

Greenbrier Valley Conservation District

August 20, 2026
Regular Board Meeting, 7:00pm
Approved Minutes

The Greenbrier Valley Conservation District board of supervisors met on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 7:00pm in the conference room of the Lewisburg USDA service center.

Those present:

Supervisors

Chairman, Gary Sawyers
Gary Truex
Timothy VanReenen (Virtual)
Donald McNeel
Adam Hill
Carolyn Miller

Others

Candace Butler, NRCS
Wanda Smith, NRCS
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA (Virtual)
Jason Nicolai, WVCA (Virtual)
Morgan Dial, WVCA
Alex Hanna, WVCA
Angela Feamster-Sawyers, WVCA

Chairman Sawyers called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Donald McNeel led the group in prayer.

Chair Sawyers recognized the recent passing of Joe Gumm, Vonda Gumm, and Bob Baird and noted their service to conservation. Sympathy cards were circulated for signature and will be sent to the appropriate districts or families once addresses are confirmed.

Approval of Minutes

Donald McNeel moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2026, regular board meeting. Adam Hill seconded; motion carried.

Cooperating Agency Reports

- NRCS - Wanda Smith, NRCS District Conservationist for Monroe County, and Candace Butler, Acting NRCS District Conservationist for Greenbrier Valley North, reviewed the highlights of their reports, which are attached.
- FSA – no report
- Forestry – no report
- WVCA – Jeremy Salyer, reviewed the highlights of his report; which is attached.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

- Financial Reports

Donald McNeel moved to accept the general and CDO funds report, the WVCA restricted funds report, and file for audit. Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.

Donald McNeel moved to pay the bills per payables list. Adam Hill seconded; motion carried.

Donald McNeel moved to transfer \$5,000.00 from CDO funds to the District's Supplemental AgEP Account. Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.

Agricultural Enhancement Program Committee

- LORS

Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee to approve and send the following LOR:

LOR ID: 16559

Purpose: FY27 Enhancement Program Allotment

Amount: \$97,700.00

AGR: 1542-00

Adam Hill seconded; motion carried.

- FY27 AgEP Approvals

Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee to approve the FY27 Agricultural Enhancement Program applicants for their intended practices as presented. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.

- Drought Exigency

Gary Truex moved to end Drought sign-ups, effective August 20, 2026. Adam Hill seconded; motion carried.

The Board noted that applications already signed up prior to the close of the sign-up period would continue to be handled in accordance with program rules

Watershed

- Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)

Following clarification that future EWP assistance would remain available for the district and handled through state procurement, Adam Hill moved to return Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funds in the amount of \$23,919.33, plus any accrued interest, to the West Virginia Conservation Agency. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.

319 Committee

NPS 1847 Upper Meadow River II

- Contract Cancellations

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the cancellation of William Campbell's Septic Replacement contract. Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.

- Contracts for Approval

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve a Septic Replacement contract for Douglas McClung, at 75% cost share not to exceed \$6,000, as the first applicant on the waiting list to replace the cancelled William Campbell contract. Adam Hill seconded; motion carried.

- Payments for Approval

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve payment to Eric Burns for Septic Replacement in the amount of \$5,943.75. Gary Truex seconded; motion carried.

Indian Creek

- Payments for Approval

**Adam Hill left the meeting during consideration of the payment due to a personal interest in Sharadhill Farms, LLC.*

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve payment to Sharadhill Farms, LLC for 956 feet of fence in the amount of \$2,485.60 in federal funds and \$621.40 in state funds, for a total payment of \$3,107.00. Gary Truex seconded; motion carried.

**Adam Hill returned to the meeting.*

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve payments to Walter Davis for septic system replacement/repair in the amount of \$2,197.04 and septic system pumping in the amount of \$212.00. Timothy VanReenen seconded; motion carried.

- Cancellations for Approval

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the cancellation of Brittany Greenlee's Septic System Pumping contract. Gary Truex seconded; motion carried.

Grassland Committee

Alex Hanna reported that he had completed his first Grassland visit, had additional visits scheduled, and was continuing to gather photographs, information, and interview material for this year's Grassland Recognition presentations. Some visits had been rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts and weather.

