

**ELK CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
DRAFT Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2019**

Supervisors Present:

Donald Burroughs
Shirley Hyre
Clark Mollohan
John Pitsenbarger
Mike Smalley

Supervisors Absent:

Ken Stowers
Carly Triplett

Others Present: Suzie Steele, WVCA/ECD DM; Cassidy James, ECD Assistant; Andy Sentz, NRCS DC

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mollohan called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Ms. Hyre**.

AGENDA: Mr. Smalley moved to approve the agenda; Mr. Pitsenbarger seconded; motion passed.

December 20, 2018 Minutes: Ms. Hyre moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Pitsenbarger seconded; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report/December 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Ms. Hyre reported that all accounts are in good order and reported on the balance in the Supervisor Support Account. Ms. Hyre moved to approve the financials and file for audit; second by Mr. Smalley; motion passed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Ms. Hyre moved to approve the payment of bills (list provided at meeting and attached); Mr. Pitsenbarger seconded; motion passed.

REPORTS

DISTRICT EQUIPMENT/OM&R MANAGER'S REPORT: None

***Mr. Burroughs arrived at 10:20 am.**

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: Mrs. Steele presented her written report. (Copy attached.)

DISTRICT ASSISTANT'S REPORT: Ms. James reported on assisting with tree & plant sale, Envirothon contacts, and the maternity leave she will be taking.

WVCA CONSERVATION SPECIALIST REPORT: Mr. Young was not in attendance. He is at training in Morgantown.

AREA DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mrs. Steele reviewed the Agency's report as Mrs. Fisher could not be in attendance today (copy attached).

SWA Reports: Ms. Hyre (Braxton) reported that they have hired a new part time employee. They will be meeting with DEP Education Coordinator soon. They have met with Braxton County Board of Education about implementing recycling of paper and cardboard at schools.

NRCS Personnel: Mr. Sentz reported that they are working and being paid to date using discretionary funds. FSA is in today and should be working the next 2 weeks, 5 days a week without pay. The next 2 weeks the FSA will only be working Tuesday-Thursday. They have to work when instructed or they will be considered AWOL. There are a lot of unknowns at this point. Farm Bill program ended January 18. Most of the sign ups were new customers. They have to have farm and tract numbers which come from FSA, so there will be a delay in getting this information. The new Farm Bill has been passed but it is not known what all is in it. Greg Stone has taken his new position in Kentucky. Damaris Mortenson is acting in his position. Louis Aspey is in DC and Nicole Viars is acting in his position. Soil surveys have been completed. The eligibility requirements for NRCS programs were discussed. The board asked Mr. Sentz for recommendation of attendees for the Appalachian Grazing Conference. Mr. Sentz and Brandon Duckworth will be covering the NRCS booth at Ag Day at the Capitol.

***Mr. Sentz left meeting at the end of his report.**

FSA Personnel: None

WVU Extension: None

Forestry Division: None

REPORTS (cont.)

CD SUPERVISORS: Ms. Hyre reminded everyone that all supervisors may attend quarterly meeting but they cannot vote. She asked that all supervisors recruit farmers to attend the Appalachian Grazing Conference, March 7-9. FFA members can attend for free on Friday of the event, but they do have to register. She reported on the WVACD Quarterly Meeting held Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. The WVACD scholarships will be increased from \$500 to \$1,000 for six students. All posters submitted to the annual poster contest are to be ½ sheet. They are reviewing how the auction to raise funds for the scholarships is conducted. Watershed emergency action plans were discussed. She reported on the Ag Commissioner speaking at the meeting. The State Fair committee is meeting soon and she reminded supervisors to contact the district's DM to sign up to work the booth. Also, meeting will be held soon to discuss the Annual Awards Banquet. The supervisor handbook is being reviewed and updated, as well as a Policy Manual for the WVACD and their By Laws. The WVACD is in the process of setting up a Facebook page. Mr. Mollohan asked about the criteria for the scholarships awarded through the WVACD. He would like to see the application. Mr. Pitsenbarger also reiterated the need to find attendees for the Appalachian Grazing Conference. He has one farmer interest in attending. He reported on the excellent presentation given by Teresa Koontz at the Natural Resources committee meeting at the quarterly meeting. He also reported on information gained from an attendee to the National Farm Bureau meeting.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

AG ENHANCEMENT: Mr. Pitsenbarger reported that any changes the district would like to recommend for the state program need to be submitted by end of January. If there is a problem noted, please offer a solution. If feel a program needs to be taken away, please state why. A state AgEP meeting will be held in March. The ECD will be having their AgEP committee meeting immediately following the February 14th Executive Committee meeting.

