

# *Greenbrier Valley Conservation District*

May 21, 2026  
Regular Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
Approved Minutes

## **Call to Order**

The Greenbrier Valley Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, May 21, 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 (Virtual)

### **Others:**

John "Dave" Moore II, NRCS (Virtual)  
Wanda Smith, NRCS  
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA (Virtual)  
Jason Nicolai, WVCA  
Morgan Dial, WVCA (Virtual)  
Angela Feamster-Sawyers, WVCA

Chairman Sawyers called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and welcomed everyone. Timothy VanReenen led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Gary Truex led in Prayer.

## **Approval of Minutes**

*Donald McNeel moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2026, regular board meeting. Timothy VanReenen seconded; motion carried.*

## **Guests**

No guests were present.

## **Administrative Specialist Report**

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

## **Cooperating Agency Reports**

- NRCS

John "Dave" Moore, Acting District Conservationist for Greenbrier Valley North, reported on pre-approvals for CSP and EQIP and ECP certifications. He also provided an update on Grassland Recognition recommendations, noting confirmed participants, and stated that he will follow up with remaining contacts.

Wanda Smith, District Conservationist for Monroe County, reported on ongoing program efforts, including a second round of CSP applications due June 12 that must meet the regenerative pilot program requirements, and continued work on ECP. She further noted that the county is again experiencing drought conditions and qualifies for assistance. However, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has not yet received the required software, and program details are not currently available.

Gary Truex asked whether the drought affected all three counties, and Jason Nicolai confirmed that the district has been in D2 status for several weeks. Jeremy Salyer noted that districts may initiate the exigency program at any time after reaching D1 drought status. He also added that, although the item was not listed on the agenda, the board could still take action that evening if they wanted to institute the exigency program.

***Gary Truex moved that, under emergency circumstances, the district initiate the exigency program using the district's AgEP Exigency Program funds first. Timothy VanReenen seconded the motion.*** During Discussion, Gary Truex noted recent rainfall and forecasted precipitation and expressed a desire to reserve WVDA AgEP drought exigency funds unless they became immediately necessary. He stated that, to his knowledge, no individuals were currently without water, though conditions could worsen in the coming fall, potentially increasing demand for hay. He emphasized that conditions over the next 60-90 days would determine future needs, and that the current action would help provide relief for anyone who may be without water.

The board confirmed that the practice offered through the district's exigency program would be limited to portable water systems, including portable water tanks, water pumps, portable pipeline, and portable troughs. Morgan Dial reminded the Board of the updated AgEP cost-share rate for the Exigency Program, which now provides reimbursement of 50% of eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$750.00. ***Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.***

### Local Work Group

Wanda Smith reported that, for the local workgroup, the current plan is to discontinue holding a full annual meeting as was done in previous years. Instead, updated guidance calls for addressing resource concerns as they arise, developing solutions, and submitting recommendations to the State Technical Committee. She noted that district board meetings are publicly advertised, meeting public notice requirements. Wanda also provided a document outlining topics to be addressed during meetings and reviewed its contents with the board. (see attached).

- FSA
- Forestry
- WVCA - District Operations Manager, Jeremy Salyer reviewed the highlights of his attached report. In addition, he reminded all newly elected officials to visit the county clerk's office to take their oath of office prior to July 1, 2026.
- Other

## **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. Timothy VanReenen seconded; motion carried.*

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

### LORS

*Gary Truex moved to approve and send the following letters of request:*

LOR ID: 16506

Purpose: FY27 Q1 CD Support Allotment

Amount: \$33,082.00

AGR: 1024-09

LOR ID: 16508

Purpose: FY27 Q3 CD Support Allotment

Amount: \$16,691.00

AGR: 1024-09

LOR ID: 16507

Purpose: FY27 Q2 CD Support Allotment

Amount: \$16,692.00

AGR: 1024-09

LOR ID: 16509

Purpose: FY27 Q4 CD Support Allotment

Amount: \$12,668.00

AGR: 1024-09

*Timothy VanReenen seconded; motion carried.*

## Agricultural Enhancement Program Committee

### Payments for Approval

*Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following payments:*

○ LIME

▪ Mike Tuebert - \$1,500.00

▪ Lone Oak Farm - \$735.00

Total: \$2,235.00

*Gary Truex seconded; motion carried.*

### Contract Cancellations

*Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee to cancel the following contract:*

○ LIME

▪ Houston Arbuckle- \$330.00

*Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.*

\*\* Note: Recommendation not to suspend due to circumstances.

