

# *Southern Conservation District*

Board Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2026

10:00 AM

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, April 9, 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, Chair

Bill Harris, Vice-Chair

Edgar Hendrick, Secretary

John Farrell

Randy Prince (Teleconference)

Rachel Prince (Teleconference)

Curtis Murphy

Ron Testerman

Steven Johnston

Others:

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

Brian Fry, WVCA

Morgan Dial, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA (Teleconference)

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Beth Villars, WVU-NRCS

Ruby Daniels-Holland, NRCS

Jose Rios, NRCS

Hannah Thacker, NRCS

Open & Welcome

Randall Patton, Chair

Bill Harris led in prayer, and Steven Johnston led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Southern Conservation District Operations and Business**

**Elkhorn Letters:**

Hannah Thacker, NRCS

Hannah Thacker provided an update on the Elkhorn voluntary floodplain buyout project. She reported that the first batch of offer letters has been sent. The second batch is currently being drafted and reviewed by legal counsel, with additional technical details included to address title issues. A third batch is also being prepared, which will involve more complex title concerns; however, it is uncertain whether those letters will be issued.

She also reported that the Wyoming County debris removal project under the EWP program has been completed, with debris cleared from the identified creek areas. Follow-up may be needed regarding a concern about remaining debris in a specific location. Hannah further stated that funding has been approved for a voluntary buyout project in Wyoming County. Confirmation is pending from the Wyoming County Commission on whether they wish to proceed. If approved, a revised process will be implemented, potentially involving additional administrative support and a structured application phase for participating property owners.

**Approval of Minutes:**

***Following the review, Steven Johnston made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Ed Hendrick seconded, motion carried.***

***Following the review, Curtis Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026, Special Board Meeting. John Farrell seconded, motion carried.***

***Following the review, Ed Hendrick made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2026, Committee Meeting. Steven Johnston seconded, motion carried.***

**Review/Approval of Co-Administered WVCA March Financial Report:**

***Following the review of SCD February 2026 reconciliations and Financial Statements, Bill Harris moved to approve the accounts as presented. Steven Johnston seconded, motion carried.***

***Following the review of SCD March 2026 Reconciliations and Financial Statements, Steven Johnston moved to approve the reports as presented. Ed Hendrick seconded, motion carried.***

Approval of Aging Summary/Accounts Receivable:

Dave Parkulo, SCD

***Following review of the SCD Aging Summary/Accounts receivable, Curtis Murphy made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Ron Testerman seconded, motion carried.***

Review/Approval of Co-Administered WVCA Financial Reports:

***Following the review of the March 2026 Reconciliations and Financial Statements, Bill Harris made a motion to approve the reports as presented. John Farrell seconded, motion carried.***

Conservation Technician Supervisor Report:

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Dave Parkulo reported that he recently completed a spring development project for Pam Bailey through NRCS, with additional related work still needed to address sinkholes in the field. He noted ongoing challenges with obtaining lime due to weather and site conditions, but stated that deliveries are continuing, including recent loads to Mercer County, with additional tonnage still to be completed. Dave Parkulo also stated that demand for lime remains high, though field conditions continue to impact access and application. He reported that current efforts are focused on cutting three channels and marking work areas as part of ongoing projects.

Conservation Specialist Report:

Brian Fry, WVCA

The April 9, 2026, CS Report was presented and reviewed. The following applicants were approved for payment: Curtis Murphy, Judson Lindley, Terry D. Bennett, Kitty Gunnoe, Clarence Slatton, and Richard Snuffer. It was noted that David White's cancellation had already been approved previously, while Teresa Ann Butts' cancellation was tabled for the next board meeting. It was further reported that all frost seeding practices were completed on time, along with several nutrient management practices, and that the associated total costs were provided. The Board was also informed that a majority of landowner agreements have been received, though some remain outstanding.

