

Southern Conservation District

Board Meeting Approved Minutes
September 10, 2026
10:00 AM

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday September 10, 2026, at 10:00a.m. in the conference room of the district office.

Those in attendance:

Supervisors:

Chairman, Johnston
Bill Harris
Mark Harris
Curtis Murphy
Randall Patton
John Farrell (Virtual)
Rachel Prince (Virtual)
Ron Testerman (Virtual)

Supervisors Absent:

Martin West
Randy Prince
Fred Halsey
Bill Cook

Others:

Dave Parkulo, SCD
Terri Johnson, HHNDC
Mark Myers, WVACD
Ruby Daniels, NRCS

Beth Villers, NRCS
Jose Angeles Rios, NRCS
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA
Shane Pettrey, WVCA -
(Virtual)
Lauren Holley, WVCA
Morgan Dial, WVCA
Angela Feamster-Sawyers,
WVCA

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and welcomed everyone.

Mark Harris led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance; Randall Patton led in prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Randall Patton moved to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2026, regular board meeting. Curtis Murphy seconded; motion carried.

Randall Patton moved to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026, committee meeting minutes. Curtis Murphy seconded; motion carried.

Guests

Terri Johnson, Director of Honeysuckle Hill Nature Discovery Center, thanked the Board for its prior support and presented an update on the center's programs, volunteer work, and improvement needs. She reviewed current needs totaling approximately \$3,000.00, including desert garden improvements, tools, and gravel and underlayment for a wet parking lot area used by buses.

Randall Patton moved to approve \$590.00 to Honeysuckle Hill Nature Discovery Center for gravel and underlayment for the parking lot. Mark Harris seconded; motion carried.

It was later clarified that the sponsorship would be paid from CDO funds.

Administrative Specialist Report/Updates

Angela Feamster-Sawyers reported that funding for Mountain RC&D had been received; however, the check had not yet been processed. She also reported that FY27 Ag Enhancement Program funding had been received. Angela introduced Lauren Holley with WVCA, who will serve as the new Administrative Specialist for Southern CD.

Mark Myers introduced himself as President of the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts and encouraged the Board to bring district concerns or items of interest back to the Association.

Review/Approval of August District Financial Reports

District Operating Account

District Building Account

Supervisor Travel & Per Diem Account

CDO Account

District Reserve Account

Randall Patton moved to approve the district financial reports as presented. Curtis Murphy seconded; motion carried.

Review/Approval of Accounts Receivable/Aging Summary

Following review, Randall Patton moved to approve the Aging Summary as presented. Bill Harris seconded; motion carried.

Review/Approval August Co-administered WVCA Financial reports

Bill Harris acknowledged that the CD account amounts had been corrected and that OM&R restricted funds were reflected at \$940,168.35. He also noted that one report showed a deficit in Brush Creek OM&R that did not appear on another summary sheet. Angela Feamster-Sawyers explained that the deficit resulted from a previously processed invoice and that the balance was corrected by applying the amount to the OM&R restricted account.

Following review, Randall Patton moved to approve the August Co-administered WVCA financial reports as presented. Bill Harris seconded; motion carried.

Conservation Technician Supervisor Report

Dave Parkulo reported on completed projects since the previous board meeting, including two pond cleanouts; 1,244 feet of fence constructed in Fayette County; 64.52 tons of lime delivered; a water trough installation in Shady Spring; and lime buggy, no-till drill, and post driver rentals.

Conservation Specialist Report

Agriculture Enhancement Program

Morgan Dial reported that six of thirty-eight landowner agreements had been returned. She stated that one lime verification had been completed, that two additional were pending signature, and that payments were expected to begin soon. She further reported that she would compile county totals for the Board's review.

The Board discussed using those county totals in considering a request to the county commissions for additional AgEP support. Discussion included providing each county with information regarding unfunded applications, previously funded projects, the benefits of the program, and the need for additional support. The Board also discussed a possible separate District Ag Enhancement Program initiative, including a beginning farmer project, and noted that the details of the request, the intended use of the funds, and the administration of those funds would require further development. It was noted that any county funds received would be tracked separately from regular AgEP funds and would not be placed in the co-administered account. The board discussed preparing a draft request for review at the next committee/special board meeting.

GLCI

Morgan Dial reported that Farm Field Day would be held Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. She stated that tents and equipment were expected to be delivered the day before the event, that she would arrive early Saturday morning to complete setup, and that preparations were on schedule.

Payments for Approval

Randall Patton moved to approve reimbursement of \$854.67 to the district credit card, held through UMB Bank, for Farm Field Day handout item purchases. Mark Harris seconded; motion carried.

