

# Greenbrier Valley Conservation District

April 16, 2026, 7:00pm  
Regular Board Meeting, Approved Minutes

## Call to Order

The Greenbrier Valley Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 7:00pm in the conference room of the USDA service center located in Lewisburg.

## Those present:

### Supervisors:

Chairman, Gary Sawyers  
Timothy VanReenen  
Donald McNeel  
Avery Atkins (Virtual)  
Gary Truex  
Carolyn Miller

### Others:

Jon Bourdon, State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS  
John "Dave" Moore II, NRCS  
Wanda Smith, NRCS (Virtual)  
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA (Virtual)  
Morgan Dial, WVCA  
Angela Feamster-Sawyers, WVCA

Chairman Sawyers called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Donald McNeel led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Gary Truex led in Prayer.

## Approval of Minutes

*Donald McNeel moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2026, regular board meeting and the minutes from the March 25, 2026, special board meeting. Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.*

## Funding Requests

- **State Conservation Camp: request for Sponsorship**
  - Junior Conservation Camp—Cedar Lakes, June 22-26, 2026. Cost is 225.00 per camper, which includes food & Lodging.

*Timothy VanReenen moved that the district sponsor up to four junior campers within the district. Avery Atkins seconded; motion carried.*

- Senior Conservation Camp: Camp Caesar, June 15-19, 2026. Cost is \$275.00 per camper, which covers lodging, meals, all activities, and camp materials.

*Gary Truex moved that the district sponsor four senior campers within the district. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.*

## Cooperating Agency Reports

- NRCS

John “Dave” Moore, acting District Conservationist for Greenbrier Valley North, reviewed the highlights of his report, which is attached.

Wanda Smith, the District Conservationist for Monroe County, provided an update on the ongoing efforts to complete assessments and certify ECP work for FSA payments. She also mentioned a request for the cancellation of a high tunnel.

State Conservationist Jon Bourdon, reported on the current challenges and restructuring efforts within the agency.

## Local Working Group Meeting

Following a lengthy discussion, the board decided that rather than scheduling a special meeting, they would add the local work group as an agenda item for both committee and board meetings. Any resource concerns that arise can be addressed at that time, documented in the minutes, and forwarded up through the proper channels.

- **FSA** – not present
- **Forestry** – not present
- **WVCA** -

District Operations Manager Jeremy Salyer reviewed the highlights of his attached report. Angela Sawyers reviewed the highlights of the attached administrative specialist report.

## Committee Reports

### Finance Committee

- Financial Reports

*Gary Truex moved on behalf of the committee to accept the general and CDO funds report, the WVCA restricted funds report, and file for audit. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.*

*Gary Truex moved on behalf of the committee to pay the bills, per payables list. Timothy VanReenen seconded; motion carried.*

## Watershed

Nothing to report.

## 319 Committee

*Donald McNeel reported the following action between board meetings:*

1. *Acting with delegated authority, Chairman Sawyers approved a payment of \$238.50 to Jeanne Gullette for a septic system pumping.*
2. *Acting with delegated authority, Chairman Sawyers approved the Sharad Hills Farm contract on March 25, 2026. The contract includes a total federal amount of \$6,403.80 and a state amount of \$1,600.95, resulting in a combined total of \$8,004.75 for Agricultural Best Management Practices (Ag BMPs, Indian Creek IV).*

- **Contracts for Approval**

*Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following contract:*

Indian Creek IV

Revie Jackson- Septic Pumping - 50% Federal funds NTE \$300.00

*Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.*

- **Payments for Approval**

*Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following payment:*

Keith Holliday: \$6,000.00 for a Septic System Replacement

(Payment details: Cost-share rate of 75% NTE \$6,000.00. Cooperator receipts totaled: \$8,500.00)

*Avery Atkins seconded; motion carried.*

Morgan reported that she and Jason Nicolai are working on semi-annual reports and are considering putting together grant proposals for both Spring Creek and Knapps Creek.

## Agricultural Enhancement Program Committee

*Timothy reported the following action between board meetings:*

1. *Acting with delegated authority, Timothy VanReenen approved Houston Arbuckle's application for 22 tons of lime at a cost-share rate of \$15 per ton for a total reimbursable amount of \$330.00.*

## Grassland Committee

- Appalachian Grazing Conference

*Gary Truex moved that the district sponsor 4-H advisors who attend the Appalachian Grazing Conference. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.*

Discussions were held regarding the district's Outstanding Grassland Recognition. The board of supervisors requested support from district office staff and partnering agencies to recommend farms for recognition.

## Building/Equipment Committee

The board of supervisors reviewed the monthly equipment report, which is attached.