### End of FY26 AgEP financial report

Jason reported that the state allocation for Fiscal Year 2026 was \$94,700. Additional residual funds from several sources increased the total funds available. With the two payments approved during the meeting, total expenditures for the fiscal year will be \$96,672.78, which is approximately \$2,000 over the original state allocation. However, sufficient funds are available to cover the additional expenses, and all obligations will be paid in full.

### Watershed

#### OM&R

- Transfer of funds associated with Operation, Maintenance, Repair and Rehabilitation to the WVCA : No action was taken, letters of request have not yet been received.

### 319 Committee

#### Indian Creek IV:

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

*Gary Sawyers, acting with delegated authority, approved a payment to Sharad Hill Farms in the federal amount of \$3,918.20 and the state amount of \$979.55 for both Exclusion and Pasture Division Fence which completes two-thirds of the contract.*

#### Contracts for Approval

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

##### Indian Spring Creek II

Rock Heaven Farm, LLC – Livestock Well, Watering Troughs, Exclusion Fence, and Spring Development - \$37,664.87

***Timothy VanReenen seconded; motion carried.***

- Payments for Approval

***Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following payment for Indian Creek IV, and the transfer of federal funds to reimburse state funds for Second Creek VI:***

##### Indian Creek IV

Revie Jackson – Septic System Pumping: \$291.50

##### Second Creek VI

Reimbursement of state funds (Fund Code: 1023-00 / Program Code: 20528-GV) in the amount of \$403.29 from remaining federal grant funds (Fund Code: 1018-00 / Program Code: 20053-GV).

***Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.***

## Grassland Committee

Discussion was held regarding the District's Outstanding Grassland Recognition program. Chairman Sawyers reviewed the recommendations submitted to date and noted that, in the past, supervisors selected individuals from the list of residents within their respective counties. He inquired whether that process was acceptable, and the board concurred.

Avery Atkins and Carolyn Miller agreed that, for Monroe County, Phillip Wickline and Matthew Samsel would be recognized. Selections for Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties remain pending additional information.

Chairman Sawyers emphasized the importance of finalizing all selections as soon as possible to allow adequate time for ordering signs and preparing for presentation at the annual banquet.

## Building/Equipment Committee

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

## Education Outreach/Events Committee

### Banquet Awards

#### Honorary Member (District Supervisors, past, present, living, or deceased)

Chairman Sawyers announced the nominations for this year's District Honorary Member Service Award. The board reached consensus that Monroe County Supervisor Carolyn Miller would be this year's recipient.

#### Member-at-Large (anyone who has made an outstanding contribution to conservation)

Chairman Sawyers announced that L.D. Hanna & Son, LLC was nominated for the District Member-at-Large Service Award. *Gary Truex moved to close nominations and to present the award to L.D. Hanna & Son, LLC. Avery Atkins seconded; motion carried.*

### CD Supervisor of the Year

The Supervisor of the Year award was determined via secret ballot.

### GLCI Grant

*Gary Truex moved that district funds in an amount not to exceed \$800.00 be approved to cover the cost of lunch for Farm Field Day scheduled for June 20, 2026. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.*

- NASDA - Smart Farms WV

### Payments for Approval

*Timothy VanReenen moved to approve reimbursement to GVCD for labor costs totaling \$316.70 incurred for work performed by Kevin Hoke on the SMART Farms Demo Project, in accordance with the work order approved by the Board on March 19, 2026. Avery Atkins seconded; motion carried.*

## Other Business

*Timothy VanReenen* move to approve the annual usage agreement between *The State Fair of West Virginia & The Greenbrier Valley Conservation District* as presented. *Gary Truex* seconded; motion carried.

*Donald McNeel* Moved to approve the district's Annual Plan of work as presented. *Timothy VanReenen* seconded; motion carried.

### Dates to Remember:

- 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; Frank Masters Farm 10:00am-2:00pm.
- June 22-26, 2026: Junior Conservation Camp at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, WV.

With no further business the meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary Sawyers  
Chairman



Gary Truex  
Secretary/ Treasurer

GS/GT/as

Recorded by: Angela Feamster-Sawyers, Administrative Specialist

# *GVCD Administrative Specialist Report*

May 21, 2026

- FY26 Funds Received as of May 21, 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	<u>\$26,215.80 – WVDA Program</u>
<b>Q1 Total</b>	<b>\$211,217.80</b>

## Quarter 2

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

- The submission deadline for the Letters of Request (LORs) for FY27 CD Operating and Supervisor Support is June 30, 2026. The LORs have been prepared and is included on the agenda for approval.