Building/Equipment Committee

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

Education Outreach/Events Committee

Carolyn Miller and Angela Feamster-Sawyers reported that banquet planning was underway. The menu had been selected, the catering contract was being finalized, and new tablecloths would be ordered as previously approved. Angela Feamster-Sawyers also reported that the plaques had been ordered, sign information had been sent to the appropriate companies, and invitation preparations had begun.

Other Business

- Local Work Group

No concerns were reported.

Dates to Remember:

- September 07, 2026: Offices Closed -Labor Day Holiday
- September 09, 2026: GVCD Committee Meeting
- September 17, 2026: GVCD Regular Board Meeting
- October 08, 2026: GVCD Legislative & Awards Banquet- 5:30pm Meet & Greet, 6:30pm Dinner, Program & Awards.

With no further business the meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary Sawyers
Chairman



Gary Truex
Secretary/ Treasurer

GS/GT/as

Recorded by: Angela Feamster-Sawyers, Administrative Specialist



United States Department of Agriculture

August 19, 2026

GVCD-N NRCS Report for August 2026

FY 26 AMA & EQIP Update

Currently:

- Preparing for CSP practice certifications and annual payments
- Developing CREP and CRP plans for FSA
- Following up with existing contracts to provide technical support

New preapprovals/obligations:

- Pocahontas County
 - EQIP
 - Obligated - \$916,497
 - CSP
 - Obligated \$63,090
- Greenbrier County
 - EQIP
 - Obligated - \$138,188
 - CSP
 - Obligated - \$532,329

Active Contracts (FY2019-2025) not including new obligations

- Pocahontas County
 - AMA - \$176,013.30 – 6 Contracts
 - EQIP - \$1,819,083.34 – 24 Contracts
 - CSP - \$210,141.98 – 10 Contracts
- Greenbrier County
 - AMA - \$198,097.54 – 8 Contracts
 - EQIP - \$2,274,553.81 – 41 Contracts
 - CSP - \$779,303.58 – 30 Contracts
- Total is: \$5,457,193.55 - 119 Contracts

Other

- We continue to meet with producers in the district to provide technical services and discuss future Farm Bill applications.
- Field offices have been working on addressing non-compliant contracts and contracts set to expire at the end of the calendar year.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
LEWISBURG SERVICE CENTER
179 Northridge Dr.
LEWISBURG, WV 24901
Phone: (304) 681-4030
Keeping Working Lands in Working Hands
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Staffing Updates

- NRCS employees (SCTs, Engineering, and ACES) on the district contributed to facilitating part 1 of a 4-part training on Engineering data collection and designs, and other employees attended.
- Some NRCS Employees and Partner Employees will attend a training offered in two locations August and September to work towards their Level I and Level III Conservation Planner certifications.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

CANDACE BUTLER Digitally signed by CANDACE BUTLER
Date: 2026.08.20 13:33:12 -04'00'

Candace Butler
Acting District Conservationist
candace.butler@usda.gov
304.427.3008

Cc:

Jon Bourdon, State Conservationist (STC)
Julie Stutler, Acting Assistant State Conservationist – Field Operations (ASTC-FO)
Angela Feamster-Sawyers, Administrative Specialist WVCA

Greenbrier Valley Conservation District

Greenbrier Valley South Work Unit Union DC Report

8/20/2026

Follow Ups from Previous Meetings

Cultural Resources:

- WV NRCS has Jacqueline Monsell on board now as our Cultural Resources Specialist.
- Our only required site visit has been completed, within mere weeks of submittal.

Engineering:

- Managing the Union engineering workload is a tremendous undertaking due to sheer enormity.
- NRCS Area Office and other staff have been very supportive of strategies developed.
- One engineering design by a private engineering firm submitted for NRCS review is back in the hands of this private engineering firm.
- Progressing on ECP 2024 Drought program for livestock water (administered by FSA; NRCS designs and certifies livestock water systems)
 - NRCS completed and delivered 68 ECP designs to FSA
 - Installations still underway; hampered by shortage of well drillers
- ECP 2026 Drought program for livestock water (FSA administered) has 27 applications in Monroe; vast majority are for wells.