BUILDING: None

COMMUNICATION: Ms. Hyre reported that the conference call meetings are going very well with good participation. She stated that Davin While is doing an excellent job.

EDUCATION: Ms. Hyre asked that communications with Envirothon teachers include phone calls. Also, that FFA advisors be contacted about attending the Grazing Conference on Friday, March 8.

EQUIPMENT: None

FINANCE: Ms. Hyre reported the committee will meet on March 12 following the Executive Committee meeting.

FORESTRY: None

GRASSLANDS: Mr. Burroughs reported that the Grazing Lands Steering Committee met on January 11. There were 2 new attendees from MCD. The committee is working on communications and increasing participation.

LEGISLATIVE: Mr. Pitsenbarger will be attending Ag Day and asked supervisors to please contact your representatives and encourage their attendance to the breakfast. Ag Census results will not be released in February as a result of the government shutdown. He asked all supervisors to contact representative to encourage support of the agency's budget presentation as it includes \$2 million for dam maintenance. Discussion was had concerning Big Ditch and the money the district has for maintenance of this structure. It was asked if these funds could be transferred to continue work on the flood damage at Camp Caesar. This option will be pursued. The Senate has approved free two year community and technical college for all high school graduates. This bill will now go to the House. He also reported on the WV Div. of Forestry bill for funding of their employees as first responders to forest fires.

PROJECT: Mrs. Steele reported that the construction on the high tunnel at Birch River Elementary School will begin in February. They have applied for an additional \$5,000 grant from Weyerhaeuser to enclose ends and install other internal items to begin planting in March.

WATER QUALITY: None

OLD BUSINESS

- **SPRP Contract: ECD 2018-08-22 SPRP Buffalo Creek Widen Project** - Nothing at present time
- **Appointment of Clay County Supervisor** - No responses to date

NEW BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

- **Envirothon Workshop** - The dates of March 16 & 30 will be presented to instructors. Date will be set after receiving responses from them.
- **WV Beef Expo program ad** - Mr. Pitsenbarger moved to place a ½ page ad for \$125.00; Ms. Hyre seconded; motion passed.
- **Sponsorship of Junior Conservation Camp** - Ms. Hyre moved to sponsor the camp in the amount of \$1,400.00; Mr. Pitsenbarger seconded; motion passed.

AgEP Payments

Jerry Salisbury - Clay County - Fencing - \$1,000.00

Kathryn Boggs - Webster County - Fencing - \$1,000.00

Ross Young - Braxton County - Cover Crop - \$150.00

Sherry Thomas - Nicholas County - Lime - \$1,232.46

Mr. Pitsenbarger moved to approve payments; Mr. Burroughs seconded; motion passed.

DEP

Southeastern Land, LLC - Renewal 5, Permit O200893 - Jefferson and Henry Districts, Nicholas County

NO COMMENTS

Being no further business to attend to, and on **motion by Mr. Smalley; seconded by Mr. Burroughs; Chairman Mollohan declared the meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm.**

_____, ECD Secretary/Treasurer

DATES TO REMEMBER: (OFFICE CLOSED/ECD MEETINGS)

Jan 30 Ag Day at the Capitol - Breakfast @ 7:30 am

Feb 6 Envirothon Meeting - 10 AM

Feb 14 ECD Executive Committee Meeting - 9 AM & AgEP Committee Meeting to follow

Feb 13-16 WV Small Farms Conference at Charleston Civic Center

Feb 18 ECD Office CLOSED - Presidents' Day

Feb 28 ECD Board Meeting - 10 AM

Mar 6 Envirothon Meeting - 10 AM

Mar 7-9 Appalachian Grazing Conference at Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place Hotel

Mar 12 ECD Executive Committee Meeting - 10 AM & Finance/Budget Committee Meeting to follow

Mar 28 ECD Board Meeting - 10 AM & Policy Manual/Plan of Work Review to follow

Apr 3 Envirothon Meeting - 10 AM

Apr 9 ECD Executive Committee Meeting - 10 AM

Apr 12 WV Grazing Lands Committee Meeting - 10 AM

Apr 17-18 WV Envirothon Competition at Canaan Valley

Apr 22-23 WVACD Quarterly Meeting @ Pipestem State Park

Apr 25 ECD Board Meeting - 10 AM

Jul 15-16 WVACD Quarterly Meeting @ Highlands Event Center, Triadelphia, WV

Oct 21-22 WVACD Quarterly Meeting @ Flatwoods Days Hotel