***Following the presentation of the Conservation Specialist report, Steven Johnston made a motion to approve payments for the six listed applicants. John Farrell Seconded, motion carried. (As Curtis Murphy had signed up for payment, he stepped out of the room while the vote was carried. He reentered the room once the vote was complete.)***

WVCA, NRCS & SCD Updates:District Conservationist Report:

Jose Rios, NRCS

The NRCS Report was presented by Jose Rios. The Board was informed that field visits were conducted in both Beckley and Princeton, and that both field offices are currently working on FY26 assessments and rankings for eligible applications. Completed practices were reported for both locations, with associated totals provided. Rios also reported that field office priorities include contract maintenance, completion of assessments and rankings, conducting field visits for Round 1 applications, marking trees for FSI practices, and reviewing engineering workload

needs. Upcoming deadlines and events were noted, including the Round 1 assessment deadline and the Appalachian Grazing Conference. Additional updates included coordination for upcoming events, changes to scheduled contests, and involvement in event setup and support. He also referenced the workshop calendar provided by Beth Villers, noting that it was included with the report and that participation in upcoming workshops was encouraged. Copies of the NRCS report and the workshop calendar are attached below.

Area Operations Manager Report:

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer provided his report and noted that there have been no significant changes since the previous committee meeting. He reminded the Board that district submissions for the Farm Tour are due by June 16, 2026. Salyer reported that the Governor has signed the relevant bill into legislation, but the Agency has not provided any additional updates or guidance at this time. He stated that there has been no further communication or discussion regarding implementation and that updates will be shared as they become available.

**Supervisor Reports/Approvals:**

Supervisor Per Diem Update:

The Board discussed supervisor per diem rates, noting that the District policy sets the rate at \$150, while the State Committee has set the rate at \$80. It was discussed that elected officials' pay cannot be increased or decreased during their term of office, which is a factor in the ongoing legal challenge. The Board acknowledged that supervisors re-elected under the \$150 rate may be impacted by the State's reduction to \$80, and that there is uncertainty regarding how the matter will be resolved. Concerns were raised that, depending on the outcome of the lawsuit, there may be a requirement to repay the difference, which would require legal guidance. It was also discussed that some districts are currently paying different rates and that funding differences may need to be covered by District funds if the State reimburses only at the lower rate. Additional concern was expressed regarding potential inconsistencies in pay for newly elected supervisors. No action was taken, and the Board agreed to proceed with awareness of the situation until further guidance or a legal decision is provided.

AGC Discussion:

The Board discussed sponsorship for attendance at the Appalachian Grazing Conference, noting that the District had previously agreed to sponsor up to 20 participants, including supervisors and farmers, with an initial budget of \$500. It was discussed that participation would be handled through a reimbursement process: attendees would pay upfront and submit receipts for reimbursement. The Board also discussed maintaining a list of attendees through the office to track participation and ensure coordination. The Board reviewed expected attendance and noted that only a limited number of sponsorship slots remained available. It was discussed that participation could be handled on a first-come, first-served basis if needed, while still ensuring representation from each county, and Jesus Nandi Roman and Kayla Burgess would maintain an

updated list. Following further discussion regarding potential attendance and costs, the Board agreed to increase the budget to ensure adequate coverage for participants.

*After discussion, Steven Johnston made a motion to extend the fee from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00. Ed Hendrick seconded, motion carried.*

**Meeting Adjournment:**

*Upon the completion of all agenda items, Randall Patton made a motion to adjourn the Southern Conservation District's April 9, 2026, regular board meeting. The motion was seconded by John Farrell. The Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:55:22 EST.*

**Dates To Remember:**

SCD Committee Meetings: April 28, 2026, at 10:00 AM @ 463 Ragland Rd, WV, 25801.

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

**Randall Patton, SCD Chair**

X   
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**Edgar Hendrick, SCD Secretary**

X   
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BH/EH/AS

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**MOTIONS SUMMARY**  
Southern Conservation District  
Regular Board Meeting – April 9, 2026

**PAGE 2 | MOTION:** Approval of March 10, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
**MADE BY:** Steven Johnston  
**SECONDED BY:** Ed Hendrick  
**RESULT:** Carried

**PAGE 2 | MOTION:** Approval of March 24, 2026, Special Board Meeting Minutes  
**MADE BY:** Curtis Murphy  
**SECONDED BY:** John Farrell  
**RESULT:** Carried

**PAGE 2 | MOTION:** Approval of March 31, 2026 Committee Meeting Minutes  
**MADE BY:** Ed Hendrick  
**SECONDED BY:** Steven Johnston  
**RESULT:** Carried