Financial Assistance Programs

Contract Management:

- 30 contract items paid June 24 - August 20, 2026; \$61,768.07 paid
- 32 new 2026 contracts obligated = \$1,197,323.00
- GV South will be at 156 active contracts = \$5,746,245.11 in active obligations

Working Applications:

- No further NRCS obligation activity until FY2027.

Expiring Contracts:

- 5 Monroe non-CSP contracts set to expire December 31, 2026.
- 1 of those 5 is completed, but carries a 902 error (has to do with FSA's records for entities) thus cannot get a payment run through.
- The remaining 4 have been offered an agreement covering non-compliance and expiration extension. If not signed, will advance towards termination.

Cancellations:

- No contract cancellation requests received recently.

Greenbrier Valley Conservation District Greenbrier Valley South Work Unit Union DC Report

8/20/2026

Office Administration

Field Office Priorities:

- New contract participant folders completion and distribution.
- Ongoing survey and engineering design work for existing NRCS contracts.
- Ongoing field inspection and certification work for existing NRCS contracts.
- Contract Reviews for off-schedule contracts.
- ECP 2024 Drought: remaining NRCS responsibilities:
 - Design modifications as required
 - Technical certification of installed practices
- ECP 2026 Drought: approximately 27 applications received and being evaluated by FSA;
 - NRCS to do technical approvals
 - Threatened & endangered species evaluations
 - Engineering well requests to our Geologist
 - Engineering design work
 - Balance same as ECP 2024: Design modifications & certification of installations
- Write CREP conservation plans for renewing CREP applicants

News and Events:

- Accepting applications year-round for CSP, AMA, and EQIP
- No concrete In-State details regarding FPAC or NRCS reorganization
- FSA cannot do reconstitutions at present, perhaps not until September, 2026
- Union Service Center has new telephone numbers:
 - NRCS shared line (304) 772-7038
 - NRCS Wanda Smith (304) 772-7035
 - NRCS Dewey Broyles (304) 772-7026
 - NRCS ACES John Fullen (304) 772-7031
 - FSA shared line (304) 772-7039
 - FSA Chelsea Cook (304) 772-7030
 - FSA Erin Miller (304) 772-7025
 - FSA Farm Loan Amanda Butler (304) 772-7027
 - FSA Farm Loan Cammie Wickline (304) 772-7028

Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at wanda.smith@usda.gov or (304) 772-7035 (office) or (304) 216-9353 (mobile).

**Greenbrier Valley Conservation District
Greenbrier Valley South Work Unit Union DC Report**

8/20/2026

Wanda Smith

District Conservationist

Distribution:

Jon Bourdon, State Conservationist (STC)

Brandon Duckworth, Acting ASTC-FO, North Area

Burton "Matt" Murphy, Area Resource Conservationist (ARC), South Area

Julie Stutler, NRCS Outreach Coordinator & Acting ASTC-FO, South Area

Greenbrier Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisors (c/o Angela Feamster-Sawyers)

Candace Butler, Acting GV North District Conservationist

NRCS Field Office Staff: Union Service Center



August 2026 WVCA Report

Items to be thinking about and placed on your agenda in the coming month:

Carroll Greene Nomination – form is due to Kim D Arco by September 1

WVACD Honorary Member At Large

WVACD Lifetime Honorary Member

CDO Budget

CDO budget closeout needs submitted to Guthrie by August 1

Agreed Procedures Engagement (Audit)

Conservation Districts are asked to begin the Agreed Procedures Engagement (APE) (audit) soon after the close of the fiscal year on June 30th. It is important that each district read their audit, and then take steps to correct any findings noted by the auditors. If you have questions, ask Don or Jeremy.

