

The **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors held a Regular Board Meeting on *August 12, 2015* commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the district conference room in Philippi, WV. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Wolfe.

*Supervisors Present:* Robert Wolfe, Joe Gumm, Rex Reeder, Jim Nester, Sheldon Findley, John Sencindiver, David Bonner, and Sigrid Teets – TVCD/WesMonTy RC&D.

*Others Present:* Hillary Woofter – WVCA, Joyce Frey – TVCD, Ben Collier- NRCS, Corey Lambert – TVCD, and Chris Winslow - FSA.

Reeder led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:**

*August 12, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda:* **Reeder moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**

*July 27, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes:* **Reeder moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**

**Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors:** Chairman Wolfe introduced Chris Winslow to everyone present, and asked that he proceed in discussing his ongoing issue with the NRCS regarding wetland designation on his property. Photographic and video evidence taken the year prior was shared, indicating drainage in the water system. The original Barbour County survey listed the property in question as well drained Gilpin, and subsequent photo evidence showed two separate instances of cropping in the field, while others have lead him to believe the entire field has been cropped at some time. A formal designation of the field was made by Jared Beard, WV State Soil Scientist - NRCS, several months earlier, and Winslow expressed concerns over the district not having been included as counsel. He asked that the district prepare a letter that indicates the board's consensus that could ultimately be entered as evidence for his appeal with the NAD. Sencindiver stated that per the site visit he attended with Beard, Winslow, and Wolfe, the field shows evidence of it being a wetland, and the next option was to dig out the field up to the area in question, and prove what system is in place and whether it had been manipulated. Winslow commented that rock have been filled into areas of the property which argues as evidence of their having been manipulation. He is disputing what type of wetland it is, as a prior converted wetland would allow him to drain and crop the field as desired. Any evidence the board wished to submit to Winslow needed to be received as his pre-hearing conference was scheduled for August 19, 2015. The board thanked Winslow for his time, and indicated that the matter would be further discussed later in the meeting.

Wolfe asked Winslow if there was anything he'd like to report on regarding FSA. Winslow said that statewide, WV FSA offices ran out of operating funds, and they had received the highest number of loans in recent history. Youth loans were still available for 4-H and FFA students. Wolfe thanked Winslow for his efforts in getting loans issued to young farmers.

*Winslow thanked everyone for their time, and excused himself from the meeting.*

**Treasurer Report:** Frey gave a short report, noting that the district general account had roughly \$39,000.00 remaining, and that nearly \$34,000.00 was outstanding in account receivables.

Additionally, Frey stated that she'd give a full end of fiscal year 2015 report at the next board meeting, and had been busy preparing for the procedural audit the coming week.

**District Report:** Lambert reported that the post driver had needed work to remain operational. Also, truck V was fitted with new tires, and the brakes were fixed on the lowboy. Several windows on the excavator were being replaced due to damage incurred while on a job site. As for the work crew, Ricky Waugaman quit his employment as a laborer. Since then, Shawn Starkey was hired as a replacement and so far, was working well alongside the crew. The work for LKCD was wrapping up, and had been inspected by Ed Martin and Jim Roy. The work on Upper Buffalo was finishing up as well, and lastly, Lambert anticipated finishing Winspear by the end of the week.

**District Manager Report:** Woofter reviewed her written report (copy attached). She added that the Akers' easement violation on Pecks Run in Upshur County had been forwarded to Gene Saurborn for handling.

**Dates (District Meetings/Work Sessions) to Remember:**

- I. District BBQ – August 14<sup>th</sup> @ Mike & Pam Kwasniewski's**
- II. Suttle & Stalnaker FY15 Audit – August 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> @ TVCD Office**
- III. WesMonTy RCD Meeting- August 25<sup>th</sup> - MCD Office**
- IV. TVCD Regular Board Meeting – August 31<sup>st</sup> 9:00 a.m. TVCD Office**

**Report of Officers and Agencies:**

**WVCA:** Salyer provided a written report (copy attached) for the supervisors to review in his absence.

**WVU Extension:** None

**NRCS:** Collier reviewed his written report (copy attached).

**FSA:** None

**WesMonTy RC&D:** Teets requested that the grant writing committee plan to meet before the upcoming meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**WVDOF:** None

**Others:** None

**Correspondence Received:** Brickstreet Authorization for Everson (4); Executed MOU between WVCA and TVCD

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**Old Business:**

**Farmland Preservation-** Reeder reported that the Upshur County Youth Livestock Show was held on Friday July 31<sup>st</sup>. There weren't nearly as many hogs at there had been in previous years, but the sale totaled around \$60,000.00.

**WVU Ext. Internet Use-** Frey reported that she had billed Extension for the cost of the internet as elected at the previous meeting, and had not heard any remarks about the increased cost.

**Approval of funds for SPRP/OM&R-** No update/no action

**Ongoing Myles Lumber Case-** Woofter reported that the signed agreement had been mailed to Steptoe & Johnson for Myles' signatures, but no update had been received since.

Ongoing investigation with Mr. Powers Deputy Director - Commission on Special Investigations-  
Per correspondence from Mr. Powers the trial was postponed until November 16, 2015.