Cooperating Agency Reports

NRCS - Jose Angeles Rios reviewed the District Conservationist report; which is attached.

WVCA - Area Operations Manager Report

Jeremy Salyer reviewed his written report, which is attached. He reported that the Stream Protection & Restoration Program (SPRP), which had been under discussion for several years, was expected to be brought back. He stated that he had reviewed the program documentation the previous day and that the information would be released once the paperwork was finalized. He explained that the program would call for a base balance of at least \$10,000 and noted that

the District's account balance exceeded that amount. He further explained that the program would include an application process, that applications would be reviewed by Agency staff, and that technical assistance would be available through WVCA while allowing District staff to perform the work.

Jeremy Salyer mentioned that Judith was already considering a particular project located in Pax that could be a good fit for the program. Dave Parkulo and members of the Board laughed in response. Jeremy acknowledged the reaction, stating, "And see, the laugh, I knew what I was going to get." He emphasized that participation would be at the Board's discretion, adding that if the Board did not wish to pursue a project in Pax, it would not be required to do so. However, he noted that the program could provide a potential funding method for eligible projects. Discussion followed regarding eligibility, and Jeremy Salyer cautioned that the program had not yet been finalized.

WVACD –Heather Duncan provided a written report, which is attached.

Mark Myers and Jeremy Salyer, both members of the Awards Council, provided an update on the upcoming awards banquet. They reported that the Awards Council had met the previous day to discuss the banquet, which will be held in October. Registration information will be distributed, registration will be completed online, and the deadline to register is October 16, 2026. They also reported that a non-traditional farm from the district is under consideration for an award and encouraged the Board's support.

It was explained that funds collected for the awards banquet are paid to the Awards Council rather than the Association and are used to cover awards, meals, facility expenses, and other associated costs. Registration was set at \$90.00 per supervisor and \$40.00 per guest, a reduction from approximately \$130.00 the previous year. They noted that holding the event at Cedar Lakes will result in lower costs than prior locations.

Approximately \$6,000.00 is available to support the current year's banquet, while no funds have yet been secured for the following year. They reported that the reduced registration fee is expected to leave slightly more than \$5,000.00 to apply toward next year's event. Sponsorships are also being pursued. Mark reported that the Association had declined a sponsorship offer from an entity associated with power-line projects because districts had opposed those projects. He further reported that Middletown Tractor is expected to provide sponsorship going forward. The quarterly meeting will begin on October 28, 2026, followed by the awards ceremony on October 29, 2026, beginning at noon.

Mark also provided an Association staffing update. He reported that Heather Duncan and Kelly Wayne's last day will be at the end of December and that position replacements or timing of replacements remains uncertain. He further reported that Julie, who had covered the southern area, left the Association for a position with the Department of Environmental Protection, and added that Vanta Coda will cover the entire state through the end of the month. Mark also noted that funding administered through NACD originates with NRCS and that some of those funds remain frozen.

Bill Harris mentioned that Heather Duncan had requested one or two supervisors from each district to serve on the Grassland Committee. The Board agreed to place the matter on the agenda for the special board/committee meeting.

Mark Myers updated that the grassland evaluation contest will no longer be conducted as a single statewide event. Instead, separate northern and southern contests will be held in an effort to reduce travel for participating schools. Thirty teams participated during the current year, and the state runner-up team placed twentieth among forty-four teams at the national contest. Mark noted that the current contest site remains under contract for one additional year.

Supervisor Reports/Approvals

2026 Fall Banquet

Dave reported that Kayla had contacted Tamarack regarding the 2026 Fall Banquet and that the available dates were Tuesday, October 20, 2026, and Thursday, October 22, 2026. He noted that the event would be held from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., as in prior years, and that Tamarack had revised its menus. He reviewed the two dinner options presented: Option 1, Southern style, at \$44.00 per person, and Option 2, Italian, at \$42.00 per person, each based on fifty people. He added that the only complaint received the previous year concerned the absence of bread, and that bread would be provided with either option. Discussion followed regarding the menu selections, and it was noted that Option 1 was served buffet style and would allow pork and chicken to be served with or without barbecue sauce.

Randall Patton moved to approve Option 1, Southern Style Buffet. Curtis Murphy seconded; motion carried.

Discussion followed regarding the date of the banquet, and Tuesday was preferred over Thursday.

Randall Patton moved to hold the 2026 Fall Banquet on Tuesday, October 20, 2026. Mark Harris seconded; motion carried.

Bill Harris moved to approve an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 to cover the catering expense for the 2026 Fall Banquet. Mark Harris seconded; motion carried.

