

State Conservation Committee Special Meeting
255 Gus R Douglass Lane
West Virginia Conservation Agency, Charleston, WV 25312
JULY 9, 2026
MINUTES

A special meeting of the State Conservation Committee was held July 9, 2026, via teleconference at the West Virginia Conservation Agency.

MEMBERS

Kent Leonhardt	Chairman-Commissioner of Agriculture
Scott Settle, Designee	WV Dept. of Environmental Protection
Jeremy Jones	WV Division of Forestry
John Pitsenbarger*	WV Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Jorge Atilas - Absent	WVU Extension and Land Grant
Jason Hubbart - Absent	WVU Ag & Forestry Experiment Station
Rocky Peck – Absent	Appointed
Doug Cyphers*	Appointed
Jerry Ours*	Appointed
Timothy VanReenen*	Appointed
Jon Bourdon – Absent	NRCS
Keith Richmond*	FSA

OTHERS PRESENT

Judith Lyons	WVCA
Andy Deichert, State Engineer Designee	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ronnie Helmondollar* Designee	WVU Div. of Land Grant Engagement
Jacob Shuck	WVDA
Clay Lester	WVDA
Robert Shusko, Engineer	D'Appolonia
Gene Saurborn	WVCA
Andrew Roberts	WVCA
John Brown	WVCA
Kimberly D'Arco	WVCA
Dawn Lemle*	USDA
Dexter Graham*	Member of public
Ed Martin*	LKCD
Mike Nichols*	LKCD
Diane Lumadue*	CCD
Bob Buchanan*	LKCD

*Attended via Microsoft Teams

Chairman Kent Leonhardt called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. on July 9, 2026.

SCC Special Meeting Minutes July 9, 2026

Lyons announced meeting notices have been posted with the Secretary of State's Office. Lyons reported the following designee assignments: Jon Bordon, (Natural Resources Conservation Service, provided written designation for Andy Deichert State Engineer. Jorge Atilas, WVU Div. of Land Grant Engagement and WVU Extension, provided written designation for Ronnie Helmondollar. Mr. Harold Ward, WVDEP, provided written designation for Scott Settle.

Robert Shusko, Engineer of D'Appolonia presented a status report on the Upper Grave Creek 7, 8, and 9 flood control structures.

Discussion ensued of the proposed amendments submitted by ACNR mining to the Cooperative Agreement for the Upper Grave 7, 8, and 9 flood control structures mining. The Proposed Amendments to the Co-Operative Agreement:

- Remove State Conservation Committee and add WV Conservation Agency, WV Department of Environmental Protection.

- Remove Upper Grave #8 dam from Agreement.

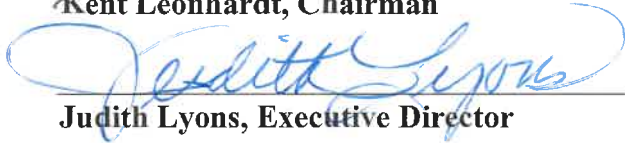
- Reduce the 20-million-dollar bond to 6 million.

- Engage Tetra Tech Engineering firm for the third-party consulting engineer.

Doug Cyphers moved to adjourn at 10:37 a.m. Seconded by Jerry Ours. Motion carried.



Kent Leonhardt, Chairman



Judith Lyons, Executive Director

Reference:

Minutes recorded by Kimberly, WVCA Executive Assistant