Conservation Farm Tour

Timelines:

Southern area winners

Shadow Mountain Farm SCD Mercer County non traditional

Gene and Stacy Randolph WCD Putnam County traditional

Northern area winners

Non-Traditional: Cobb Farm Lewis County WFCD

Traditional: Meckley Farm Tyler County UOCD

- **August** - Statewide judging.
- **October** – Presentation of Area and State awards at WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference

Ag Enhancement Program Timeline

- August 18th deadline to submit new practice suggestions or Allocation formula suggestions

WV State Fair Sign Ups

The schedule for state fair volunteers is now available. If you would like to schedule a time frame to work at the fair, please contact Heather Duncan

EWP funds recall

With recent flooding a letter has been sent to all CDs recalling EWP funds back to the agency. The reason for the call back is all contracting is being run through procurement not CDs and the agency needs to have quick access to the funding for those contracts.

HB5364 - Transition

- Outside legal counsel to transfer easements and real property for dams, channels, dikes, and levees has been secured.
- Sponsor Letters have been sent. WVCA staff will be meeting with the sponsors to address questions.
- O&M work process has begun in all areas with contracts being ran through procurement



Greenbrier Valley Conservation District (GVCD)
Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP)
FY27 Allocation Recommendation

Subject: Recommended GVCD AgEP Allocation – FY27

Name	Cost -Share	County
Lime		
Eric Burns	\$1,752.60	GBR
Gary Cutlip	\$3,271.20	POC
Brian Piercy	\$2,500.80	GBR
Matthew Samsel	\$1,870	MON
Michael W. Hanna	\$2,714.80	GBR
Rodney Shuck	\$2,083.20	GBR
Bonnie Gee	\$1,000.00	GBR
Keith Porterfield	\$984.00	MON
Susan Hanley	\$2,598.80	POC
Jeff Erskine	\$320.80	GBR
Chad Hefner	\$884.40	GBR
Paul Livesay	\$1,800.00	GBR
James Campbell	\$2,879.80	GBR
Tyler Burdette	\$916.80	GBR
Michael Rose	\$205.00	GBR
Carl Holmes	\$1,232.00	GBR
	\$27,014.20	26%
Compr. Pasture Dev.		
Anthony Kesterson	\$3,396.80	GBR
R&C Farm	\$6,230.00	MON
Edward Lemons	\$4,200.00	GBR
Ty Wickline	\$2,338.75	MON



Greenbrier Valley Conservation District (GVCD)
Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP)
FY27 Allocation Recommendation

Dennis Kowalsky	\$7,204.00	MON
Jack Vickers	\$6,196.20	MON
Kurt Mothes	\$3,547.00	POC
George Lynch	\$8,800.00	GBR
Stephen Hinkle	\$2,184.00	POC
Garrett Holliday	\$6,244.00	GBR
Sharon Holliday	\$1,860.00	GBR
Steven Roche	\$7,580.00	MON
	\$59,780.75	57.6%
Watering System		
Dwayne Masters	\$500.00	GBR
Brandon Holliday	\$1,112.00	GBR
John Furrow	\$5,000.00	MON
Bryce Paynter	\$882.00	MON
	\$7,494.00	7.2%
Pasture Division Fence		
Sonya Fullen	\$905.00	MON
Garrathan Kirby	\$2,205.00	GBR
Mike McCormick	\$1,127.50	MON
Barry Miller	\$2,100.00	MON
	\$6,337.50	6.1%
Exclusion Fence		
Emily Dunford	\$3,156.00	GBR
	\$3,156.00	3%
Grand Total	\$103,782.45	

**Greenbrier Valley Conservation District
Monthly Equipment Report**

Month/Year July 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					
No-till Seeder Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>200.00</u>		
Cricket					
Grasshopper					
Big Silver					
Lime/fertilizer Totals					
Chemical Sprayer					
Litter Spreader #1					
Litter Spreader #2					
Litter Spreader Totals					
Post Driver #3					
Post Driver #4					
Post Driver #5					
Post Driver Totals					
Potato Planter					
Potato Sprayer					
Potato Hiller					
Potato Totals					
Portable Scales					
Other <u>Filter Fab</u>	<u>32 ft</u>		<u>731.60</u>		
Shop Supplies					
			<u>gasser Mower</u>	<u>34.00</u>	
GRAND TOTALS (all equipment)	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>273.60</u>	<u>34.00</u>	