WVCA Easement Notification

Dave Parkulo reported that the Agency had sent a contractor to Brush Creek to remove a blockage. Although he was aware that the work was being performed, the district had not been formally notified. He stated that, as noted by legal counsel, the district must be notified of work performed along the flood control channels until the easements are transferred.

Dave noted that he had to notify the Agency on a matter concerning Cranberry Creek as the easement was actually held by the State Conservation Committee.

Discussion followed regarding the notification requirements. Jeremy advised that if the work had been performed under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, the Agency would not have been required to notify the district. Bill Harris and Dave clarified that, although the work involved removal of a blockage, it was not performed under EWP. Dave acknowledged

that work performed pursuant to a flood declaration could proceed without notice to the district; otherwise, the district must be notified before work is performed.

Mowing of Dams

Chairman Johnston introduced the discussion regarding maintenance and mowing of the district's dams.

Dave reported that he had met with the district's attorney, John, a few days earlier to discuss whether the district should proceed with mowing the 12 dams currently in operation. According to Dave, John advised that no action had been taken to implement the legislation enacted in March of the previous year based on his legal opinion. Dave said the district continued to have responsibility for maintaining the dams as it had historically. John's recommendation was that if the district continued its established practice of mowing twice annually, it would be on solid legal footing.

Dave also addressed how the mowing could be paid for if the Agency declined to authorize or reimburse the expense. He explained that payment could be made from funds the district had not transferred to the Agency. Those funds remained in an account controlled by the district and co-administered with the Agency for auditing and tracking purposes. Dave described a process in which the district would issue payment for the exact amount required, retain the supporting documentation, and provide that documentation to the Agency as it had done previously. The Agency would then be responsible for the appropriate accounting. According to Dave, John's opinion was that the district could use the funds in this manner and remain on solid legal footing even if the Agency objected to the payment.

Jeremy advised the Agency would object.

Bill asked which account would be used for the mowing expense. Dave answered that payment would be made from the O&M account. Jeremy referred to this as money the district was still holding. Bill noted that the funds were in the projects account and asked how the payment would be designated. Dave noted the district already has the necessary coding and funding numbers and reiterated that, based on the legal advice received, the district would be acting within its legal authority.

Mark Harris asked whether the proposed process was essentially the same procedure the district had followed for the spring mowing. Jeremy replied that it was not, because unlike the spring mowing, there was no Agency work order for the second mowing. He explained that the Agency was not interested in authorizing a second mowing at this time, although he could not speak to the reason. Jeremy advised that if the district proceeded without a work order, the Agency's position would be that the district had performed the work voluntarily and without Agency authorization and, therefore, the Agency would not pay for it. He cautioned that

proceeding in this manner would likely result in a legal dispute between the district and the Agency.

Dave repeated that John had advised that the district was on solid legal footing. He noted, however, that the matter has become considerably more complicated than he believed the Agency had anticipated. He indicated that some districts that have already transferred their funds may now regret having done so, particularly given the possibility that this thing could still be rescinded. Dave further noted that he has spoken with several legislators who followed the direction of their leadership but are now upset with how the matter was handled. Dave emphasized that there has been no movement or substantive progress. He referenced Jeremy and John as being aware that no progress has been made.

Jeremy updated that the process had resumed and that the Agency's law firm had contacted the district's attorney. He clarified that he was not disputing the attorney's legal position but rather addressing the matter from the Agency's perspective.

Bill asked about the mechanics of payment if the district proceeded without a work order. Jeremy replied that, under the normal process, Dave would submit an invoice. Bill acknowledged that he understood the normal process but asked specifically how the district would make payment under the proposed approach. Chairman Johnston summarized the proposal, noting that if the mowing cost approximately \$12,000, or whatever the actual amount might be, the district would deduct that amount from funds that otherwise would be transferred to the Agency. Chairman Johnston added that the Agency would then likely dispute the deduction and maintain that the district still owed the approximately \$12,000.

Dave described the proposed action as a maneuver for which the district had legal footing and one that could force movement on the unresolved situation. He said that, according to John, the district could pay the expense without obtaining a work order in advance. Dave suggested that a work order could potentially be issued afterward and added that the absence of a work order did not alter the district's responsibility. He noted that the district had historically mowed the dams twice each year and that John's advice was that the district remained responsible for performing the second mowing.

The discussion then turned to sponsor funds. Dave said sufficient sponsor funds were available to cover the work. He raised concerns regarding legal restrictions associated with those funds, explaining that sponsor funds originating in one county should not be used for work in an unrelated county. Jeremy noted that the Agency was not transferring sponsor funds from one county for use in another. Dave noted that that was not what he had heard.

