month. A copy of Katy McBride's report is attached below. Following the completion of her report, McBride reported on behalf of Hannah Thacker that Elk Horn letters are expected to be sent out by the end of the month.

Area Operations Manager Report:

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

The WVCA report for January 2026 was presented on behalf of Jesus Nandi Roman in the absence of the District Operations Manager. The report included a request for Conservation Districts to review and update their District Policy Manuals, as well as their Conservation District Employee Manuals, where applicable. An overview was provided of the Agricultural Enhancement Program administrative review requirements, noting that each district's Administrative Specialist is required to review ten percent, or a minimum of three, AgEP files from the current fiscal year and submit the Administrative Review Form to the District Operations Manager by January 31, 2026. This mid-year review process is designed to identify and address potential procedural issues, ensuring that all required documentation is maintained correctly and consistently across district records and WVCA financial systems. The report also highlighted key dates for the 2026 Regular Session of the West Virginia Legislature, including

the opening day on January 14, bill introduction deadlines in February, and adjournment scheduled for March 14, 2026.

Additional updates were provided regarding the AgEP timeline, including the presentation of the upcoming fiscal year program to the State Conservation Committee in January and the expectation that districts finalize program details, update agreement addendums, and approve letters of request by mid-June. Districts were reminded that final practice lists are due to WVCA by June 15 following SCC approval, and that district personnel plans are due to the SCC in March, with review and approval recommended for February agendas. Upcoming items of note included Ag Day on February 18 and the filing period for Conservation District Supervisor elections from January 12 through January 31. The report also shared an opportunity from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to provide free, non-regulatory air quality sensors to state, county, and local agencies for educational and informational purposes. These sensors, funded through a federal grant, measure particulate matter and require minimal electricity and data usage, with all equipment and installation materials provided at no cost. Information was included on how the sensors operate, what pollutants they measure, and how air quality data can be accessed and interpreted using the EPA's Air Quality Index. A copy of Mr. Salyer's report is attached below.

WVACD Executive Director Report:

Heather Duncan, WVACD

Julie Simmons provided an update on behalf of Heather Duncan and informed the Board that the NACD TA grant was submitted on December 23, 2025, and more updates were going to be communicated as they became available.

Rental Equipment Rate Increases:

The current rental rates for the most commonly used pieces of equipment are \$100 per day for the Post Driver, Lime Buggy, and the No-Till Drill. Parkulo informed the Board of the benefits of increasing the rental rate, to which the majority of the Board agreed.

Following the discussion of the rental rates, Ed Hendrick made a motion to increase the rental equipment rate from \$100.00 to \$125.00, effective immediately. Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.

Lime (Cost Increase):

Bill Harris made a motion to increase the lime from \$40.00 to \$60.00 a ton, effective immediately. Ed Hendrick seconded, motion carried.

Additional Truck Purchase for SCD:

Since this conversation was initiated during the previous board meeting, Parkulo conducted pricing research and collaborated with several dealerships to secure a price for the new truck. Parkulo informed the Board that he would use funds from the operating account to cover this

purchase, as he plans to keep the truck being replaced in the local area to avoid breakdown issues should they arise.

Ed Hendrick made a motion to purchase a new truck for the Southern Conservation District fleet, replacing older vehicles to keep them in the local area. Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.

New Phone Purchase for all SCD offices:

Dave Parkulo informed the Board of Supervisors that, due to his workload, he has not had time to thoroughly research pricing for a new phone system; however, he provided an estimate of \$100 per office, totaling around \$400.00 for the replacement of Agency phones. The conversation was tabled until the SCD committee meeting, where he would provide a more thorough price analysis for the Board to review.

Meeting Adjournment:

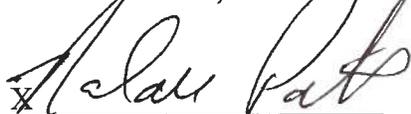
Upon the completion of all agenda items, Randall Patton made a motion to adjourn the Southern Conservation District's January 8, 2026, regular Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ed Hendrick. The Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:55:22 AM EST.

Dates To Remember:

SCD Committee Meeting: January 27, 2026, at 10:00 AM @ 463 Ragland Rd, WV, 25801.

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

Randall Patton, Chairman

X 

Edgar Hendrick, SCD Secretary

X 

BH/EH/AS

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Motions Summary
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Page 4

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Page 4

A motion was made by Bill Harris to increase the lime cost from \$40.00 to \$60.00 per ton, effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Edgar Hendrick and carried.

Page 5

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Page 5

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