

SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MARCH 14, 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Southern Conservation District held their regular monthly board meeting on March 14, 2019 at the SCD office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Oscar Vecellio led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Virgel Caldwell opened the meeting in prayer.

Supervisors Present

Virgel Caldwell

Randy Prince

Oscar Vecellio

John Farrell

Dvon Duncan

Randall Patton

Curtis Murphy

Dennis Bailey

Supervisors Absent

Don Windon

Ray Lafferty

John Brenemen

Others Present

Becky Floyd, WVCA

Marty Walker, WVCA

Jeremy Slayer, WVCA

Mark Hudnall, Forestry

Brian Sparks, Extension

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Jennifer Skaggs, WVCA

Gary Redden, NRCS

Lacy Davidson, WV Dept. of Agriculture

Curtis Murphy moved to approve the February 14, 2019 board meeting minutes as mailed. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.

Southern Conservation District Financial Reports

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the district financial reports for February as prepared by Akers and Associates. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.

Oscar Vecellio led a discussion on considering partial pre-payments on district work for cooperators due to several pond repair invoices that became delinquent and have not been paid. Oscar suggested the district either require fifty percent of the cost of the work prior to work beginning or stop accepting requests to repair leaking farm ponds and troughs. A lengthy discussion followed. Virgel reported on the email/letter Dave Parkulo received from Jack Taylor concerning the pond repairs the district completed on his farm. The Taylor invoice was taken off the district books based upon a recommendation from Harold Wolfe following his review of the emails from Mr. Taylor to Dave Parkulo. Mr. Taylor's email suggests he may pursue legal action against the district. Virgel asked Dave to take all files on this matter to John Wooton for his review and recommendations. **Randy Prince moved to leave the SCD request for service and policy on farm pond repairs as is with no changes being made. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

The group reviewed past due invoices. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve the February accounts receivable report as prepared by Akers and Associates. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

SCD District Crew Technician/Supervisor Report

Dave Parkulo reviewed operation and maintenance work completed on Little Whitestick Creek and Soak Creek Channel. Invoices have been submitted to WV Conservation Agency for payment approval.

Dave suggested September 7 as the date for the 2019 SCD Farm Field Day. Dave and Oscar have reviewed a site at the Raleigh County Airport for the event. Oscar will take a letter to Tom Cochran requesting the use of Airport property for the field day.

WV Conservation Agency District Manager Report

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

Becky presented a letter of request to the WV Conservation Agency for \$150,000.00 for the Pipestem Creek project. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve the letter of request to the WVCA for \$150,000.00 for the Pipestem Creek project. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky presented Invoice #4720 for operation and maintenance work on Soak Creek Channel totaling \$8,720.00. **Randall Patton moved to approve payment on Invoice #4720 upon WVCA approval. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky gave an update on the May 22 Women in Agriculture workshop she is coordinating. The event will be held at Tamarack from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Becky reviewed the draft CDO budget for FY20. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve the FY20 CDO budget as presented. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky gave an update on the land judging contest being planned with Greenbrier Valley CD and NRCS. The contest will be held at the Plant Materials Center. Becky will let the board members know when a final date has been set.

Becky gave an update on plans for the April 22 WVACD farm tour (HB Farms) and the picnic. A shelter has been reserved at the park for the picnic. Becky reported she is still trying to find buses to transport the WVACD directors to the farm.

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Becky read the resignation letter from Don Windon. The letter was received March 12 with the resignation being effective immediately. The board asked Becky to place this on the OM&R March 26 meeting agenda.

Becky reviewed the WV Conservation Farm Award program information and encouraged supervisors to meet with Marty Walker and Gary Redden to discuss county farms that may be eligible. County farms need to be presented at the April board meeting.

Becky read the letter from WVU Extension requesting a \$50.00 donation to help with the costs of the Fayette County 4-H Camp. **Randall Patton moved to approve a \$50.00 donation to the Fayette County 4-H Camp from the CDO account. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.**

WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report

Marty Walker gave an update on the Agroforestry practices and program information she has submitted to Jennifer Skaggs for the upcoming state Ag Enhancement Committee meeting next week.