Jeremy noted that the district had never transferred its funds to the Agency and, therefore, the Mercer County, Raleigh County, and other sponsor funds being discussed remained in the co-administered account. Dave expressed that his concern was what could eventually occur once

the money was transferred. Jeremy explained that sponsor funds are tracked separately in the Agency's accounting software. Dave asked whether that meant sponsor dollars would remain in Mercer County if the district ultimately transferred the funds. Jeremy replied that the money would not be housed in Mercer County but confirmed that it would have to be used for the county for which it was intended.

Bill returned to the question of how the district would issue payment. He asked whether the administrative specialist could issue a check or whether district representatives would need to go directly to the bank. Jeremy replied that the administrative specialists would not process the payment. Bill concluded that the district would therefore have to go to the bank. Dave explained that the district could present the supporting documentation to the bank and request a counter check for the appropriate amount from the applicable account. The district would then provide the Agency with all documentation related to the transaction. Dave acknowledged that the Agency could object to the transaction. Jeremy noted that the Agency would object to the payment and cautioned that doing so would initiate a legal dispute with the Agency.

Bill raised the potential consequences of proceeding and noted that the board needed to consider the Agency's previous responses. Jeremy replied that the Agency could view the district as improperly using co-administered funds, which could result in funds being frozen. Bill specifically asked whether the Agency could refuse to release payments associated with AgEP or other programs. Jeremy answered that district funds could be "frozen" and said he believed this would likely be the Agency's position if the district proceeded.

Randall, noting that he was not an attorney, questioned whether the Agency would have to take the same action against other districts if it withheld funds from this district.

Dave said he and John had already discussed at length the possibility of the Agency attempting to freeze the district's account. He noted that the money in question was already in the projects account and referenced a previous situation involving the transfer of funds in which the Agency had attempted to freeze the account. According to Dave, what had actually been frozen at that time was the administrative specialist's ability to make payments from the account.

Dave reported that John's position was that the Agency could not freeze the account preventing the district from accessing funds already in the account. If the Agency attempted to do so again, Dave said the district could follow the same approach under discussion: provide the appropriate documentation and make the necessary payments using funds already in the account.

Dave added that taking action on the mowing could force movement on the whole situation in which, in his view, little or nothing had occurred. He expressed frustration that districts did not know what was happening because of a lack of communication. He said the Agency did not appear interested in mowing the dams a second time, while John continued to advise that the district had a responsibility to maintain them. Dave asked what other option remained if neither side moved forward.

Jeremy then addressed the actual dam-safety requirement, advising that DEP dam safety requirements call for one mowing. Bill responded that although one mowing may be the minimum requirement, the district's most recent inspection had called for additional maintenance, and the sponsors and other parties had historically agreed to two mowings. Jeremy acknowledged that two mowings had historically been performed but repeated that the district was required to perform only one. He added that, under the law, the district was no longer in control of those funds. Dave disagreed with that interpretation of the district's current status. He said the law had not been fully implemented and that obligations remained on both sides. The district had not transferred the money, while the Agency had not completed the easements. Dave noted that according to their attorney, that if one party was considered to be in violation because it had not fulfilled its obligation, the other party was likewise in violation for failing to fulfill its obligation. Dave said that because neither side had completed the required actions, "we have liberties, just like they try to say they have liberties."

Bill said he was not necessarily disagreeing with Dave or the attorney's legal position. Rather, he wanted all board members to clearly understand the possible consequences if the district proceeded. He summarized his understanding that the district was considering using money from the restricted O&M account to pay for the second mowing. He also raised the possibility that if the Agency responded by withholding other district funding, the dispute could affect AgEP funds or require the district to address those payments separately. Dave replied that this was one possible scenario if the Agency objected. He added that another possible outcome was that the dispute could ultimately go before a judge to determine the parties' respective responsibilities and authority. Dave said that although the legislation was law, significant questions remained regarding its implementation. He again noted that the Agency had not completed the easements.

Randall asked whether an easement had been completed anywhere in the state. Jeremy replied that no easements had yet been completed. He said that this district, Little Kanawha, and Capital were expected to be the first districts involved in the easement process. Dave noted that those were also the three districts that had not transferred their money to the Agency. He expressed concern regarding the Agency's decision to begin with those districts and said he did not view the Agency's approach as demonstrating a partnership with the districts. Randall commented that if all districts had already transferred their money, he believed the easements might never have been completed.

Mark then addressed the underlying maintenance issue, noting that it seemed that what they were suggesting, performing the second mowing was a safe and appropriate course of action, reasoning that less maintenance would be less safe and therefore less appropriate. Bill noted that performing two mowings would also be consistent with the district's historical practice.

Randall moved that the district perform the Fall mowing as it had in the past. Curtis seconded the motion, stating that he always said they need two mowings.