**PAGE 2 | MOTION:** Approval of February 2026 Financial Statements  
**MADE BY:** Bill Harris  
**SECONDED BY:** Steven Johnston  
**RESULT:** Carried

**PAGE 2 | MOTION:** Approval of March 2026 Financial Statements  
**MADE BY:** Steven Johnston  
**SECONDED BY:** Ed Hendrick  
**RESULT:** Carried



**PAGE 3 | MOTION:** Approval of Aging Summary / Accounts Receivable  
**MADE BY:** Curtis Murphy  
**SECONDED BY:** Ron Testerman  
**RESULT:** Carried

**PAGE 3 | MOTION:** Approval of WVCA March 2026 Financial Reports  
**MADE BY:** Bill Harris  
**SECONDED BY:** John Farrell  
**RESULT:** Carried

**MOTIONS SUMMARY (cont.)**  
Southern Conservation District  
Regular Board Meeting – April 9, 2026

**PAGE 3 | MOTION:** Approval of Conservation Specialist Payments (Curtis Murphy, Judson Lindley, Terry D. Bennett, Kitty Gunnoe, Clarence Slatton, Richard Snuffer)

**MADE BY:** Steven Johnston

**SECONDED BY:** John Farrell

**RESULT:** Carried

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**PAGE 5 | MOTION:** Increase Appalachian Grazing Conference Budget from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00

**MADE BY:** Steven Johnston

**SECONDED BY:** Ed Hendrick

**RESULT:** Carried

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**PAGE 5 | MOTION:** Adjournment of April 9, 2026 Board Meeting

**MADE BY:** Randall Patton

**SECONDED BY:** John Farrell

**RESULT:** Carried

# April 9, 2026 CS Report

## 1. Payment Approvals (M)

- NM - Curtis Murphy, Cost Share amount \$274.75
- Pond Cleanout – Judson Lindley, Cost Share Amount \$2,500.00
- NM - Terry D. Bennett , Cost Share Amount \$1,500.00
- NM - Kitty Gunnoe, Cost Share Amount \$1,491.50
- FS - Clarence Slatton, Cost Share Amount \$372.50
- FS – Richard Snuffer, Cost Share Amount \$479.97

## 2. Cancellations for Approval (M)

- David White – Frost Seeding approved for \$197.12
- Teresa Ann Butts- NM approved for \$1,500.00

## 3. Payment Approvals Made by Curtis Murphy with delegated Authority

- NM – Alan Harper, Cost Share amount \$477.00 – Approval date 3/24/26
- FS – Gary Wayne Davis, Cost Share Amount \$1,500.00 - Approval date 3/24/26
- FS -Kenneth E, Meador Jr, Cost Share Amount \$22.00 - Approval date 3/24/26
- NM – Homer L. Plumley, Cost Share Amount \$1,457.00 – Approval date 3/31/26
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4. As of today 4/9/26 all producers have completed their Frost Seeding practice on time for a total cost of \$1,739.07 and six producers have completed their Nutrient Management practice for a total cost of \$7,723.25.

## 5. Landowner Agreements

- To date, 23 of 34 Landowner Agreements have been received.

## Southern Conservation District DC Monthly Report

April 2026

- **Field Visits**

Beckley: 9

Princeton: 14

- **Planning Status**

Princeton Field Office: Working on FY26 Assessments & Rankings (Eligible: 8 AMA, 33 EQIP, and 6 CSP)

Beckley Field Office: Working on FY26 Assessments & Rankings (Eligible: 9 AMA, 38 EQIP, and 10 CSP)

- **Completed Practices**

Princeton: \$7,565.82 (649,512,666,314,647, and 645)

Beckley: \$1,620.93 (649,590,449, and 821)

- **Field Office Priorities**

- Work with Area Office on Contract Maintenance (Modifications, 153s, Cancellations, Terminations, etc.).

- Complete entering assessments and rankings into CART for eligible applications.

- Complete field visits on FY26 Round 1 Applications.

- Mark trees for FSI practice.

- Review Engineering Workload (for survey and design needs).

- **Upcoming Deadlines**

- May 6<sup>th</sup>: Round 1 Assessment and Ranking Deadline (AMA, CSP, and EQIP).