\*\*The FY27 CD Operating allotment remains at \$38,900.00 total. The annual allotment per supervisor remains \$6,705.40, totaling \$40,233.00 for GVCD.

- The District's Annual Plan of Work is due to Guthrie by June 30, 2026. A copy of last year's approved plan has been emailed to each supervisor for review and consideration of any potential revisions or changes.
- The banquet date of October 8, 2026, has been confirmed, and the venue has been reserved. Planning is currently underway. Requests for catering proposals have been sent to several local catering companies. To date, one proposal has been received, another caterer has indicated they plan to submit a proposal by the end of next week, and one

company responded that they are unavailable on that date. An additional caterer has expressed interest and requested further details.

- Congratulations to Greenbrier East High School senior, Caleb Ridgeway, this year's recipient of the Thomas W. VanReenen Memorial Scholarship. The GEHS scholarship award ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and the award was presented by Timothy VanReenen.
- The SCD/GVCD Land Judging & Homesite Evaluation Contest was successfully held on May 5, 2026, at the PMC in Alderson. Congratulations to Shady Springs High School for winning this year's contest!
- The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Farm Field Day is scheduled to be held at the Frank Masters Farm on June 20, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Planning is currently underway. Flyers have been created and distributed, and the event has been posted on the district's Facebook page.

### **Dates to remember:**

- June 05-06, 2026-Farmers Day
- June 10, 2026 – GVCD Committee Meetings @ 9:00am
- June 18, 2026 – GVCD Regular Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
- 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, @ the D. Frank Masters Farm (Rt. 219 to Monroe Draft – Rt. 63)-1.2 miles to Horseshoe Bend Rd. From 10:00am-2:00pm.

Respectively Submitted by : Angela Feamster- Sawyers

**Greenbrier Valley Conservation District  
Monthly Equipment Report**

Month/Year April 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					
Great Plains #2					
Great Plains #3	1 Day	8	180.--		
<b>No-till Seeder Totals</b>	1	8	180.--		
Cricket	3 Day		450.--		
Grasshopper	14 Day		2100.--		
Big Silver	13 Day		1950.--		
<b>Lime/fertilizer Totals</b>	30		4500.--		
<b>Chemical Sprayer</b>					
Litter Spreader #1	1 Day		150.--		
Litter Spreader #2	5 Days		750.--		
<b>Litter Spreader Totals</b>	6 Days		900.--		
Post Driver #3					
Post Driver #4					
Post Driver #6	1 Day		250.--		
<b>Post Driver Totals</b>	1 Day				
Potato Planter					
Potato Sprayer					
Potato Hiller					
<b>Potato Totals</b>					
<b>Portable Scales</b>					
Other <i>Fitter Fab &amp; Pit.</i>			412.75		
Shop Supplies				76.27	
<b>GRAND TOTALS (all equipment)</b>	38	16	6242.75	76.27	

**Greenbrier Valley Conservation District  
Local Work Group/Plan of Work Meeting  
5/21/2026  
Greenbrier Conservation District Office**

-Purpose--Locally led conservation begins with the community itself. The Greenbrier Valley Conservation District leads the effort to gather public input from a broad range of agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals in the area who have an interest in natural resource conditions and needs and establish goals/priorities to meet those needs.

-Introduction of Attendees

-NRCS agency update

-Review of Historical Data

- Overview of District Responsibilities and Programs
- Overview of NRCS Responsibilities, Assistance, and Programs
- Plan of Work

- Priority Resource Concerns

-Land Use Priorities

-Prioritize Statewide NRCS Fund Pools

-Identification of Priority Areas

-CPA/DIA/CEMA

-Outreach Opportunities/Suggestions/Funding Opportunities/Closing

Animals	Feed and forage balance
Animals	Inadequate livestock shelter
Animals	Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution
Animals	Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
Plants (Plant Health)	Plant productivity and health
Plants (Pest Pressure)	Chemical resistance
	Invasive species
Soil Concentrated erosion	Classic gully erosion
	Ephemeral gully erosion
Soil quality limitations	Aggregate instability
	Compaction
	Organic matter depletion
	Soil organism habitat loss or degradation
Soil Erosion	Wind and water erosion
Soil Erosion	Sheet and rill erosion
Water Quality	Pesticides transported to groundwater
	Pesticides transported to surface water
	Nonpoint pesticide drift to surface water
	Nonpoint nitrogen leaching loss
	Nonpoint phosphorus leaching loss
	Nonpoint nitrogen surface loss
	Nonpoint phosphorus surface loss
	Nonpoint pathogen loss to groundwater
	Nonpoint pathogen surface loss
	Sediment from erosion sources
Water Quantity	Groundwater and/or Surface water depletion

Land Use - A term that includes categories of land cover and categories of land use. *Land cover* is the vegetation or other kind of material that covers the land surface. *Land use* is the purpose of human activity on the land; it is usually, but not always, related to land cover.