Chairman Johnston acknowledged that a motion and second were before the Board and asked whether there was any further discussion.

Bill expressed concern that proceeding could place the district in the position of having to take legal action both to justify the mowing and to contest any freezing of its accounts. Chairman Johnston noted that the alternative would be for the district to expend its own funds.

Randall noted that the Agency's name was not on the account, meaning that freezing the account would mean that no checks would be issued, as had previously occurred. Bill explained that this could create an accounting nightmare for payments to cooperators participating in the Ag Enhancement Program. If the normal payment process were unavailable while the account remained frozen and the legality of the freeze was being determined by the court, the district could be required to obtain a counter check from the bank each month to pay cooperators who had completed approved practices.

Mark asked whether the second mowing was necessary to perform the dam inspection and whether the mowing was therefore a safety issue. Jeremy replied that an inspection could be performed without the second mowing, although not as thoroughly, however, he noted that the grass was not presently very tall.

Bill asked whether a second mowing was likely to be approved elsewhere in the state. Jeremy, noting that the district was the only one that had ever performed a second mowing, stated that he could not speak to what might occur in the future, but the Agency was not presently interested in a second mowing, and he expected that to remain the trend.

Jeremy acknowledged that the district was in a difficult position and wished to stand its ground but cautioned that proceeding would place the district in a difficult predicament.

Mark commented if there was a safety issue, then we would need to proceed. Bill replied that it wasn't a safety issue. Jeremy reiterated that dam-safety requirements called for only one mowing. Bill further stated that if district is not going to pay for the second mowing from its operating account and then seek reimbursement or authorization for payment, then they will end of in court. Jeremy noted that he did not question the accuracy of what Dave had reported from the district's counsel but cautioned that the board needed to consider whether it was prepared for the Agency's response.

At Bill's request, the motion was restated. Bill asked whether Randall wished to designate the source of payment as part of the motion. *Randall agreed and modified the motion to provide that payment for the second mowing be made from the SCD OM&R restricted account. Curtis, as seconder, concurred with the modification.*

Mark Harris questioned why the district was proceeding with this, if it was not a safety issue. Bill responded that, during the annual inspections, the sponsors had agreed that mowing the dams twice would be better for keeping them in good condition.

Jeremy added that mowing helps maintain the grass and that more regular mowing produces a better grass stand. He also noted that mowing is considerably easier on the mowers when the grass is semi-tall versus six feet tall. Dave noted the longer mowing is delayed, the tougher the grass becomes. Dave further noted that three or four of the district's dams have residences immediately adjacent to them, which he stated was not the case at many other locations. He said that if the second mowing were not performed, those residents would likely complain to the county commission. Jeremy suggested that any such complaints be referred to the Agency to address. Bill responded that the Agency would ultimately have to approach the sponsors for funding and that the sponsors would object if they were not receiving the maintenance for which they had paid.

Bill stated that he could not agree to place the district in that kind of a bind and asked Chairman Johnston to call for a vote.

Chairman Johnston confirmed that a motion and second were before the Board and called for a vote on the following motion:

Randall moved that the district perform the second mowing of the dams as it has in the past, with payment to be made from the SCD OM&R restricted account. Curtis seconded the motion.

Randall Patton, Curtis Murphy, Rachel Prince, and Ron Testerman were all in favor; while John Farrell, Mark Harris, and Bill Harris were all opposed. Motion carried.

Following the vote, Bill noted that his concern was not that the dams needed mowing or would not benefit from being mowed, but rather what would result from using co-administered funds to pay for the work. Discussion followed regarding the need for resolution of the broader transition, including the possibility that the matter would ultimately be decided by a court or revisited by the Legislature, and the continued lack of progress on transferring the easements.

Public Comments / Closing Remarks

Mark Harris requested approval of the board to be compensated at the established per diem rate for conducting conservation-related instruction classes within the district, including classes for seniors and for children, such as the class he had conducted at the senior center on September 1, 2026. He stated that the request would be for up to two classes per month. It was noted that district policy requires that such a request be presented to the Board for permission. Chairman Johnston advised that the matter would be placed on the agenda for the committee meeting and special board meeting for action at that time.

Mark also asked whether the district had participated in community parades, including those held for Veterans Day and Christmas. It was noted that the district had not done so previously, that the board was not opposed to participation, and that no one had previously volunteered to take part. Mark offered to assist with parade participation.

He further advised the Board that he would be departing later in the week on a medical mission and would be away for the remainder of the month.