Marty is continuing to work with landowners who have a current AgEP contracts. Marty suggested the board extend the April 30 deadline to May 30. This will be placed on the April board meeting agenda for board action.

Marty reported on the 319-demonstration project on the Testerman Farm. Dvon questioned the cost share on the demonstration project. Jennifer Skaggs stated the landowner match can be in-kind matching including Marty's time on the project. Marty will be the lead on the project and track the in-kind match for the funds.

Visiting Agency Reports

WV Conservation Agency

Jeremy Salyer reminded the board of the WVACD poster contest. Becky reported several schools have said they will participate in the poster contest this year. The information has been distributed to each county board office.

Jeremy discussed Senate Bill 655.

Jeremy reported Brian Farkas will be meeting with the Raleigh County Commission and City of Beckley on March 19 to review the current OM&R agreements and funding. Brian may not request OM&R funds this year due to the current OM&R balances. Jeremy stated the agency will provide Becky with revised one-year OM&R funding agreements in the future. Letters of request to local sponsors will not be sent at this time.

Becky reported Amanda Harvey with the Shady Spring High School is working to develop an Envirothon Team for this year or possibly next year. She will work with Dvon on supply a

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training trunk for the high school. Virgel stated a second training trunk may be needed for Mercer County.

Jennifer Skaggs gave an update on the state AgEP program. The State AgEP Committee will meet March 18. Dennis Bailey will attend as the SCD representative. The allocation formula options will be discussed as well as all proposals she has received from staff and districts. The information will then be presented to the State Conservation Committee at their April 9 meeting.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Gary Redden reported on activities for the field office. He invited board members to attend the upcoming Grassland Contest and encouraged them to select farms with active conservation plans for the conservation farm contest.

Forestry

Mark Hudnall discussed fire season which started this month.

WV Department of Agriculture

Dvon Duncan introduced Lacy Davidson to the board members. Lacy discussed her position as planning coordinator for the WV Department of Agriculture.

Extension

Brian Sparks thanked the board for their donations towards the Extension dinner meetings in their counties and thanked everyone that attended the meetings. Brian gave an update on upcoming activities and training for Extension.

Supervisor Reports

John Farrell thanked everyone for their assistance with the first Forestry Workshop. The SCD Forestry Committee will meet March 25 at 10:00 a.m. The 2nd Forestry Workshop will be held April 9 at the Ghent Area Fire Department. The workshop will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Dvon Duncan discussed the cost of having more conservation coloring books printed for 4th grade students in the district. The district spent \$1,275.00 in 2017 to have 1,500 coloring books printed. **Randall Patton moved to have 1,500 coloring books printed again for this year at the cost of \$1,275.00.** Becky will check with Central Printing to see if the cost will be the same. **Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.** Dvon and Dave will try to locate a coloring book from last time to use for the printing.

Dvon questioned if Fayette County will be holding a water festival this spring. Marty stated she spoke with Jennifer Little and believes the Fayette County water festival will be held April 4.

Dvon Duncan moved to allocate \$800.00 from the CDO account to purchase additional backpacks and help with food costs for the Fayette County water festival if needed by WVDEP.

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Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried. Dvon will work with Randy Prince to check on the water festival to see what is needed and who to make the check payable to in addition to obtaining a written request for the donation.

Virgel Caldwell reported Harold Wolfe is working with CEC on revisions to the engineering Expression of Interest.

Dvon gave an update on the VISTA applications being reviewed. Dvon will contact two applicants interested in the position following the 319 meeting on March 26. Dvon discussed the potential to need a full time 319 person in the district to work on AMD projects as well as educational programs. Virgel suggested Marty assist with the 319 educational programs since she is already working on 319 projects for the district. Jennifer Skaggs discussed the Agency role in 319 and reminded board members the staff is not charged with working on AMD related 319 projects. Jennifer discussed the agriculture role the Agency has with 319 funding and projects and stated septic tanks can be included if the project is related to agriculture. Marty offered to assist with 319 education in the district as her schedule allows but cannot be in the schools on a full-time basis.

John Farrell reported on a summer conservation camp being held at Camp Lightfoot this year for 4-6 grade students.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell
Chairman

Dvon Duncan
Secretary