

State Conservation Committee
2026 Quarterly Meeting Gus R. Douglass
255 Gus R. Douglass Lane, Charleston, WV 2531271
April 14, 2026
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kent Leonhardt	Chairman-Commissioner of Agriculture
John Pitsenbarger	WV Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Jorge Atilas	WVU Div. of Land Grant Engagement
Jason Hubbart	WVU Ag & Forestry Experiment Station
Jeremy Jones	WV Division of Forestry
Keith Richmond	Farm Service Agency
Judith Lyons	West Virginia Conservation Agency
Jerry Ours *	SCC Appointed
Rocky Peck	SCC Appointed
Doug Cyphers	SCC Appointed
Scott Settle, Designee	WV Dept. of Environmental Protection
Timothy VanReenen*	SCC Appointed

*Attended via Microsoft Teams Video

OTHERS PRESENT

Issac Tincher	WV DEP
Jake Schuck	WV Dept. of Agriculture
Allie Smith	WV Dept. of Agriculture
Ronnie Helmondollar, Designee	WVU Extension
Julie Stutler, Designee	NRCS
Haleigh Moses	WVCA
Heather Duncan	WVACD
John Brown	WVCA
Jay Crump*	WVCA
Jeremy Salyer*	WVCA
Gene Saurborn*	WVCA
Stephen Starcher*	WVCA
Jennifer Skaggs*	WVCA
Chris Ellison*	WVCA
Don Whetzel*	WVCA
Mark Fitzsimmons	NPCD
Dylan Johnson	WVCA

Chairman Kent Leonhardt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on April 13, 2026.

Lyons announced meeting notices have been posted with the Secretary of State's Office.

Lyons reported the following designee assignments: Harold Ward, Secretary, WV Department of Environmental Protection, provided written designation for Scott Settle. Jon Bordon, State Conservationist, NRCS provided written designation for Julie Stutler.

REVIEW of January 13, 2026, SCC MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Leonhardt moved to approve January 13, 2026, SCC meeting minutes. Second by Cyphers. Motion carried.

No Sub Committee meetings were held for the winter meeting.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTIONS:

Lyons presented correspondence sent to the LKCD regarding financial transactions of the Co-Administered funds.

Lyons presented a Notice of Filing received from Clerk of The Circuit Court of Kanawha County regarding Civil Action No: CC-20-2025-C-1461

DISTRICT DELEGATION:

None

SUPERVISOR RESIGNATIONS:

Tim Cunningham TVCD.

SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENTS:

None

SCC STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PROGRAMS

VanReenan presented the Agreements 1530, 1530-01 and Amendment #8 to NPS Agreement 1743. VanReenan made motion to approve 1530 and 1530-01, second by Peck. Motion carried.

Cyphers made motion to approve Amendment #8 NPS 1743, second by Peck. Motion carried.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

NPCD Upper Graves Creek 7,8,9

Discussion of status of the mining, a letter sent to Harold D. Ward, Cabinet Secretary, WVDEP from Kent A. Leonhardt, Commissioner of Agriculture regarding subsidence in Grave Creek flood control dams following undermining and the rescinded NOV issued by WVDEP to MCCR.

Expand Appalachia LLC, no new information has been received.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of HB5364 that was passed by Legislation on March 14, 2026.

Election of Vice President for SCC. Peck nominated VanReenan. There were no other nominations. Peck motioned for VanReenan as Vice President, seconded by Cyphers. Motion carried.

Personnel plans of the Conservation Districts were presented, motion by Pitsenbarger, second by VanReenan. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Updates provide for WVCA Personnel, CD letters of Request and CDO budgets.

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

Jorge Atilas, WVU

Jason Hubbart, WVU

Scott Settle, WVDEP

Jeremy Jones, WV Division of Forestry

John Pitsenbarger, WVACD

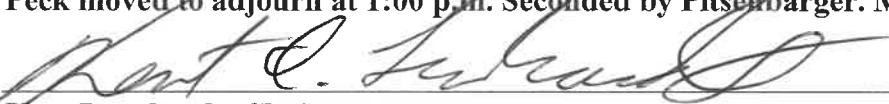
Keith Richmond, FSA

Judith Lyons, WVCA

Kent Leonhardt, Chairman

All provided updates of their respective programs.

Peck moved to adjourn at 1:00 p.m. Seconded by Pitsenbarger. Motion carried.



Kent Leonhardt, Chairman



Judith Lyons, Executive Director

Reference: WVSCC Quarterly Meeting Book – April 14, 2026

Summary of Motions

1. Leonhardt moved to approve January 13, 2026, SCC meeting minutes. Second by Cypers. Motion carried.
2. VanReenan presented Agreements 1530, 1530-01 and made motion to approve, second by Peck.
3. Cypers made motion to approve NPS Amendment #8, second by Peck. Motion carried.
4. Peck made motion to approve VanReenan as Vice President of SCC, second by Cyphers. Motion Carried.
5. Peck moved to adjourn at 1:00 p.m. Seconded by Pitsenbarger. Motion carried.