Meeting Reminders: Committee Meetings – September 29, 2026 @ 10:00am

There being no further business, *Mark Harris moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill Harris seconded.* Chairman Johnston adjourned the meeting at 12:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

x 

Steve Johnston, SCD Chairman

SJ/as

District DC Report Information - August | Princeton

Field Visits		Contract		CFA (containing)	
Name	Date	Contract			
Meth Ely	7/13/2026			LWS, Grazing, Forestry	
Mike & Debbie Lester	7/15/2026			Farm Tour	
Rocky Wickline	7/17/2026	Fencing			
Benjamin Dickinson	7/17/2026			Go over paperwork	
Joseph Ostrander	7/17/2026				
Jim Prichett	7/17/2026	Fencing			
Shawn Conner	7/17/2026	Irrigation Pipeline			
Teresa Lester	7/23/2026	Cancellation of Contract			
Chris Blume	7/23/2026	LWS Survey			
Leo Roach	7/28/2026	LWS Survey			
Ol Kraft	7/28/2026	Forestry			
Shirley Dickens	7/28/2026	Forestry (Mark Trees)			
An Gwin	7/28/2026	Forestry			
O Kraft	8/7/2026	Fencing			
Tim Shrewsbury	8/7/2026	Forestry (Mark Trees)			
Tim Shrewsbury	8/11/2026	Forestry (Mark Trees)			
Nell Gwin	8/11/2026	LWS (Inspect Well)			
Bleau Gwin	8/11/2026	LWS (Inspect Well)			
Tim Foley	8/11/2026	Requested Cancellation			
Jamie Farmer	8/11/2026	Contract Management			
Rocky Wickline	8/12/2026	Fencing			
Chris Blume	8/24/2026			Grazing, LWS, Forest	
Rick Coburn	8/24/2026			Grazing, LWS, Forestry	
Greg Li	9/2/2026	Get Payment Form Signed			
Brent Groti	9/2/2026	Get Payment Form Signed			
Pilgrim Farms	9/3/2026	Inject Water Well		Streambank Erosion	
Pilgrim Farms	9/3/2026			LWS, Grain	
Rob An us	9/7/2026	Misroute Pipeline			
Andi Gwin	9/8/2026	Get Payment Form Signed			
John Farrell	9/8/2026			CNP Grassland Sign-up	

Certified Practices		Practice Code		\$ Amount	
Name	Date				
Jason Tart	7/17/2026	382		\$515.00	
Rocky Wickline	7/17/2026	382		\$7,149.87	
Joseph Ostrander	7/20/2026	382		\$6,598.80	
An Gwin	8/7/2026	382		\$3,044.16	
Neil Gwin	8/12/2026	642		\$2,664.81	
Bleau Gwin	8/12/2026	642		\$2,455.04	
Rocky Wickline	8/12/2026	382, 472		\$1,778.87	
Greg Li	9/2/2026	578		\$483.60	
Pilgrim Farms	9/3/2026	642		\$6,897.75	
Rob Anus	9/3/2026	515, 314		\$,547.06	
Total				\$61,338.96	

Conservation Plans		Written Y/N		Completed Y/N		# Acres	
Name	Date						
Marvin Hudson McManhan (EQIP)	7/16/2026	Y		N		102.2	
Oga Kraft (EQIP)	7/16/2026	Y		N		29.8	
Josh Gross (EQIP)	7/16/2026	Y		N		97.5	
Jeremy Willwood (CSP)	7/16/2026	Y		N		91.2	
Christopher White (CSP)	7/16/2026	Y		N		8.6	
Joel Weiss (CSP)	7/16/2026	Y		N		5.7	
Anthony White (CSP)	7/16/2026	Y		N		34.7	
Darrin McCallister (EQIP)	7/16/2026	Y		N		41.8	
James Dush Jones (EQIP)	7/16/2026	Y		N		23.9	
Adrian Alan Harter (EQIP)	7/16/2026	Y		N		128.6	
Jane Freeman (EQIP)	7/22/2026	Y		N		109.2	
Joel B Scaffer (EQIP)	7/22/2026	Y		N		109.6	
Benjamin Dickason (EQIP)	7/22/2026	Y		N		36.1	
Neil Rubel	8/3/2026	Y		N		95.2	
Leo Roach (CSP)	8/3/2026	Y		N		59.1	
Paul Brenner (CSP)	8/3/2026	Y		N		26.2	
C Alan Guinness (EQIP)	8/3/2026	Y		N		150	
Total:						1017.4	

District DC Report Information - August (Becally)

