

The **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors held a Regular Board Meeting on *August 31, 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, Joe Shaffer, Jim Nester, John Sencindiver, David Bonner, and Sigrid Teets – TVCD/WesMonTy RC&D.

Others Present: Hillary Woofter – WVCA, Joyce Frey – TVCD, Jeremy Bennett- NRCS (9:05 am to 9:25 am), and Corey Lambert – TVCD.

Reeder led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:

August 31, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda & August 12, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes: Reeder moved to approve the agenda and minutes as presented; seconded by Shaffer; motion carried.

Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors: None present

Treasurer Report: Frey reported that the district employees received their bonuses the week prior, and went on to review her reports. (Copy attached) Regarding the past due Coffman account, the board asked that Frey draft a letter seeking immediate payment. Wolfe asked that the salary for the district mechanic be filed under maintenance expenses. The district has a little over \$11,000.00 in the general account, and has closed out FY15. Frey added that a cooperator had called the district office earlier in the week who had asked about fraudulent claims for government assistance programs. Bennett with the NRCS believes the contracts in question are through EQIP and asked that the cooperator be informed to contact their office. Frey went on to say that she'd received an unemployment claim for Ricky Waugaman, and she will process it within the next few days. Lastly, Frey passed around a copy of the Barbour County Fair Guide, pointing out the article that was written about the district.

District Report: Lambert reported Ricky Waugaman quit his employment as a laborer. Since then, Shawn Starkey was hired as a replacement and so far, and Jordan Holley was hired the week prior. The work crew has been very thankful for the bonuses they received. The crew has been moving along well with OMR for the dams, and removing debris in Mannington. They've been trying to complete critical NRCS jobs with deadlines done a.s.a.p., including Kennedy's brush hauling which is due on September 25th. Findley's pond cleanout was completed last week. Wolfe asked that the Winspear job be billed out as soon as possible. A question was raised as to whether or not the district should require that work crew do all seeding and mulching on a contract, versus letting the landowner do it themselves. After much discussion, it was asked that the topic be added to the next meeting agenda for a vote.

Wolfe moved to go into executive session per WV state code 6-9A-4a to discuss a personnel issue; seconded by Gumm; motion carried. The board went in to executive session at 9:30 AM.

Shaffer moved to resume regular board meeting at 9:48 AM; seconded by Sencindiver, motion carried.

District Manager Report: Woofter reviewed her written report (copy attached).

Dates (District Meetings/Work Sessions) to Remember:

- I. Education Committee Meeting following today's board meeting
- II. Friday September 4th – Barbour County Fair Display 11 AM – 3PM
- III. Monday September 7th – Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED
- IV. Wednesday September 9th – TVCD Regular Board Meeting 9 AM
- V. Monday September 28th – TVCD Regular Board Meeting 9 AM

Report of Officers and Agencies:

WVCA: None

WVU Extension: None

NRCS: Bennett reviewed the written report provided by Ben Collier (copy attached).

FSA: None

WesMonTy RC&D: Teets reported that the committee has been developing an accountability procedure. They are looking at possibly issuing grants as follows: 25% of the money upfront, another 25% after a 6 month progress report, and the remaining 50% when completed. The guidelines are still being drafted and she hopes to have them ready for presentation at the next WesMonTy meeting.

WVDOF: None

Others: None

Correspondence Received: DEP Pending Mine Permit Application (Taylor Co. Three Fork Creek of Tygart Valley River); WVACD thank you letter; Brickstreet Grievance Board Determination for Everson; Thank you card from Sherry Deskins; Brickstreet Authorization Decision for Everson

Old Business:

Farmland Preservation- No update.

WVU Ext. Internet Use- Frey reported that the bill has been paid for without question.

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

Ongoing Myles Lumber Case- Woofter reported that an LOR for additional settlement funds was up for board approval today.

Ongoing investigation with Mr. Powers Deputy Director - Commission on Special Investigations- Wolfe asked if the board would like to address the DNR about the district having overcharged them. **Shaffer moved that a letter be written to the DNR informing them of their overpayment; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.** Woofter will draft the letter per the board's request.

Forestry Field Day- Tabled to be discussed at the Education Committee meeting later that day.

Shavers Fork Train Excursion- Tabled to be discussed at the Education Committee meeting later that day.

Chris Winslow Wetlands Designation Appeal- Several supervisors attended a meeting with Mr. Winslow to view the field in question. Jared Beard with the NRCS told the group that he had received the district's formal letter of their opinion.

Committee Reports:

Building/Finance/Budget Committee: Wolfe said that Talbott Glass was preparing an estimate on fitting the back door by Spoke with a panic bar.

