

Southern Conservation District  
June 13, 2019  
Board Meeting Minutes

The Southern Conservation District held their regular monthly board meeting on June 13, 2019 at the SCD office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Curtis Murphy led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ray Lafferty opened the meeting in prayer.

Supervisors Present

Virgel Caldwell	Curtis Murphy
Randall Patton	Dvon Duncan
Oscar Vecellio	Ray Lafferty
John Farrell	Dennis Bailey

Supervisors Absent

Randy Prince  
John Brenemen

Others Present

Becky Floyd, WVCA	Jeremy Salyer, WVCA
Dave Parkulo, SCD	John Wooton, Attorney
Aron Sattler, NRCS	Logan Lilly, FFA Student
Kevin Okes, FFA	
Justin Massie, FFS Student	

**FFA Presentation**

Kevin Okes introduced the two FFA Shady Spring High School students and thanked the board for allowing them to present their practice speech on agricultural issues. The students will be presenting their agricultural topic at a convention in July.

**Accounts Receivable**

**Dvon Duncan moved to enter an Executive Session based upon the recommendation from John Wooton to discuss potential litigation concerning the past due invoice for Jack Taylor. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

**The regular meeting reconvened at 10:26 a.m. Dvon Duncan moved to authorize John Wooton to contact Mr. Taylor on behalf of the Southern Conservation District to suggest an alternative method of resolution by meeting with a mediator, and appointing Virgel Caldwell to attend the mediation with John Wooton to settle the matter if an agreement can be reached by both parties, in addition to Dave Parkulo being present as district personnel related to the work. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.** Dvon asked the minutes reflect that no actions or motions were taken during the executive session.

**World Boy Scout Jamboree**

Aron Sattler discussed the upcoming Boy Scout Jamboree. A copy of high tunnel invoice from Puckett was provided to board members. The invoice reflects the donation made by Puckett Greenhouse showing no amount is due on the cost of the high tunnel. NRCS will pick up the high tunnel and start set up around July 16 with assistance from Puckett and SCD along with other jamboree volunteers. Aron asked if the district would consider providing food for at least 8 NRCS volunteers and workers during the Jamboree? Aron stated they would get the food from Dave as needed like they did in the

past. **Ray Lafferty moved to authorize Dave Parkulo to spend up to \$500.00 for food for the Jamboree workers/volunteers. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried. Dvon stated she would like to attend the Jamboree.** Aron will send Becky the volunteer information to be sent to the supervisors.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**Randall Patton moved to approve the May 9, 2019 board meeting minutes as mailed. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

#### **Review/Approval of Southern Conservation District May Financial Reports**

**Randall Patton moved to approve the May SCD financial reports as prepared by Akers and Associates. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

The group discussed the Accounts Receivable report. **Dennis Bailey moved due to Henderson Rental going out of business and no forwarding address or telephone is available to write off their past due \$150.00 invoice as uncollectable. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

**Randall Patton moved to approve the May accounts receivable report as prepared by Akers and Associates. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.**

#### **Southern Conservation District Crew Technician/Supervisor Report**

Dave Parkulo reported 195 tons of lime has been delivered. Rental equipment is being used by landowners and all SCD dams have been mowed and invoices sent to WVCA. Dave reviewed the work that still needs to be completed under the AgEP program and requested the June 14 deadline be extended to June 30. **Dennis Bailey moved to extend the FY19 cost share to June 30, 2019. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Dave discussed the other district OM&R agreements and reported Little Kanawha CD rejected his bid he submitted to the Agency. Dave stated Little Kanawha CD board wants Tygart's Valley to do the work. A lengthy discussion was held concerning the fact that Little Kanawha now has Dave's quote and that another district should not be able to bid against another district unless it is done by sealed bids. **Dennis Bailey moved the district send correspondence to Brian Farkas to express the district's concerns on the bid process regarding public funds. Ray Lafferty seconded.** Randall will send the email to Brian as SCD equipment committee chair. **Motion carried.**

Jeremy reported the other three-party district agreements have been dispersed to each district in Area One to review SCD quotes, so work can start. The group reviewed the draft OM&R agreement.

Dave discussed the mini excavator brush cutter attachment currently rented to do OM&R work. **Randall Patton moved to purchase the brush cutter attachment for the JD mini 60 at \$8,800.00. Dennis Bailey seconded.** Dennis questioned should Dave get other quotes for this type of attachment. Dave stated this is the top of the line for this type of unit. **Motion carried.**

**WV Conservation Agency District Manager Report**

**Dvon Duncan moved to approve the May co-administered financial report as prepared by the WVCA fiscal staff. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky Floyd presented the following Letters of Request (LOR) for board approval:

WVCA	FY20 AgEP funds	\$58,000.00
City of Beckley	OM&R Funds – Cranberry Creek Channel	\$5,500.00
Mercer County Commission	OM&R funds – Mercer Count	\$20,000.00

**Dennis Bailey moved to approve the Letters of Request as presented. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky presented the following invoices for payment approval:

SCD Invoice 4779	OM&R work	\$6,428.00
SCD Invoice 4796	OM&R work	\$1,140.00
SCD Invoice 4795	OM&R work	\$2,700.00
SCD Invoice 4794	OM&R work	\$1,000.00
SCD Invoice 4783	OM&R work	\$950.00
SCD Invoice 4782	OM&R work	\$2,275.00
SCD Invoice 4781	OM&R work	\$1,000.00
SCD Invoice 4780	OM&R work	\$1,000.00
SCD Invoice 4792	OM&R work	\$2,700.00
SCD Invoice 4791	OM&R work	\$950.00
SCD Invoice 4790	OM&R work	\$1,620.00
SCD Invoice 4789	OM&R work	\$1,620.00
SCD Invoice 4801	OM&R work	\$1,000.00
SCD Invoice 4800	OM&R work	\$2,275.00

**Randall Patton moved to approve the invoices presented for payment approval. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky discussed the Rack Cards being developed for the districts by the state fair committee. Rack cards can be purchased at \$16.00 for 100 cards. **Dennis Bailey moved to purchase 1,000 rack cards at \$16.00 per 100 costing the district \$160.00. John Farrell seconded. Motion carried.**

The group reviewed the copy of the draft OM&R Agreement with other districts and the Agency related to the district performing OM&R work outside the SCD. **Dvon Duncan moved to authorize Virgel Caldwell to sign the OM&R agreements as they are approved by other districts and sent to the SCD for signature. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

The group reviewed the draft WVCA/SCC Emergency Watershed Protection Response Policy. Copies were provided to the supervisors for review. Comments should be forwarded to Brian Farkas or Jeremy Salyer by the end of June. A discussion was held on appointing supervisors from each county to be

authorized as the contact for emergency watershed protection response once the SCC has approved the policy.

Becky presented the changes made to the current SCD Plan of Work by the committee of supervisors that met in May to review the plan. The new Plan of Work is due to the WV Conservation Agency by June 15. **Dennis Bailey moved to approve the 2019=2020 Plan of Work. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky reported the following farms were toured as part of the SCD 2019 Conservation Farm Contest:

Steve and Debbie DeHart Farm	Mercer County
Jim Tolliver Farm	Raleigh County

Becky announced the Steve and Debbie DeHart Farm was selected as the 2019 SCD Conservation Farm with the Tolliver Farm being recognized as the Raleigh County Conservation Farm.

#### **WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report**

Becky reported Marty Walker has provided her with the contract approvals and cancelations to present to the board. Marty has been on sick leave and will not be in until later today.

Becky presented the following FY19 Emergency Revegetation Program contracts for payment:

Harry Garrett	\$600.00
Rufus Reed	\$600.00
Ronald/Vicky Reed	\$840.00
Allison Cyrus	\$840.00
Jim Tolliver	\$3,000.00
James Bennett	\$540.00
Michael Mines	\$360.00
Leremy Johnson	\$900.00
Ron Testerman	\$600.00
Pamela Bailey	\$300.00
David Mullins	\$1,800.00
• Curtis Murphy	\$1,080.00

**Curtis Murphy recused himself from the room for the vote due to having a contract for payment approval. Dvon Duncan and Dennis Bailey recused themselves from the room for the vote due to being related to Michael Mines. Randall Patton moved to approve the Emergency Revegetation Program contracts as presented. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried. Curtis Murphy, Dvon Duncan and Dennis Bailey returned to the meeting**

Becky presented the following FY19 Emergency Revegetation Program contracts for cancelation:

Rob Jiranek	\$900.00
Luther Bennett	\$420.00
Kevin Okes	\$240.00
Alan Gunnoe	\$180.00

- Ray Lafferty                      \$120.00

**Ray Lafferty recused himself from the vote. Randall Patton moved to approve the Emergency Revegetation cancelations. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky presented the following FY19 AgEP completed contracts for payment approval:

Water System  
Roy McDaniel                      \$1,000.00

Lime  
John Kincaid                      \$637.50  
Stacy Young                      \$800.00  
Charles Pennington              \$1,376.50

**Randall Patton moved to approve the AgEP contracts for payment. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.**

### **319 Updates**

Dvon questioned if there are any updates on the 319 projects for Summers County. Dennis and Dvon will follow up with Marty. Dennis questioned when will landowners be able to sign up for 319 projects related to the Pipestem Watershed Plan. Becky read the email from Jennifer Skaggs related to the Pipestem Watershed Plan.

Dvon suggested the 319 discussions be limited to the board meetings until there are new updates on the TMDL's or 319 demonstration project. A 319 meeting will be scheduled when needed.