Field Visits				Certified Practices				Conservation Plans					
Name	Date	Contract	CTA (Becally)	Name	Date	Practice Code	\$ Amount	Name	Date	Written (Y/N)	Completed (Y/N)	# acres	
Chris Rose	8/4/2026		Grading, LWS, Forestry	Ellen To	7/14/2026	314	\$244.30	David Myers (EQIP)	7/9/2026	Y	N	23.7	
Debra Cagle	8/4/2026	Fence Reseeding		Thomas Vance	8/5/2026	590	\$3.70	Josh Sumpter (EQIP)	7/16/2026	Y	N	38.9	
Tim Ward	7/15/2026	Wetland/Irrigation Survey		Alan Keeshly	8/13/2026	649	\$31.52	Robert B. (EQIP)	7/16/2026	Y	N	17.5	
Martin Mrozek	7/31/2026	Forestry		Kevin France	8/20/2026	\$16, 614, 561	\$14,849.13	Donald Lee Carter (EQIP)	7/16/2026	Y	N	53.8	
Jim Tulliver	8/3/2026	Forestry (Mark Trees)		Mitchell Dech	8/27/2026	382	\$2,415.70	Wynne Rhodes (EQIP)	7/16/2026	Y	N	176.2	
Gladys Sprules	8/4/2026		Forestry	Mark A Hoffman	8/28/2026	\$61,382,472	\$6,680.35	Terr. Mohan (EQIP)	7/16/2026	Y	N	13.70	
Renee Endicott	7/24/2026			BBB Rannabass	9/1/2026	590	\$0.81	Shannon Hu Hart (EQIP)	7/20/2026	Y	N	2.50	
Kimmy Sutton	7/31/2026	Survey HT & Irrigation		Kenneth Ray Lester	9/2/2026	314	\$59.18	Bradley Shu (EQIP)	8/2/2026	Y	N	6.1	
Wade Saules	8/10/2026	Forest (Mark Trees)		Debra Cagle	9/8/2026	382, 472	\$7.48	Karin Akers (EQIP)	8/2/2026	Y	N	250	
Alan Keeshly	8/13/2026	649 Brush Piles						Richard Breslin (EQIP)	8/2/2026	Y	N	85.1	
Robert Bax	8/18/2026	CR Visit/Consultation						Debra McQuida (EQIP)	8/4/2026	Y	N	0.1	
Bradley Stum	8/18/2026	CR Visit/Consultation						Shane Pearson (EQIP)	8/17/2026	Y	Y	0.1	
Chris Barward	8/18/2026	Measure Pipeline	HT Assessment					Northstar Ranch LLC (EQIP)	9/4/2026	Y	N	365.3	
Kevin France	8/21/2026	LWS, Fencing						Karen Blanchard (NMA)	8/24/2026	Y	N	0.1	
Mark Hoffman	8/21/2026	LWS, Fencing											
Michael Bach	8/25/2026	LWS Survey											
James Rudd	8/25/2026	High Tunnel / NIM											
Bill Rannabass	9/1/2026	Measure Fencing											
Debra Cagle	9/8/2026	Survey LWS Fwell System											
David M. Es	9/8/2026												
				Total				\$15,151.17					878.2



West Virginia
Conservation Agency

September 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. If you haven't submitted please do ASAP.

Conservation Farm Tour

- **August** - Statewide judging was completed.
- **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
- State AgEP committee meeting September 30 10am ECD office. Call in information is available.

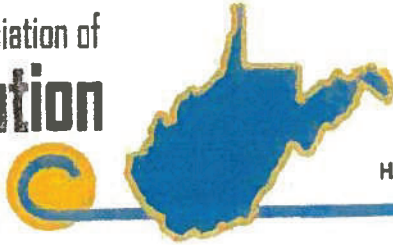
EWP funds recall

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

West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts



Heather Duncan, Executive Director

Mark Myers, President
Mark Fitzsimmons, 1st Vice President
Lois Carr, 2nd Vice President
Holly Morgan, Secretary
Larry Greynolds, Treasurer

September 2026 Board Report from Heather Duncan, WVACD Executive Director

Nominations Due!

Nominations for Member at Large and Honorary Member are due September 15th to Kelley Wayne at kwayne@wvacd.us or by mail. Nominations for Carrol Greene, Rookie of the Year, and Excellence in Communications are due September 1st to Kelley Wayne at kwayne@wvacd.us or by mail.

Committee Appointments

As we begin the new year, please consider your board representation on the following committees. Each CD should have a representative on the following: **WVACD Foundation** and **WVACD Legislative** (both of these committees typically meet quarterly at the quarterly meetings and as needed). Representatives are also needed for **Envirothon**, **Appalachian Grazing Conference** and **Grasslands**. Please send your committee representatives to Heather Duncan as you appoint them.