Forestry Field Day- Woofter reported that she had successfully contacted Thomas Schuler, Lead Scientist, at the Fernow Experimental Forest, and have begun planning the field day for October 17<sup>th</sup>. Interest in hosting another field day in the spring with the help of the WV DoF was expressed. Sencindiver added that per the NACD's push in strengthening forestry partnerships, it would be a good time to expand the district's involvement in forest BMPs. Woofter added that the NACD Education and Stewardship theme for 2016 is "We All Need Trees."

Shavers Fork Train Excursion- Findley reported that per the train owners, anytime in October, between Tuesday and Sunday would work for a trip of 20 people from Cheat Bridge.

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### **Committee Reports:**

**Building/Finance/Budget Committee:** Findley said that shop building needs to be painted, and asked that pricing be looked into. Wolfe added that per an inspection of the heating unit, the approximate cost for a new one is \$25,000.00. Depending on performance, the district will have to consider purchasing a new unit if the existing one breaks again.

**Equipment/Safety Committee:** Nester asked if there had been an update to the storage tank if the district was still in compliance with the new regulations. Wolfe commentated that he was investigating the matter and would report his findings at a future meeting.

**Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee:** No report. Meeting scheduled for August 31<sup>st</sup> following regular board meeting.

**Legislative Committee:** Gumm asked that all the supervisors forward any changes in their local legislature to Woofter so they can be invited to the legislative banquet in November.

**Grassland/AEP Committee:** Reeder shared that the next WV Grazing Steering committee meeting is planned for October 9<sup>th</sup>. A TVCD AgEP committee meeting was planned for August 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the district office.

### **Conservation Agreements:**

1. Fred Adkins (Randolph County)
2. Mackenzie Boyce (Barbour County)
3. Randall Elza (Randolph County)
4. Jerry Greene (Upshur County)
5. Mark Schumacher (Taylor County)
6. Shelley Cutright-Shrader (Upshur County)
7. Thomas Stalnaker (Randolph County)
8. James Taylor (Barbour County)
9. John Yoakum (Randolph County)

**Reeder moved to accept the agreements as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**

**AgEP Applications:** None

**AgEP Cancelations:** None

**AgEP Payments:** None

**Water Resource Committee:** No report.

**WVACD Directors Report:** No report.

**Personnel Committee:** No report.

### **New Business:**

- **Letter to Chris Winslow-** Per the discussion with Chris Winslow at the start of the meeting, the board discussed the situation at length. The board agreed that the best course of action was to offer their attendance at a site visit per the NAD, and offer opinions as requested. Sencindiver offered to draft a letter of intent to mail Winslow.
- **District Employee Bonuses-** Nester moved that the district issue a \$100.00 bonus to all district employees on the 8/28/2015 pay date; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.
- **Sign and frame for official soil-** Sencindiver moved that the district purchase a frame for the poster to be put on display; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.  
Sencindiver added that he'll research monoliths of the state soil.
- **2015 WVU Ext. Women in Ag Conference Vendor/Sponsorship-** Findley moved to pay \$100 to register as a non-profit vendor for the conference; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.

With all new business complete, Chairman Wolfe congratulated Sigrid Teets on being sworn in as the new district supervisor for Barbour County earlier that morning. He then appointed her to the following TVCD committees: Education and AgEP.

### **Report of Individual Supervisors:**

*Gumm* – NE NACD Conference 2015 went great. Thanked Sencindiver and Nester for attending and work in planning the conference. He also thanked Woofter for her assistance with the event.

*Reeder-* Will be working at the state fair booth several days next week.

*Findley-* No report

*Teets-* Commented that she was very happy to be on board as a supervisor.

*Nester-* NE NACD Conference was a great success. Was very impressed with the New Creek 14 Dam. Will be attending the state fair.

*Sencindiver-* Spoke to several cooperators about AgEP. Attended the Area 3 judging. Attended the NE NACD Conference and thinks it went very well. Will be at the state fair working the booth from Monday through Wednesday.

*Wolfe-* Reported that 300 acres were sprayed in Barbour County by a company with a helicopter sprayer. Applied 10 gallons an acre at a fee of \$120/acre. Invited them to do a presentation at a district eat and reap dinner.

### **Public Comment Period:** None

There being no further business to attend to, Chairman Wolfe declared the meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

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Secretary

Minutes recorded and prepared by Hillary Woofter – WVCA District Manager/ASA 3.

**August 12, 2015 Regular TVCD Board Meeting Minutes Summary of Motions**

- 1. Reeder moved to approve the agenda for August 12, 2015 as presented; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**
- 2. Reeder moved to approve the minutes for July 31, 2015 as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**
- 3. Reeder moved to accept the following conservation agreements as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**
  - a. Fred Adkins (Randolph County)
  - b. Mackenzie Boyce (Barbour County)
  - c. Randall Elza (Randolph County)
  - d. Jerry Greene (Upshur County)
  - e. Mark Schumacher (Taylor County)
  - f. Shelley Cutright-Shrader (Upshur County)
  - g. Thomas Stalnaker (Randolph County)
  - h. James Taylor (Barbour County)
  - i. John Yoakum (Randolph County)
- 4. Nester moved that the district issue a \$100.00 bonus to all district employees on the 8/28/2015 pay date; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**
- 5. Sencindiver moved that the district purchase a frame for the WV state soil poster to be put on display; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**
- 6. Findley moved to pay \$100 to register as a non-profit vendor for the 2015 WVU Ext. Women in Ag conference; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**