### **Elections**

Randall Patton reported he worked with Randy Prince on suggestions for FY20 board officers. Randall presented the following slate for FY20 Officers: Chairman – Virgel Caldwell, Vice Chairman – Curtis Murphy, Secretary – Dvon Duncan., Treasurer – Oscar Vecellio. Virgel opened the floor for additional nominations for all officers. **Randall moved to reappoint the current officers for FY20. John Farrell seconded. Motion carried.**

**Randall Patton moved to nominate Oscar Vecellio as the 2019 SCD Supervisor of the Year and Carroll Greene nominee. Dvon Duncan seconded. Virgel opened the floor for additional nominations. Motion carried.**

**Randall Patton moved to reappoint Ray Lafferty and John Farrell to serve as the FY20 SCD WVACD directors. Dvon Duncan seconded. Virgel opened the floor the additional nominations. Motion carried.**

**Randall Patton moved to nominate Virgel Caldwell as the SCD 2019 WVACD Honorary Member nominee. John Farrell seconded. Motion carried. Virgel opened the floor for additional nominations. Motion carried.**

### **Visiting Agencies**

#### *WV Conservation Agency*

Jeremy Salyer reviewed the written Agency report. Jeremy reviewed the AgEP deadline dates for FY20 including the November/December 2019 State AgEP committee mid-year meeting to review allocation formula proposals and new practices. Dennis will continue to represent the district at these meetings.

Jeremy reviewed SB655 stating the comment deadline is June 29 at 4:00 p.m. Dennis Bailey reported he the open meeting for the public held on June 5 via video at the SCD office. A discussion was held on the funding for the new grant program being developed by the Agency. Dvon Duncan and Dennis Bailey requested the following questions be submitted to Belinda Withrow:

Question 1: Will the new grant program funds only be allocated from residual dollars and new line item dollars in the future or will the currently funded programs such as the CDO operation grant funds, AgEP grant funds, RC&D grant funds ever be cut to supplement the new grant program?

Question 2: Will the new grant program allocate RC&D funding based upon the number of counties in each council?

Question 3: Part A Under 63-3-3 Administration 3.5 Will the word "may" be changed to "shall" to be sure all recommendations from conservation districts related to the grant program are considered by the State Conservation Committee? Part B of Question 3: What ranking, or selection criteria will be used to determine which applicants receive grants and will district input be considered in developing the ranking criteria?

Becky was asked to submit these on behalf of the SCD.

#### *Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Dvon reported on the local work group meeting held and the suggestions this by a "buy year" with no new programs being submitted by the district. Dvon stated she is working with FSA on a list of farms in Wyoming that might be potential landowners interested in an exclusion fencing and feeding projects in the Guyandotte Watershed area. The program would be a partner project with Guyan CD. **Dvon Duncan moved the SCD submit in partnership with the Guyan CD a water, feeding and exclusion fence program for landowners in the Guyandotte Watershed areas. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.** Dvon will follow up with Gary Redden on the motion to submit a program for this year.

Becky Floyd reported Katy McBride submitted a HEL plan for Billy Johnson for board approval and signature. **Dennis Bailey moved to approve the HEL plan and authorize Virgel Caldwell to sign the plan. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Dvon reported Fred Halsey has a conservation plan which was prepared by Danny Carter and the plan needs updated. Dvon forwarded this request to Gary Redden and Marty Walker. Dave reported Marty does not write or develop conservation plans. Jeremy suggested Mr. Halsey email Gary. Dvon will provide him Gary's email address.

### **WV Association of Conservation Districts**

Becky reminded the board posters are due to the WVACD at their July meeting. Ray and John plan to attend the July WVACD meeting and will take the posters for state judging.

**SCD Supervisor Reports:**

Dvon read the letter from Mountain RC&D requesting FY2020 funding totaling \$19,000.00. Dvon stated the list of projects are still being developed. **Dvon Duncan moved to submit the Letter of Request for Mountain RC&D FY20 grant funds to the WV Conservation Agency. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.**

Dvon reported she has resigned as SCD representative for Mountain RC&D but will continue to work in transition to help with FY19 close out of projects and FY20 funding submittals. Dvon encouraged the board be considering someone to replace her as their representative on the Mountain RC&D board. Randall will consider this. Virgel asked Becky to place this on the July board meeting agenda.

Dvon reported she updated the SAM's registration which allows the district to continue to receive federal rent dollars. **Dvon moved to authorize Virgel to sign the SAM's renewal letter. Randall Patton seconded. The motion carried.**

Dvon discussed the VISTA position and efforts over the last two years to hire a qualified individual for this position. The VAD for this position may be more than a person is willing to take on for dollars a VISTA would earn for the two years. Dvon suggested the board to consider hiring a full-time employee to carry out work related to conservation education, grant writing, marketing and 319 programs and project. Dvon suggested requesting the WV Conservation Agency to provide half of the cost for this position based upon \$40,000.00 which would include salary and benefit costs. The person would be hired on a 6-month probationary period. **Dennis Bailey moved to send a letter to Brian Farkas requesting the Agency provide a 50/50 match for the cost of a full-time district employee to carry out work related to 319 projects, conservation education, marketing and grant writing based upon a \$40,000.00 salary including benefits. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:19.

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell  
Chairman

Dvon Duncan  
Secretary