October Quarterly Meeting

The October meeting will be held the 28-29th at Cedar Lakes this year. It will be held in conjunction with the WV Conservation Awards Council (WVCAC) luncheon on October 29th. You can make a reservation at Holt Lodge (304 372-7860) on your own for the meeting with a rate of \$94/night or you may choose to stay somewhere else. We will be charging a registration fee to cover meals and information will be coming out very shortly on this.

Saying Goodbye to Julie Simmons

It's very bittersweet that Julie Simmons will be starting with the WV DEP in their Youth Environmental Program and will be based out of the Charleston office. We hope to still run into Julie at events! Julie's last day with WVACD is Friday, September 4th.

County Commission Budget Season

It's budget season in most counties for county governments. Please be sure to reach out to your county commission and budget office to see if they are accepting budget requests. Be prepared to have a detailed budget, how it will positively affect county citizens, and project details. If anyone needs any assistance, please reach out to Heather at hduncan@wvacd.us.

Memberships

Please remember that annual and lifetime memberships are available. Also, sponsorships are available. Please assist in promoting these valuable opportunities.

Magnets Available!

WVACD has wooden magnets for sale! They are made right here in St. Albans! They are available for \$5 each. The proceeds will go to further our mission and goals. A picture has been sent to AS' and also included in the quarterly newsletter. They are housed at the WVACD office and can be purchased there.

Grasslands Committee

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Grasslands Committee, please let Heather know. The committee would like to see 1-2 supervisor members from each conservation district represented. Currently, the committee meets quarterly at the WVACD office and a virtual option is available as well. Please contact Heather or committee chair, Jim Anderson for more information. Please be sure to have teams show their interest soon!

The contest will be held on Thursday, September 10th.

WVACD Communication and Outreach Employees

Please do not forget to contact Vanta Coda (wvacdoutreach@wvacd.onmicrosoft.com) for your outreach needs. Rather it's developing printed or online materials, assisting with outreach events, or coming up with ideas to reach new producers or CSP outreach, they are here to help! We are excited to have these positions at least through September 30.

Upcoming Dates

September 1: Carrol Greene, Rookie of the Year, and Excellence in Communications nominations due to WVACD

September 2: WV Envirothon Committee Meeting, 10 am @ WVACD Office/Teams

September 2: NE NACD Planning Committee Meeting, 1 pm @ WVACD Office/Teams

September 10: Grasslands Contest in Braxton County

September 13-21: Heather on vacation. Emails and phone calls will be delayed in response.

September 13-15: Legislative Interims at Charleston

September 15: Honorary and Member at Large nominations due to WVACD

September 18: AGC Committee Meeting, 10 am @ MCD Office/Teams

September 21: WV Envirothon Teacher Training Day @ Holly Gray Park

September 28: Eastern Area Meeting, 10 am @ Eastern Panhandle CD

September 28: Western Area Meeting, 9 am TEAMS ONLY

October 2: Central Area Meeting, Elk CD

October 5-8: Heather at NACD Association of Conservation Executive Directors (ACED) conference

October 7: Envirothon Meeting, 10 am @ WVACD Office/Teams

October 7: NE NACD Planning Committee Meeting, 1 pm @ WVACD Office/Teams

October 13: SCC Meeting, WVCA Headquarters (no WVCAC meeting!)

October 28-29: WVACD Quarterly Meeting/WVCAC Luncheon

Southern Conservation District DC Monthly Report
August and September 2026

- **Field Visits**
See attached spreadsheet
- **Planning Status**
See attached spreadsheet
- **Completed Practices**
See attached spreadsheet
- **Field Office Priorities**
 - Obligated 70 EQIP, AMA, and CSP Contracts for \$2,427,452.43.
- **Upcoming Deadlines**
- **Upcoming Events**
 - 2026 WV Grassland Evaluation Contest on Thursday, September 10th
- **Special Projects / Updates / Trainings**
 - South Area JED Training at Willowbend on Monday, September 28th
 - Pollinator Training in Lewisburg on Tuesday, September 29th
 - Beth and Jose' attended Soils Training (Pt. Pleasant; week of August 25th)
 - Jose' attended Conservation Planning Part 2 / Cultural Resource Training (Cross Lanes; week of September 1st)
 - Staff attended the State Conservation Farm Tour (August 26th)
 - Carl has been working on getting trees marked for FSI
 - Ruby and Beth have been working on engineering designs (for HT and LWS)
 - Jose' and Beth attended the South Area Conservation Engineering Training 1 (August 19th)
 - Katy has been working on contract management (153s, modifications, cancellations, terminations, etc.).
 - Staff have been working on obtaining FY26 CSP Checklists & Required Documentation for Certification
- **Staffing Updates**
 - Information will be provided on the NRCS Reorganization Plan (at a later date)