Greenbrier Valley Conservation District

September 17, 2026
Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Approved Minutes

The Greenbrier Valley Conservation District board of supervisors met on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 7:00pm in the conference room of the Lewisburg USDA service center.

Those present:

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

Others
Candace Butler, NRCS
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA (Virtual)
Alex Hanna, WVCA
Angela Feamster-Sawyers, WVCA

Chairman Sawyers called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Gary Truex led the group in prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Donald McNeel moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2026, regular board meeting. Adam Hill seconded; motion carried.

Guests

No guest were present.

Administrative Specialist Report

Angela Feamster-Sawyers provided an update on co-administered funds received during the first quarter of FY2027 and reported on planning progress for the district's upcoming 2026 Legislative and Awards Banquet.

She also reported on correspondence received from Amy Maloney regarding Barry Level's interest in serving on the Greenbrier County Farmland Protection Board. His appointment is on the agenda for consideration. If approved, Mr. Level would fill the position vacated by Jack O'Connell and serve a four-year term, from June 2026-2030.

Cooperating Agency Reports

- NRCS - Candace Butler, Acting District Conservationist for Greenbrier Valley North, reviewed the highlights of her report; which is attached.
- FSA – nothing to report.
- Forestry nothing to report.
- WVCA – District Operations Manager, Jeremy Salyer, reviewed the highlights of his report; which is attached.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Financial Reports

Gary Truex moved on behalf of the committee to accept the general and CDO funds report, and 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. Adam Hill seconded; motion carried.

Agricultural Enhancement Program Committee

Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee to approve a payment of $500.00 to Frank Masters for an Alternative Watering System. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.

Reported action between board meetings

Acting with delegated authority, Timothy VanReenen approved AgEP Exigency payments for FY27 on August 5, 2026, as listed below:

Cover Crop
William E. Holliday - $750.00
Patricia Ridgeway - $489.70
Barry Miller - $750.00

Critical Area Planting
Garrathan Kirby - $160.96

- Total amount approved: $2,150.66

319 Committee

Donald McNeel reported that the program is currently in a transitional period between grants and that staff are working on advertisements.

Grassland Committee

Alex Hanna reported that the farm presentations for the banquet have been completed and forwarded for final review and addition of the voice-over narration.

Building/Equipment Committee

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

Education Outreach/Events Committee

Banquet updates were covered as part of the Administrative Specialist report.

NASDA Grant Payments for Approval

Timothy VanReenen moved to approve reimbursement to the district in the amount of $636.62, consisting of $165.00 for the Equipment Coordinator's maintenance work, and $471.62 for the purchase of outreach booklets. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.

Correspondence

The board of supervisors reviewed FNBB Pledged Security Release Notifications: 232158342; 232129411; 299002156; 231020810; 180062312, and FNBB New Pledged Security Notification: 232164471.

Other Business

Gary Truex moved to appoint Barry Level to the Greenbrier County Farmland Protection Board. Timothy VanReenen seconded; motion carried.

October Committee/ Board Meeting Dates

The Board of Supervisors agreed to cancel the October committee meeting due to scheduling conflicts. The board meeting will proceed as scheduled on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

AgEP Funding Discussion Meeting

The board agreed to schedule the meeting for Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., with Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. as the alternate date.

Local Work Group

There were no resource concerns reported.

Dates to Remember:

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 7:58 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Sawyers
Chairman

Gary Truex
Secretary/ Treasurer

GS/GT/as
Recorded by: Angela Feamster-Sawyers, Administrative Specialist

United States Department of Agriculture

September 17, 2026 GVCD-N NRCS Report for September 2026

FY 27 Updates

- NEW: FY2027 EQIP, CSP, AMA, and ACEP Round 1 Application batching date is October 16, 2026.
  - News Release available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/west-virginia/news/nrcs-in-west-virginia-accepting-applications-for-conservation and is attached to this document
- NRCS created an Improving Management of Programs and Contracts Team (IMPAC). NRCS is currently entering Phase 2 (IMPAC 2.0) of the plan.
  - As part of IMPAC 2.0, There is a 4F Pilot Program. "Farmer First, Field Focused"
  - WV will be one of the pilot states for the 4F Program
  - The technical assistance model is changing, not the services that NRCS provides.
  - This pilot program is in line with our commitment to "Keeping Working Lands in Working Hands.
- 4F Areas of Focus
- The pilot will implement these changes through four areas of focus:
  1. Roles and Responsibilities – Aligning program implementation roles and responsibilities with specific staff, allowing conservation planners to spend more time in the field with producers delivering expert technical assistance with sound science, education, and resource assessment.
  2. Identifying Priorities for Program Funding – Ensuring local voices are present in the decision-making processes that drive program priorities and decision making, while breaking away from the ineffective processes currently impeding program performance.
  3. Implementing the Priorities – Implementing the decisions through effective use of current systems and program implementation processes, while gaining a greater understanding of business tool challenges to inform the Integrated Field Tool development effort.
  4. Program Timeline – Significantly reducing the timeline between program application, funding decisions, and obligations to meet the expectations of producers, while also decreasing the time spent dedicated to programs that keeps staff out of the field.
- We are still receiving details regarding the implementation of the pilot program, and I hope to have more details to provide in the future.

