

SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JANUARY 10, 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Southern Conservation District held their regular monthly board meeting on January 10, 2019 at the SCD office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Dvon Duncan led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Randy Prince opened the meeting in prayer.

Supervisors Present

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|-----------------|----------------|
| Virgel Caldwell | Curtis Murphy |
| John Farrell | Dennis Bailey |
| John Brenemen | Oscar Vecellio |
| Randy Prince | Randall Patton |
| Dvon Duncan | |

Supervisors Absent

Ray Lafferty
Don Windon

Others Present

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Becky Floyd, WVCA | Dave Parkulo, SCD |
| Marty Walker, WVCA | Jeremy Salyer, WVCA (via video) |
| Jennifer Liddle, WVDEP | |

Randall Patton moved to approve the December 13, 2018 board meeting minutes Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.

Southern Conservation District Financial Reports

Randy Prince moved to approve the December financial reports for the district accounts as prepared by Akers and Associates. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the accounts receivable report. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve the accounts receivable report as prepared by Akers and Associates. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.**

Oscar reported the delinquent account information for Beverly Whitehead is being provided from Harold Wolfe to John Wooton to pursue legal action for payment on behalf of the SCD.

Southern Conservation District Technician Supervisor Report

Dave Parkulo reported on completed work during the last month. Five chestnut trees were transplanted from the YMCA site to the District property. Dvon asked Dave to send her pictures of the trees to forward to Robert Sypolt.

Dave reported on his site visit to Indian Creek. He submitted an estimate for the blockage removal work. Judith Lyons asked the estimate to be revised due to the in-kind services the Wyoming County Commission will provide for the project. Dave has submitted a revised estimate deleting the cost of the district's large truck since it will not be needed for the project. Dvon reported 59 news called her and she needs to return the call today. Dvon stated someone in the county has removed some of the debris(wood) from the blockage site. Jeremy Salyer suggested Dvon respond to 59 news that the project is a collaborative effort between the SCD, WVCA and Wyoming County Commission. The work can begin once the estimate has been accepted by Judith Lyons on behalf of the WVCA.

SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JANUARY 10, 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Dave submitted copies of the proposed equipment rate increases for 2019. **Randall Patton moved to accept the proposed rate increases as submitted by the SCD Equipment Committee. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.** The increase in rates will be effective as of today and will not affect current contracts and request for services that were signed in 2018.

WV Conservation Agency Administrative Service's Assistant III Report

Becky Floyd presented the December financial reports for the co-administered funds as prepared by WVCA staff. **Randall Patton moved to approve the December financial reports for the co-administered funds. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky reported Rod Lowe, with Lowe and Associates has been at the district to work on the FY18 Agreed Upon Procedures report. Becky will work with Mr. Lowe to hopefully have a report by the February board meeting.

Becky discussed the changes for Ag Day this year with the new banners being set up for each district. Becky stated she will not be attending Ag Day this year due to the WVCA changes in the set up and encouraged supervisors to attend the Legislative Breakfast and Ag Day. The new district banners will be set up at the breakfast and then in the Rotunda. Individual district tables will not be set up at each banner. Please let Jeremy know if you request table space for handouts. Many districts feel the promotional handouts are better used in their district at district events.

Becky discussed the WV Grazing Land Conference and reported she has three requests from district cooperators for scholarships for the conference. Landowners who are approved would be responsible to register and cover their hotel costs and then submit the costs to the district for reimbursement if the district decides to continue to offer scholarships to local cooperators. **Dvon Duncan moved to provide two scholarships for each of the SCD counties upon requests from cooperators. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.**

WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report

Marty Walker reviewed the current AgEP database information on paid contracts and unpaid contracts including unfunded application.

Marty submitted a copy of the AgEP Trend Analysis Report prepared by Jennifer Skaggs with assistance from Russell Young. The completion rate for the SCD is 93% which is one of the highest in the state.

Marty reported on WVU Extension meetings being held this month and in February and March in Raleigh, Fayette, and Summers county.

Marty reported she is working on the proposed AgEP Agro-forestry practice information for the board. She will discuss this in more depth with the SCD Forestry Committee at their January 24 meeting.

