

MINUTES

Western Conservation District Board Meeting

MARCH 21, 2019

In Attendance

Supervisors: Charles Lipscomb, Chairman; Oscar Harris, Vice-Chairman; Jim Withrow, Secretary; Don Stephens, Treasurer; Peachie Arthur; Jeremy Grant

Others: Dennis Brumfield, CPA, District Bookkeeper; Jackie Byars, District Conservationist; Kim Fisher, Area Director, Russell Kidwell, CT; and Sherry Pearson, District Manager; WVCA.

Call to Order

Chairman Lipscomb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the district office in Point Pleasant.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

On a Harris/Arthur motion the agenda was adopted. Motion carried. On a Harris/Grant motion the minutes of the February meeting were approved as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

General & CDO Funds - District CPA, Dennis Brumfield reviewed the financial reports.

Co-Administered Funds - WCD Co-Administered Funds Report as presented by DM as prepared by WVCA.

Financial Transactions for March were approved as listed on a Grant/Harris motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Stephens presented the payroll report with a total of \$2,127. **On a Harris/Arthur motion payroll was approved. Motion carried.**

Correspondence

Leon Garden Based Learning – A letter was read that was received by Principal Green of Leon Elementary. The amount of \$7,000 has been secured by the school to be matched with \$7,000 from the WCD. On a Harris/Arthur motion the approved to send a check for \$7,000 to Leon Elementary and request a receipt of funds be sent back to the WCD. Motion Carried.

Buffalo FFA Request - The district received a request to be a sponsor of the chapters fund raising efforts to provide the opportunity for all members to attend the national convention without cost. On a Withrow/Arthur motion the board approved \$250 arena sponsor to assist with their fund-raising efforts. Motion carried.

Programs

OM&R – Judith Lyons, Watershed Manager South – Provided a written report

The written report was reviewed. Oscar reported on the comments about additional work needed on Mill Creek's 4 and 8. He is still planning to speak with the owner of house at site 9 to request when staff stop by the dogs will not be running loose.

Agriculture Enhancement Program

Oscar said he had spoke to Brian and the Agency's budget did receive \$3Million for dams. Oscar felt that should remain in the budget year after year for maintenance. Chairman Lipscomb commented that the supervisors should be complimented on assisting with the Agency's budget increase for dams.

State AgEP Committee – Oscar Harris, Committee Member

Oscar reported on the meeting held on March 18th. There was only one change in the program documents. There also were a couple districts that presented suggestions for the funding formula. The Committee decided to go with the current formula. Looks like we should get somewhere around \$80,000 as in the past years. He said Jennifer gave the balances of each district's AgEP with WCD's being around \$37,000. There were four new practices that will be added to the list if approved by the State Committee. They are forest stand improvement, pollinator habitat with a delayed mowing for a period of 1 year added, riparian forest buffer and silvo pasture.

WCD AgEP Committee – Oscar Harris, Chairman

Oscar also gave a reported the committee met and came up with leaving the program the same as last year. Sherry asked for clarification on the deadline for water and lime contracts, as last year's deadline was December for those folks. After a brief discussion. It was decided that all practices will have the same May 31st deadline.

On a Harris/Grant motion the board approved to keep the program the same as 2017's program, with all practice deadlines the same. Motion carried.

The following payments were approved on a Withrow/Harris motion, motion carried.

LIME

Chris Deweese	98 tons	\$2,058
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Cancellation Request

On a Harris/Stephens motion the following cancellation was received. Motion carried.

Buckner Douglas	Water System
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CHERRY FORK 319

Russell attended the March 11, Putnam County Farm Bureau meeting to give a presentation on the Cherry Fork Project. From that meeting he has visited with three farms needing stream bank stabilization. He will be working to set up a community meeting at Confidence Elementary soon. He met with Mark Buchanan yesterday to gather additional information about the project area. There are several failing septic tank systems. He is hunting for ag related issues. He has identified a demonstration farm at the extreme headwaters, Chris Arthur Farm. He asked that it be put on next month's agenda for approval from the board and said the funds are already on hand for the project. Oscar replied that it seemed very fluid. The board asked Russell to find out where the funds are coming from and other questions answered about the demo project. Russell said the Cherry Fork Project budget for the state is \$120,000. He went over practices that were approved and said no ponds would be built. Fencing of creeks and ponds, running lines from city water for troughs, division fencing, and containment areas were mentioned.

Old Business

- ◆ Century Farms-The applicants reviewed at last month's meeting. The Casto Farm from Jackson County and the Cain Farm in Putnam. **On a Harris/Stephens motion the two farms were approved by the board to be Century Farms. Motion Carried.**

- ◆ Agriculture Workshop- March 26th at the Farm Museum everything is set a supervisor needs to pick up the sweet tea and coffee from McDonald's and pay a \$30 deposit for the coolers. They are charging \$10 for the sweet tea and coffee is free. The lunch and morning snacks are being provided by the Coffee Grinder.

New Business

- ◆ Cherry Fork LOR – **On a Stephens/Withrow motion the board approved a LOR of \$120,000 for the Cherry Fork Project. Motion carried.**
- ◆ Equipment Bid Policy – **On a Harris/Grant motion the minimum bid was set as 10% of the purchase price. Motion Carried. On a Harris/Grant motion in case of a tied bids only those will be asked to re-submit an additional sealed bid within 10 days. Motion carried.** Sherry asked if anyone had located the fourth hiller, Oscar replied no.
- ◆ County Conservation Farms – Supervisors need to have their county farm chosen by the April board meeting. The district farm must be selected in May. Jackie said she would put some names together.

Agency Reports

West Virginia Conservation Agency

Kim Fisher, Area Director - Written Report Submitted (attached)

The next WVACD meeting will be at Pipestem with reservation deadline this Friday. Sign up for the State Fair is on line, just get with the DM to register. The photo and poster contests are coming up and the theme is on the report.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jackie Byars, District Conservationist

The local workgroup meeting set for April 9th at Ripley will begin at 9:30 a.m. She provided a printout of all EQIP applications per county and fund code. A total of 54 applications have been taken totaling \$2,540,692.00. Also, reported the first round of funding went to high tunnels, eleven were funded; ten in Mason and 1 in Jackson. Also, Jordan's son was born on Monday, Hudson Troy joins big sister Khloe.

Report of Supervisors

Jim attend the Appalachian Grazing Conference and gave a brief account.

Oscar also attended the Grazing Conference and gave a detailed report of speakers.

Both were very complimentary of the conference. Jim felt it was better than the one he attended in Nevada.

Adjournment

Chairman Lipscomb stated the date of the next meeting will be Thursday, April 18th, at 9 a.m. With no further business, Chairman Lipscomb adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Sherry Pearson

Approved by: _____

James Withrow, Secretary

Attachments