- **Upcoming Events**

- April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>: WV Beef Expo (Jackson's Mill).

- Appalachian Grazing Conference (April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>).

- **Special Projects / Updates / Trainings**

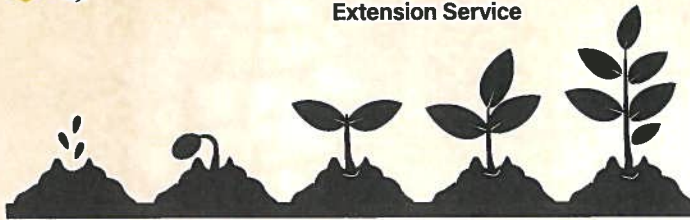
- **\*NOTE\*** The Greenbrier Valley & Southern Conservation District Supervisors will be assisting with parking, registration, possibly helping to set up the tables and chairs the day before, etc. for the AGC at the WV State Fairgrounds. Setup on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

- **\*NOTE\*** The WV Grassland Evaluation Contest has been canceled for Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at Jackson's Mill (due to lack of response). This contest is being rescheduled to early September. Working with Andy Sentz on location.

- The SCD & GVCD Land judging & Homesite Evaluation Contest is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at the PMC in Alderson with setup on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.



# 2026 WVSU WORKSHOP SCHEDULE



## 7 May

### Irrigation

Explore irrigation options and learn how NRCS can assist with funding.

6 - 7 pm

USDA Office  
in Beckley

456 Ragland Rd.,  
Beckley, WV 25801

## 22 May

### Marketing & Sales

Understand your marketing options and essential considerations before selling your products.

6 - 7 pm

Summers Co.  
Memorial Building

451 1st Ave.,  
Hinton, WV 25951

## 4 June

### Fruit, Flower & Herb Production

Learn tips for growing fruit, flowers and herbs, plus guidance on planting a pollinator garden.

6 - 7:30 pm

TimbukSue  
Farms

176 Camp Rd.,  
Cool Ridge, WV 25825

## 18 June

### Food Access

Gain insight into food access and practical steps producers can take to reduce barriers.

2 - 3 pm

Raleigh Co. Solid Waste  
Authority Education Center

200 Fernandez Dr.,  
Beckley, WV 25801

## 16 July

### Summer & Winter Vegetable Production

Discover the best vegetables for West Virginia and grow year-round with expert tips.

6 - 8 pm

New Roots  
Community Farm

167 Wolf Creek Rd.,  
Fayetteville, WV 25840

## 30 July

### Introduction to High Tunnels

Learn how high tunnels extend the growing season and help beginners grow more successfully.

6 - 7:30 pm

T&T  
Organics

37 Valerie Street,  
Berwind, WV 24815

## 13 Aug.

### Soil Health

Gain hands-on knowledge in soil sampling and analysis to improve soil health.

6 - 7 pm

USDA Office  
in Beckley

456 Ragland Rd,  
Beckley, WV 25801

## 20 Aug.

### Aeroponics

Explore aeroponics and how to grow efficiently with vertical grow towers.

6 - 7 pm

Summers Co.  
Public Library

201 Temple St.,  
Hinton, WV 25951

## 3 Sept.

### Hydroponics

Learn to grow using hydroponic systems such as NFT channels, bato boxes and deep-water culture.

6 - 7 pm

Princeton  
Public Library

920 Mercer St.,  
Princeton, WV 24740

## 17 Sept.

### Aquaponics

Understand aquaponics—growing hydroponically with fish-based nutrient systems.

5:30 - 6:30 pm

Raleigh Co.  
Public Library

221 N. Kanawha St.,  
Beckley, WV 25801

## 15 Oct.

### Canning

Learn the basics of safe and effective home canning.

6 - 7 pm

Graham  
House

WV-12, Pence Springs,  
WV 24962

## 29 Oct.

### Fermentation

Learn how to safely ferment foods at home to create delicious, probiotic rich products.

6 - 7 pm

Graham  
House

WV-12, Pence Springs,  
WV 24962

For questions, please contact **Beth Villers** at [maryvillers@wvstateu.edu](mailto:maryvillers@wvstateu.edu).