319 Updates

Dennis Bailey reported there are no new updates for the Pipestem Creek Watershed Based Plan at this time.

Dennis reported he will be holding a portable sawmill demonstration at Rural King in Beckley on February 16 if anyone is interested in attending.

SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JANUARY 10, 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Dvon Duncan introduced Jennifer Liddle the new Southern Based Coordinator for WVDEP. Jennifer reviewed her job position and role as the WVDEP Southern Based Coordinator.

Jennifer discussed the WVDEP "in lieu" program for stream restoration and encouraged the district to work with local farmers on this cost share program. Jennifer provided her contact information to Marty and the contact name for the WVDEP "in lieu" program.

WV Association of Conservation Districts

John Farrell reported he will be attending the WVACD January quarterly meeting. He will check to be sure the district does not need to take any further action on the spring quarterly meeting being held at Pipestem State Park.

John will be attending the Legislative breakfast on Ag Day. Oscar will also try to attend.

Visiting Agency Reports

WV Conservation Agency

Jeremy Salyer reviewed the WVCA monthly report. He encouraged the board to review their district policy manual.

District Personnel Plans are due to the State Conservation Committee by March 1, 2019. Becky reported she will work with Mike Akers on the needed information and submit the plan to the board at the February board meeting for board approval.

Dvon Duncan suggested a meeting be set to review the district policy manual. The board asked Becky to place this on the February board meeting agenda, so a date can be set.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Gary Redden provided an update for the NRCS office.

Supervisor Reports

Oscar Vecellio reported a SCD Building Committee meeting has been scheduled for January 24, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will follow the Forestry Committee meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

John Farrell reported on the Forestry Committee meeting held January 7. John reviewed the goals set by the committee. The next Forestry Committee meeting will be January 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The forestry committee suggested holding the first forestry workshop on February 21 at the SCD Shop from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm. The workshop would include use of portable sawmills and a brief introduction to forestry service personnel and SCD supervisors. A lengthy discussion was held on asking a local cooperator to bring in a portable sawmill or invite local businesses to provide demonstrations and product information. Dennis Bailey questioned inviting businesses and the need to be sure all local business that carry portable sawmills are invited to participate. Jeremy cautioned the district to be sure not to appear to be endorsing just one brand of portable sawmills. John Brenemen suggested a disclaimer be on the flyer stated the district does not endorse brands of portable sawmills. The workshop would be for informational use only. John Farrell stated he will talk with Harold Green to be sure he is available to bring his portable sawmill on February 21. John stated Mr. Green is a local

SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JANUARY 10, 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

cooperator and not affiliated with a retail business related to portable sawmills. It would only be a demonstration on the use of portable sawmills.

Randall Patton stated the blockage removal work on the site in McDowell County that was reported by WVDOH has been completed by the County Commission.

Dvon Duncan reported on the committee meeting held in December to review the VISTA applications received and changes in the district cost of a VISTA worker since the District voted to hire a VISTA. The district cost for a VISTA has increased from \$2,000.00 dollars a year (for two years) to \$3,000.00 a year. Dvon asked the board to approve the increase in the cost for the two-year period in order to move forward with accepting the VISTA application from Hannah Skinner. Virgel Caldwell and Oscar Vecellio discussed concerns on the additional cost of providing a vehicle and other work associated cost with the position. Dvon reminded the board they had approved use of a district vehicle, office space, marketing cost, computer, and telephone expenses in addition to the \$2,000.00 a year for the two-year period.

Dennis Bailey moved to approve the increase of \$1,000.00 for the VISTA for the two-year period.

Dvon Duncan seconded. Additional discussion followed on the job duties of the VISTA. Dvon discussed Coal Heritage suggesting the VISTA not start until April due to Hannah's military obligations. Virgel called for a vote by show of hands. **The motion carried with five positive votes and three negative votes.**

Virgel reminded board members of the January 17, 2019 Plan of Work meeting. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Dvon discussed the May 17, 2019 Wyoming County Water Festival and asked this be placed on the February agenda for a donation request of \$500.00 to \$600.00 for Festival expenses.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell
Chairman

Dvon Duncan
Secretary