Equipment/Safety Committee: Nester reported that a safety meeting had been held with the work crew earlier that morning to review the district's safety policy.

Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee: No report. Meeting scheduled later that day.

Legislative Committee: Gumm asked that all the supervisors continue forwarding contact information on their legislators to Woofter so they can be mailed invitations. Woofter added that she hopes to send out invitations by the end of September.

Grassland/AEP Committee: The next WV Grazing Steering committee meeting is planned for October 9th at 10:00 AM in Weston.

Conservation Agreements:

- Jeff Kelley (Barbour County)

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

AgEP Applications: Woofter reviewed the status of ranking the applications and the help she had received from other district's conservation technicians to rank as many applications as possible. Four applicants still required a site visit in order to be ranked. The applications had listed August 31st 2015 as the date the board would make their decision for contract approvals. Woofter went on to say that nearly \$250,000 worth of contracts had been received for only \$65,000 worth of funding, and should the board choose, they could make their approvals today based on what was successfully ranked. **Nester moved to review and approve applications today based on those that had been successfully ranked and following the practice allotments decided at the July 27th board meeting; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**

Reeder moved to approve all lime applications as presented; seconded by Bonner; motion carried.

Bonner moved that the difference between allotment and approvals from lime applications be used to fund an additional water development application; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.

Please see attached list detailing all approved AgEP contracts.

AgEP Cancellations: None

AgEP Payments: None

Water Resource Committee: Shaffer thanked the board for having allotted the additional AgEP funds to water development. Has not heard any updates on the Barbour County Dam. Discussed the "Clean Waters of the US" at length.

WVACD Directors Report: Sencindiver reported that he will be unable to attend the next quarterly meeting. Sigrid Teets volunteered to act as his proxy.

Personnel Committee: A committee meeting was scheduled for September 22nd at 10:00 AM at the district office.

New Business:

1. **FY15 CDO Expenditure Report-** Reeder moved to approved the report as presented; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.

2. **WVSTA 2015 Conference Exhibitor Registration-** Gumm moved to approved Woofter and Frey's registration fees to attend the 2015 conference; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.
3. **Invoice from Steptoe & Johnson for July 2015 Services \$1310.69-** Nester moved to pay the bill as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.
4. **LOR for Elkwater Fork Settlement \$222,000-** Gumm moved to approve and submit the LOR as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.

Report of Individual Supervisors:

Gumm – Attended the State Technical meeting the week prior. Shavers Fork was discussed. The Appalachian Grazing Conference Committee met and scheduled a tentative date for the next conference to be held on March 10-11, 2017 at the Waterfront in Morgantown.

Reeder- Attended the state fair. Was disappointed in the poor attendance from supervisors throughout the state.

Teets- WesMonTy RC&D received their FY16 funding. Attended the site visit to Chris Winslow's.

Shaffer- Attended Empire Farm Days in New York. The biggest discussion at the event was on safety.

Nester- Attended the Chris Winslow site visit. The mobile Ag bus would be visiting Tucker County later in the week.

Sencindiver- Attended the Winslow site visit, and also made a visit to Leslie Wright's farm. Attended the Appalachian Grazing Conference Committee meeting. Worked at the state fair. Was unable to locate extra monoliths of the state soil. Will contact NRCS to see if there are any not being used.

Wolfe- Attended the state fair, and hopes that in the future, more information on the districts will be made available to the public. The aerial spraying that was done in Barbour County looks great.

Public Comment Period: None

There being no further business to attend to, Chairman Wolfe declared the meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.

Secretary

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

August 31, 2015 Regular TVCD Board Meeting Minutes Summary of Motions

- 1. Reeder moved to approve the agenda and minutes as presented; seconded by Shaffer; motion carried.**
- 2. Shaffer moved that a letter be written to the DNR informing them of their overpayment; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**
- 3. Reeder moved to accept the conservation agreement with Jeff Kelley as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**
- 4. Nester moved to review and approve applications today based on those that had been successfully ranked and following the practice allotments decided at the July 27th board meeting; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**
- 5. Reeder moved to approve all lime applications as presented; seconded by Bonner; motion carried.**
- 6. Bonner moved that the difference between allotment and approvals from lime applications be used to fund an additional water development application; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**
- 7. FY15 CDO Expenditure Report- Reeder moved to approved the report as presented; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**
- 8. WVSTA 2015 Conference Exhibitor Registration- Gumm moved to approved Woofter and Frey's registration fees to attend the 2015 conference; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**
- 9. Invoice from Steptoe & Johnson for July 2015 Services \$1310.69- Nester moved to pay the bill as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**
- 10. LOR for Elkwater Fork Settlement \$222,000- Gumm moved to approve and submit the LOR as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.**