



MINUTES

Western Conservation District Board Meeting

April 28, 2020

In Attendance on the Teleconference

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

Absent: Jeremy Grant

Others: Justin Knopp, Soil Conservationist; Jackie Byars, DC; Sherry Pearson, DM; Kim Fisher, Area Director

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 Stephens/Arthur motion the agenda was adopted. Passed.

On an Arthur/Harris motion the minutes for March 2020 were approved. Passed

Financial Reports

Financial Reports for March will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Approved checks listed on the Financial Transactions for April on a Stephens/Harris motion. Passed.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Stephens provided and reviewed the payroll spreadsheet. **Payroll for three supervisors Lipscomb, Harris and Stephens in the amount of \$487.40 was approved on a Harris/Arthur. Passed.**

PEIA Administrator – A supervisor needed to be the PEIA Web Administrator in addition to Dennis Brumfield being the benefits coordinator. **On a Stephens/Harris motion Chairman Lipscomb will be the web administrator for PEIA. Passed.**

Electronic Transfer of PEIA Premium - PEIA requires an electronic transfer to pay insurance premiums. **On a Harris/Stephens motion the use of Electronic Transfers from the WCD bank account to PEIA was approved. Passed.**

Programs

WCD USDA Grant Employee - Justin reported he is working two to three days a week in the Ripley NRCS office. He has been doing assessments on high tunnels, grazing plans and on-line AgLearn training. Jackie said the NRCS staff has been doing rankings for EQIP noting they have around 200 to do.

O&M Watershed Dams

A discussion was held about this year's work orders and the total amount needed to cover the cost. It was noted that the total amount for Mill Creek (\$27,620) exceeds the amount of funding (12,756.93) by \$14,863.07. Pocatalico has \$15,612.00 with work orders at \$6,600. **On a Harris/Stephens motion to send an LOR to WVCA for the amount needed for mowing, using both Poca and MC funds, then ask for the rest from the**

agency. Oscar withdrew this motion. Oscar then made a motion to request by LOR only the amount needed for Mill Creek, not using Poca funds for MC, which is \$27,620 and the \$1,570 for MC5 Hemlock spraying which is a total of \$29,190 with a current MC balance of \$12,756.93, seconded by Stephens. An LOR for \$16,433.07 would cover the costs. This does not include the using the \$3,000 state supplemental OM&R. Also, Sherry mentioned that without the Jackson County Commission's signed agreement from last year we cannot request the \$4,400 from the agency. Don said the JCC has not been holding meetings, he hopes to attend the next one to try and get a signed agreement.

On a Harris/Stephens motion, the work order from Southern CD for \$1,570 to spray the poison hemlock on MC 5 was approved. Passed.

AGRICULTURE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (AgEP)

On a Stephens/Harris motion the board requested a written report by email from Russell Kidwell on the status of this year's AgEP program. Passed.

AgEP Payments

The following AgEP payments were approved on a Harris/Stephens motion. Passed.

Lime

Forrest Deweese \$2,100

Fence

Roger Stone \$2,100

Steve Harmon \$2,775

Eugene Williamson \$2,100

Chairman Lipscomb talked about extending the deadline to complete AgEP practices for this year from May 30th to June 18th. This June board meeting June 25th to approve the payments. **On a Stephens/Harris motion the board agreed to extend the completion deadline to June 18th. Passed.**

FY21 AgEP Meeting – The board set the date of May 19th to finalize FY21 program for the year. It will be by teleconference or in the office. The May board meeting will be May 21st. Jim Withrow suggested the group meet in a larger setting to keep with the 6' social distancing rule.

NEW BUSINESS

- ♦ Conservation Farmer Award Program - A survey was sent by WVACD to the district directors about the conservation farm award program this year. They wanted to know if each CD was going to continue this year or not continue due to covid19. Jim Withrow contacted each supervisor for their thoughts on the award program this year. **On a Stephens/Harris motion the 2020 farm award in WCD is cancelled. Passed.**

The date of the next meeting was set for May 21st at 9:00 a.m. With no further business Chairman Lipscomb adjourned the meeting at 10:09 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Sherry Pearson, DM

Attachments

Approved by: _____

James Withrow, Secretary