Currently:

- Completing CSP practice certifications and annual payments
- Developing CREP and CRP plans for FSA
- Following up with existing contracts to provide technical support
- Addressing any expiring and non-compliant contracts

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.

- Reminder for producers with CSP contracts to submit checklists and practice documentation to their local field offices As Soon As Possible.

New preapprovals/obligations:

- Received additional AMA funding for one contract in Pocahontas County
  - Obligated - $28,402.

Other

- We have continued to meet with producers in the district to provide technical services and discuss future Farm Bill applications.
- There is a Pollinator Planting Training in Lewisburg 9:30-2:30. Reach out to Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist Kyle Rhodes for more details. krhodes@quailforever.org

Staffing Updates

- I began my tenure as Acting District Conservationist for Greenbrier Valley – North on July 13, 2026.
- Some NRCS Employees and Partner Employees will attend trainings (Conservation Planning Part 2 and Soil Health training) offered in two locations in 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
Acting District Conservationist
candace.butler@usda.gov
304.427.3008

Attachments:
NRCS in West Virginia Accepting Applications for Conservation Programs

Cc:
Jon Bourdon, State Conservationist (STC)
Julie Stutler, Acting Assistant State Conservationist – Field Operations (ASTC-FO)
Wanda Smith, District Conservationist GV-S
Angela Feamster-Sawyers, Administrative Specialist WVCA

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

NEWS

NRCS in West Virginia Accepting Applications for Conservation Programs

PUBLISH DATE: September 14, 2026



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to put Farmers First through a historic investment in conservation on agricultural lands through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a result of the conservation funding provided by the Working Families Tax Cuts Act.

Feedback

(Morgantown, WV, September 11, 2026) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to put Farmers First through a historic investment in conservation on agricultural lands through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a result of the conservation funding provided by the Working Families Tax Cuts Act.

"We know that America's producers know the land the best and are the best stewards," said NRCS State Conservationist Jon Bourdon in West Virginia. "We encourage producers interested in conserving natural resources and keeping their operations productive, profitable and sustainable for future generations to contact their local NRCS office."

While NRCS accepts applications year-round, interested agricultural producers in West Virginia should apply by October 16, 2026, to be considered for fiscal year 2027 funding. Programs include:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): The Agricultural Land Easement component of ACEP enables producers to protect their agricultural land from development by enrolling it in a permanent Agricultural Land Easement. The Wetland Reserve Easement component of ACEP helps landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA): This program helps farmers manage financial risk through diversification, marketing, and conservation.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): CSP helps producers build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operation.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): EQIP provides producers with the technical and financial resources they need to address resources concerns on their land including improved water and air quality, increased soil health, reduced soil erosion, improved natural vitality and more.

NRCS is also providing additional financial assistance nationwide through the Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP), (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/regenerative-pilot-program) which enables producers to implement whole-farm regenerative practices through a single application for EQIP and CSP. RPP is part of USDA's commitment to putting Farmers First and advancing the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) agenda by building a healthier, more resilient food system.

For more than 90 years, NRCS has helped farmers, ranchers and forestland owners make investments in their operations and local communities to improve the quality of our air, water, soil, and wildlife habitat. NRCS uses the latest science and technology to help keep working lands working, boost agricultural economies, and increase the competitiveness of American agriculture. NRCS provides one-on-one, technical advice and financial assistance and works with producers to help them reach their goals through voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs. For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov.

TOPICS: WEST VIRGINIA (/STATE-OFFICES/WEST-VIRGINIA)

Greenbrier Valley Conservation District
Monthly Equipment Report

Month/Year Aug. 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	2	20	400.-		
No-till Seeder Totals	2 DAYS	20 AC	$400.-		
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 #6	1 DAY		250.00		
Post Driver Totals	1		$250.-		
Potato Planter					
Potato Sprayer					
Potato Hiller					
Potato Totals					
Portable Scales					
Other Filter Fab	1974		$453.10		
Shop Supplies					
GRAND TOTALS (all equipment)	3 DAYS	20 AC.	$1103.10		

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