- Crop - Land used primarily for the production and harvest of annual or perennial field, forage, food, fiber, horticultural, orchard, vineyard, or energy crops.
- Forest - Land on which the historic and/or introduced vegetation is predominantly tree cover managed for the production of wood products or non-timber forest products.
- Pasture - Land composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that is used primarily for the production of livestock.
- Farmstead - Land used for facilities and supporting infrastructure where farming, forestry, animal husbandry, and ranching activities are often initiated.
- Water - Geographic area whose dominant characteristic is open water.
- Associated Agriculture Lands - Land associated with farms and ranches that are not purposefully managed for food, forage, or fiber and are typically associated with nearby production or conservation lands.

Land Use Modifier - Modifiers provide another level of specificity and help denote what the land is managed for. The modifiers are:

- Irrigated - Used when an operational system is present and managed to supply water.
- Wildlife - Used when the client is actively managing for wildlife.
- Grazed - Used when grazing animals impact how land is managed.
- Drained - Used when artificial drainage exists that has an impact on how the land is managed.
- Water Feature - Used to identify that the planned land unit contains or is adjacent to a water feature, such as a stream, lake, river, etc.
- Protected - The land unit is under a conservation easement or similar protection.
- Hayed - May be “Hayed” only or grazed at some point, before or after being hayed.
- Urban - Used when land is located in a landscape predominated by residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation uses.

## Ranking Pools – FY 26 West Virginia

Cart Ranking Pool reports for all programs are available on the WV SharePoint – Programs site. The reports provide planners with a detailed review of applicable land uses, modifiers, weighted percentage of Resource Concern Categories/Resource Concerns, conservation activities, ranking factor weights, and display group questions.

**Important:** Any employee that enters a Ranking for an assessment must review “hover” text before answering the ranking question(s).

Program	Ranking Pool	Categories
AMA	AMA Cropland	Irrigation-Crop Field
		Irrigation-High Tunnel
		High Tunnel System
Program	Ranking Pools	Categories (each Ranking Pool has identical categories)
EQIP	MLRA 125	Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)
	MLRA 126	WLFW – Golden Winged Warbler
	MLRA 127	WLFW – Northern Bobwhite Initiative
	MLRA 147	Beginning Farmer (BFR)
		Socially Disadvantaged Farmer (SDFR)
		Aquatic Connectivity Framework (ACF)
		CNMP Implementation/Animal Waste
		CPA -DIA Forest Management (106/165)
		CPA-DIA-CEMA –All others except Forest Management
		Cropland – Row Crop & Hayland
		Energy
		Livestock Water
		Pasture
		Small Scale/Specialty Agriculture
	Wildlife/Forestry	
	Reserve 1,2,3 (Do not use)	
Program	Ranking Pools	Categories
CSP	Agricultural Land	Ag Organic – All MLRAs
		AG Regenerative Pilot Program
		Beginning Farmer (BFR)
		Socially Disadvantaged Farmer (SDFR)
		AG Classic
		Reserve 1,2,3 (Do not use)
Program	Ranking Pools	Categories
CSP	Nonindustrial Private Forest Land (NIPF)	Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)
		Beginning Farmer (BFR)
		Socially Disadvantaged Farmer (SDFR)
		NIPF Classic
		Reserve 1,2,3 (Do Not Use)



## May 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.

South Area Tour – Week of July 13<sup>th</sup>.

North Area Tour – Week of July 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **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 - Transition**

- Working with Attorney General's Office to secure outside legal counsel to transfer easements and real property for dams, channels, dikes, and levees.
- Adrienne Hoalcraft hired as the Watershed Coordinator to support the transition.
- Sponsor Letters sent this week. WVCA staff will be meeting with the sponsors to address questions.
- Sending letters to districts requesting the transfer of funds for associated with OM&R and Rehab projects to WVCA.
- Working with engineering firms to transfer current district agreements and contracts to WVCA.