

MINUTES

Western Conservation District Board Meeting

OCTOBER 17, 2019

In Attendance

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

Others: Brian Farkas, Executive Director State Conservation Agency; Dennis Brumfield, CPA, District Bookkeeper; Sherry Pearson, DM; Russell Kidwell, WVCA; Jackie Byars, DC, NRCS

Call to Order

Chairman Lipscomb called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at the district office in Point Pleasant.

Adopt Agenda / Approve Minutes

On a Harris/Stephens motion the agenda was adopted as presented. Passed. On a Harris/Arthur motion the minutes were approved, motion was withdrawn after Don stated he had also voted no on the motion to put a fourth supervisor on the Personnel Committee. On a Harris/Stephens the minutes will be amended to show a no vote for Stephens. Passed. Stephens/Harris motion to approve minutes as amended. Passed. Special Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2019 were approved on a Stephens/Harris motion. Passed.

Financial Reports

General & CDO Funds - District CPA, Dennis Brumfield reviewed the financial reports. Brumfield said he had transferred the \$6,000 rent to restricted. He did agree to be the Benefits Coordinator with PEIA for the WCD. It takes two months to apply and get approved with PEIA. A discussion followed about a 60-day probationary period before offering insurance. He did check on signature stamps, the bank can take care of ordering them. Brian cautioned these are federal funds, an auditor may have an issue with signature stamps as it pertains to fiscal responsibility. Jackie stated that Beth Bishop with NRCS said they do not require copies of checks just the paid document.

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

On a Harris/Stephens motion Financial Reports were accepted and will be filed for audit. Passed. Financial Transactions for October were approved on a Harris/Withrow motion. Passed.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Stephens provided and reviewed the payroll spreadsheet. **The total payroll report for \$1,739.32 was approved on a Harris/Arthur motion. Passed.**

Report of Budget Committee

FY 20 CDO Grant Budget will remain the same as last year. It was noted a line item will need to be added to the budget for the NRCS grant employee. WCD will pay the expenses then be reimbursed

Agency Reports

BRIAN FARKAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- Written monthly WVCA Report provided. Brian mentioned Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday's meetings, the Awards banquet and NE NACD Listening Session. He encouraged supervisors to attend. NE NACD will be educating supervisors on how to talk to Legislators, Senators and Delegates. The importance of and what you can do to improve relationships. On Wednesday there is a NACD Listening Session on how to improve on services how to talk with NACD. The President of NACD and NE representative will be attending. The FY21 budget submitted to the Governor's office was status quo at \$11,023,000.00. If cut, the \$3 Million that applies to dams would bring that to a halt. A Special Flood Committee met for 2 ½ hours on the dam program repair and rehab and a reasonable increase for the budget. Brian was asked to come up with a pre-flood plan for state dams and streams as it's "not if but when" the next flood comes. The Feds are shifting costs on to the states. The next meeting of the committee is in December.

The Chairman said he appreciated Brian attending today.

JACKIE BYARS, DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST – NRCS:

The fiscal year has ended for USDA. The New Farm Bill of 2018 will be implemented this year. They are operating on a continuing resolution until November 21st. An ACES clerical position has opened up in Pt Pleasant and Ripley, for two days a week starting in November. The week before Thanksgiving NRCS will be training in Morgantown. The USDA Soil Conservation position has received one application so far. She also noted that due to a possible conflict that Suzy Daubert will be the Point of Contact (POC) for the interviews.

Correspondence – None

Programs

O&M

Judith Lyons, Manager Watershed South – Sent a written report. The report had a photo showing the recently cleared channel at Mill Creek Site 4. Brian has been in contact with a landowner in Jackson County wanting a right of way through Mill Creek 10. Dam Safety has no problem with the request. NRCS says the area is below flood elevation. Oscar noted the road is the spillway at Site 10. Jackie reports that the City of Ripley is now working to repair the water intake. Nikki Cox has been overseeing the gate at MC10 for water supply requested by the City. Brian noted that the City is responsible if any damages to the gate. The OM&R Inspections will be held on October 29th beginning at Site 13 at 9 a.m. Supervisors plan to meet at the Ripley field office at 8:30. Oscar reported that Southern CD did a good job recently with Judith keeping a close eye on the project. Oscar commented to Brian that getting the additional \$3 Million budget for dams was a stroke of genius.

AGRICULTURE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (AgEP)

- ♦ On a Withrow/Arthur motion the following contract payments were approved. Passed.

LIME

Carr, Justin	\$1,722.00	90 tons
Hoffman, Joe	\$1,890.00	90 tons
H&H Cattle Inc	\$2,100.00	100 tons
H&H Farms LLC	\$2,100.00	100 tons
Scholl, Marc	\$ 630.00	30 tons
Stone, M Dale	\$2,100.00	100 tons
Randolph, Everette	\$ 504.00	24 tons
Taylor, Greg	\$1,676.00	80 tons

EXIGENCY PROGRAM

No applications have been received.

- ◆ Re-Allocation of Emergency Re-Vegetation Funds of \$8,329.29
Harris motioned to rescind original motion to return the re-vegetation funds to WVCA, funds will be rolled over in to new Exigency Program account, second by Stephens. Passed.

CHERRY FORK 319

- ◆ **Invoice for \$30 to Analabs was approved on a Withrow/Stephens motion. Passed.**
Russell said this charge will be ongoing as Jacob from Greenbrier Valley CD will be pulling samples on a monthly basis.

Unfinished Business

- ◆ **On a Harris/Stephens motion the board gave approval to Russell to submit Bale Grazing, Summer Annual Planting and Forest Access Road to the State AgEP Committee for consideration. Passed.**
- ◆ **On a Harris/Withrow motion the board approved up to \$15 a meal for a caterer and \$150 for decorations that will also be used as door prizes. Passed.**

New Business

- ◆ The Personnel Committee will meet November 5th at 9:00 a.m.

Report of Supervisors

Great Kanawha RC&D - Peachie asked about the GKRC&D grant funding. Brian commented they need to comply with the requirements of the MOU.

Leon Elementary High Tunnel – Jim said he would like to do periodic checks on the progress but was told no. Oscar said Jim should go if there is a need. Chuck said it's in his area and if there is an issue, he wants to hear about it.

O&M Agreement with Jackson County Commission – Don reported he has been checking with the progress and has been told it is still with the Commission's lawyer. Brian suggested we invoice the JCC for their share of O&M plus 10% for a total of \$4,400.

Adjournment

The date of the next meeting was set for November 21, at 9:00 a.m. at the District office in Point Pleasant. With no further business Chairman Lipscomb adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Sherry Pearson,DM

Attachments

Approved by: _____

James Withrow, Secretary