## Education Outreach/Events Committee

- GVCD/SCD Land Judging & Homesite Evaluation Contest

*Carolyn Miller moved on behalf of the committee to approve funds not to exceed \$500.00 to cover the cost of lunch & refreshments for the Land Judging & Homesite Evaluation contest. Timothy VanReenen seconded; motion carried.*

- Farmers Day – June 05-06, 2026

- 2026 Banquet Awards

A discussion was held regarding the district's awards for Honorary Member, Member-at-Large, and District Supervisor of the Year.

## Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI)

*Timothy VanReenen moved to approve the following payment:*

Gillespie's Flowers & Productions, Inc: \$550.00 down payment for tent, table, and chair rentals for the farm field day. (50% of total cost).

*Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.*

## NASDA – Smart Farms Grant

*Carolyn Miller moved to approve the following payment:*

Rob Jiranek: \$28,457.71 for fence, labor, seed costs to complete project.

*Gary Truex seconded; motion carried.*

## Other Business

- Thomas W. VanReenen Memorial Scholarship

Following the review of the applications, Caleb Ridgeway has been selected as the recipient of this year's \$500 scholarship.

- Approval of the GVCD Century Farm Logo

*Timothy VanReenen moved to approve the GVCD Century Farm Logo as presented by Angela Fearmster-Sawyers. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.*

With no further business the meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary Sawyers  
Chairman



Gary Truex  
Secretary/ Treasurer

GS/GT/as

Recorded by: Angela Feamster-Sawyers, Administrative Specialist

## April Report to the district.

- Currently we're working on FY 26 application assessments and rankings.
- 62 EQIP, 14 AMA, 19 CSP apps
- Round 1 Ineligibility letters were mailed to ineligible applicants. 3/27/26
- Assessment/ranking deadline May 6<sup>th</sup>
- Obligations deadline July 30
- Made final payments on 3 Stream Restoration projects on East Fork of the Greenbrier.
- We have completed 2 more stream projects, one on Sitlington Creek and Wanless Run. (Greenbrier Tribs)
- State Office and Field office have been working on contract management for 2026 expiring contracts. Issuing CPA153 (Non-compliance agreements) and Modifications if needed.
- Joe Wickline -Acting Resource Conservation Engineer.
- Jess SCT has completed Lewisburg and Buckeye FO ECP designs.
- Jess will be assisting Union office with ECP/CRP design work.
- Partner Biologist are working on Wildlife and forestry assessments/plans.
- Bob Riggleman ACES employee has been certifying practice for ECP/CRP/EQIP

## UPCOMING STREAM PROJECTS FOR 2026 Construction.

- Shock Run- Woolridge site
- Knapps Creek -Elbon Site
- Cave Run -In The Field LLC Site



## April 2026 WVCA Report

### **Request to Conservation Districts**

The WVCA is encouraging Conservation Districts to review and update your District Policy Manuals. In addition to your policy manual, you are encouraged to review your CD Employee Manual (if you have one) and your CD Plan of Work. If you are already doing these reviews, please disregard this request.

### **Annual Work Plan**

Reminder - District annual work plans are due **June 30** to Guthrie.

### **Conservation Farm Tour**

It is time for districts to think about the conservation farm families to be awarded. CDs should have their district farm selection to their Area Directors by June 16.

### **Ag Enhancement Program Timeline**

- May/June/July – CDs to finalize upcoming FY program, update AgEP agreement addendums, take action to approve LORs Mid June – Deadline for CDs submit final practice list to WVCA (CDs can submit final list any time after SCC approval of practice list)

### **Press contact reminder**

The WVCA wants to remind all CDs that the WVCA Communications specialist is available to help districts with press releases, and media contacts, especially if it the situation involves WVCA programs or staff.

### **HB5364**

In the 2026 WV Legislative Session, HB5364 passed removing the Conservation Districts (CDs) from ownership and sponsorship interests in flood control structures and conveying those interests to the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) by July 1, 2026. We understand there are many questions regarding this matter and will do our best to address them as we navigate through this process.

We have a transition team within WVCA to handle this task and will report to the CDs through the District Operations Managers as information becomes available. We appreciate the work the districts have done regarding the flood control structures. We are in the beginning stages of this enormous transition and ask for your patience as we move forward.

# *GVCD Administrative Specialist Report*

April 16, 2026

- FY26 Funds Received as of April 16, 2026:

## Quarter 1

FY26 Q1 District Support Allotment	\$33,082.00 - CDO
NPS1829 Spring Creek Phase II	\$45,000.00 - 319
FY26 Ag Enhancement Program Allotment	\$94,700.00 - AgEP
FY26 O&M Allocation	\$12,220.00 - O&M
WVDA AgEP Drought Exigency	\$26,215.80 – WVDA Program
<b>Q1 Total</b>	<b>\$211,217.80</b>

## Quarter 2

FY26 Q2 District Support Allotment	\$16,692.00 - CDO
<b>Q2 Total</b>	<b>\$16,692.00</b>

## Quarter 3

FY26 Q3 District Support Allotment	\$16,691.00- CDO
SMART Farms WV	\$7,500.00- NASDA Smart Farms Grant
FY26 Q1 Employee Reimbursement	\$13,808.87- CDO
FY26 Q2 Employee Reimbursement	\$13,371.81- CDO
FY25 Audit Reimbursement	\$3,500.00 – CDO Supplemental
Grazing Land Conservation Initiative	\$3,000.00 – GLCI Federal Grant
FY26 Q4 District Support Allotment	\$12,668.00 - CDO
<b>Q3 Total</b>	<b>\$70,539.68</b>

- Banquet Date of October 08, 2026, has been confirmed and the venue has been reserved.
- The district has received two applications for the Thomas W. VanReenen Memorial Scholarship, both submitted by the April 10, 2026, deadline. Copies of the applications and the rating score sheets have been organized in folders for supervisor review. This item is included on the agenda for action.
- The SCD/GVCD Land Judging and Homesite Evaluation Contest is scheduled for May 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the PMC in Alderson. Teams are asked to arrive by 9:30 a.m. at the latest. Information has been distributed to all high schools and advisors within the district. District contact information has been provided for team registration.

### Teams registered as of 04/16/2026:

#### GVCD

**Monroe County 4-H** – Coach: Brian Wickline – 1 Team

**James Monroe HS FFA** (Monroe County) – FFA Advisor: William Shawn Hill – 1 Team

#### SCD

**Liberty HS FFA** (Raleigh County)- Advisor: Lindsay -Hall Acord – 1 Team

**Shady Springs HS FFA** (Raleigh County) – Advisor: Kevin Okes – 1 Team

- Sponsorship has been requested for the 81st State Conservation Senior Camp, scheduled to take place at Camp Caesar from June 15 to 19.
- GVCD has been invited to participate as a vendor at the 2026 West Virginia Agritourism Conference April 23-24, 2026, at Glade Springs Resort in Daniels, WV.
- GVCD has been invited to attend the Greenbrier East FFA Banquet to be held in the WV building at the state fairgrounds on May 01, 2026. The silent auction will begin at 5:30pm, dinner will follow at 6:00pm. Those wishing to attend will need to RSVP by April 20, 2026, by emailing [Emily.Dunkle@k12.wv.us](mailto:Emily.Dunkle@k12.wv.us) or by calling (304) 647-6464 ext. 1413.
- The digital lock on the entrance door of the district office has malfunctioned and is currently non-functional.

### **Dates to remember:**

- April 23-24, 2026: WV Agritourism Conference at Glad Springs Resort in Daniels, WV
- May 01, 2026: Appalachian Grazing Conference- WV State Fairgrounds -8:00am-4:30pm
- May 01, 2026 : GEHS FFA Banquet : Silent Auction @5 :30pm – Dinner @ 6 :00pm
- May 05, 2026: SCD/GVCD, Land Judging & Homesite Evaluation Contest @ 10:00am
- May 13, 2026: GVCD Committee Meetings @ 9:00am
- May 21, 2026: GVCD Regular Board Meeting 7:00pm
- June 05-06, 2026-Farmers Day
- June 15-19, 2026: WV State Conservation Camp at Camp Caesar
- June 15, 2026: Deadline for Conservation District Farm Tour Submissions
- June 20, 2026: GLCI Farm Field Day, time TBD

Report Submitted by : Angela Feamster- Sawyers

*Manual record*

### Greenbrier Valley Conservation District Monthly Equipment Report

Month/Year MARCH 2026

Equipment	Number of Days Rented	Number of Acres	Total Revenue	Total Cost of Repairs & Maintenance	Total Field Service Mileage
Tye #1					
Tye #2					
Great Plains #1	1 Day	10 Ac	200.-		
Great Plains #2					
Great Plains #3	4 Day	38	800.-		
<b>No-till Seeder Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1000.-</b>		
Cricket	2 Day		300.-		
Grasshopper	3 Days		450.-		
Big Silver					
<b>Lime/fertilizer Totals</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>750</b>		
<b>Chemical Sprayer</b>					
Litter Spreader #1					
Litter Spreader #2	6 Days		900.-		
<b>Litter Spreader Totals</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>900</b>		
Post Driver #3					
Post Driver #4	2 Days		500.-	425.-	
Post Driver #6	1 Day		250.-		
<b>Post Driver Totals</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>750</b>	<b>425</b>	
Potato Planter					
Potato Sprayer					
Potato Hiller					
<b>Potato Totals</b>					
<b>Pit, Lid, cct. Portable Soles</b>	2 Pits / 2 Lids / 1 Port		137.25		
Other <i>Fitter Fab.</i>		445 ft	1037.-		
Shop Supplies				83.80	
<b>GRAND TOTALS (all equipment)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>48 ac.</b>	<b>4574.25</b>	<b>508.80</b>	

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