

The **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors held a Regular Board Meeting on *September 28, 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, Sheldon Findley, Tom Warner, Jim Nester, John Sencindiver, David Bonner, and Sigrid Teets – TVCD/WesMonTy RC&D.

Others Present: Hillary Woofter – WVCA, Joyce Frey – TVCD, Corey Lambert – TVCD, Jeremy Salyer- WVCA, Ben Collier- NRCS, Josh Peplowski – Barbour Co. WVU Ext., and Cecil Springer - NRCS.

Nester led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:

September 28, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda & September 8, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes:

Gumm moved to approve the agenda and minutes as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.

Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors: None present

Treasurer Report: Frey reported that the district had roughly \$65,193.00 out in aging A/R. Wright overpaid on their invoice and she would be issuing a refund check as the bill had just been finalized. Roughly \$11,000.00 remaining in the general checking account, and noted that the supervisors had budgeted roughly \$45,000.00 left to be used towards travel expenses and per diem for the remainder of the fiscal year. She asked the supervisors as to how they would like her to report their expenditures and balance in the future, and raised concerns that at current costs and projections, they would run out of money before the start of FY17. Gumm commented that a report of the total figures would suffice, and expressed that he had no concerns in running out of money. Wolfe asked Woofter to request another report from Charleston that detailed the TVCD supervisors total per diem and travel payouts for FY15. Teets suggested that the board consider having only one regular board meeting a month so as to cut down on costs. Consensus of the board's discussion is that it was necessary to conduct two monthly board meetings. Warner commented that the state should be able to secure more funding in order to pay the supervisors any overages than originally allotted. *Discussed at length.*

Wolfe then addressed Springer for having joined the meeting, and gave him the floor. Springer addressed the board about his retirement on October 2nd after 41 years of service. He commented that he had seen many changes in the district over the years, and thanked the supervisors for having worked alongside him for so long. He feels as though the district's growth has gone very well, and wished the very best for its progress in the coming years.

District Report: Lambert thanked Springer for his assistance since he's started with TVCD. Joe Beymer would be renting a small office in the front of the old building on a one year contract and several laborers had been helping to clean it out for him to move in later that week. A safety meeting was held with the crew earlier that morning. As for equipment, hoses had blown on the dozer, the wiring on the tractor had been fixed, and the Ventrac's pulleys and bolts have been replaced. Mowing at the National Cemetery has been completed for the year, and the crew is still working on the brush cleanout at Kennedy's. Additionally, the crew had completed a dam

patch-up and pond cleanout. Gumm asked that Lambert continue to investigate and track expenses of repairing and maintaining district equipment.

Sencindiver then took the floor to discuss the invoice for Becky Walton. Per a recent phone conversation with her, she expressed no interest in paying the bill due to the situation and additional expenses she incurred through another contractor. **Sencindiver moved to not bill Walton for the work TVCD performed; seconded by Nester; motion carried.** Sencindiver noted that he would draft a letter that indicated the board's decision and apology to Walton.

District Manager Report: Woofter reported that per Gene Saurborn's request, she went to the Upshur County Courthouse to pull deeds for the ongoing investigation of the Akers' easement violation on Pecks Run. The information she found has since been passed on to WVCA attorney, Heather Connolly, for further review. Woofter completed the FY15 AgEP spot-check with Salyer and the formal report would be completed at a future board meeting. Woofter sat in on Lambert's 180 day evaluation in order to keep notes for the personnel committee. She had also been working on the last few arrangements needed for the Fernow Field Day and had distributed a flyer that advertised the event to local newspapers and affiliates. She intended on preparing and mailing the legislative dinner invites by the end of the week, as well as starting the next edition of the district newsletter. Lastly, Woofter reminded everyone that she would be on annual leave from October 5th through 9th.

Dates (District Meetings/Work Sessions) to Remember:

- I. Cecil Springer's Retirement Party – October 4th @ 2 PM Philippi Masonic Lodge
- II. Shavers Fork Train Excursion- October 8th 11:10 AM Cheat Bridge
- III. WV Grazing Steering Committee Meeting – October 9th 10 AM @ Weston Steakhouse
- IV. SCC Committee Meeting – October 13th 10 AM @ Guthrie
- V. TVCD Regular Board Meeting – October 14th 9 AM @ TVCD Office
- VI. **DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR WVACD AWARDS BANQUET – October 16th**
- VII. Forestry Field Day at Fernow – October 17th 9 AM @ Our Lady of Mercy in Parsons
- VIII. WVU Women in Ag Conference – October 24th @ Canaan Valley Resort
- IX. WVACD Quarterly Meeting – October 26th-27th @ Days Inn in Flatwoods

Report of Officers and Agencies:

WVCA: Salyer noted that there weren't many updates since reviewing his monthly report at the September 9th meeting. The WVCA re-advertised the open position for conservation technician within WFCB and TVCD. Also, the code review committee that was organized by WVACD President Moore had met, but no official report had yet been released.

WVU Extension: Peplowski reported that that Barbour Co. Fair went very well, including the educational day TVCD participated in. The show and sales at the fair went very well. Since then, he had been assisting Mt. Vernon Elementary in prepping their high tunnels for the colder months, and they had planted strawberries. Barbour Co. Ext. was planning on hosting two meat preservation classes in October.

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

FSA: None

WesMonTy RC&D: Teets reported that the next meeting would be on October 20th at the Waco Center in Glenville. She thanked Frey for her presentation on her grant projects at the last RC&D meeting. She had ordered the RC&D denim shirts, and also mailed the FY16 project agreements.

WVDOF: None

Others: None

Correspondence Received: Everson Workers Comp Claimant Protest; Everson Authorization Decision from Brickstreet.

Old Business:

Farmland Preservation- No update

Approval of funds for SPRP/OM&R- Woofter provided an update to the status of the open SPRP jobs per a conversation she had with Ed Martin earlier that week. Martin had recently investigated site 4435 in Upshur County and it was his recommendation that the site be approved with top priority and consideration for completion. The status of additional SPRP funds was discussed at length. **Gumm moved to approve site 4435 for funding and that it be given top priority; seconded by Nester; motion carried.**

Ongoing Myles Lumber Case- Woofter reported that all necessary paperwork for the settlement had been received by Guthrie and the LOR for the additional funds was being processed. She had spoken with O'Brien at Steptoe about the projected time for TVCD to receive the funds, and had no further information at the time.

Ongoing investigation with Mr. Powers Deputy Director - Commission on Special

Investigations- Wolfe said the trial was still planned for the week of November 16th in Charleston. Woofter commented that she received a request for the TVCD meeting minutes from August 2011 through July 2013 by a WV Public Defender. Wolfe added that he had requested that Mr. Powers be notified of the inquiry in case it pertained to the hearing.

Committee Reports:

Building/Finance/Budget Committee: Frey reported that Andy's Heating had switched around the heating units in the two small offices in the front of the old building. The rental space for Beymer would now have adequate heating. The technicians informed Frey that the wiring in the second unit would have to be gutted and replaced in order for it to work.

Equipment/Safety Committee: Nester reported that the safety meeting held earlier that morning focused on ditch safety.

Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee: No report.

Legislative Committee: No report/update.

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

Conservation Agreements: Jerry Greene (Upshur County) 24 Acres

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

AgEP Applications: None

AgEP Cancelations: None

AgEP Payments: None

Water Resource Committee: No report.

WVACD Directors Report: Sencindiver noted that Jim Moore received Woofter's correspondence that Teets would be his proxy for Sencindiver at the October meeting.

Personnel Committee: Sencindiver reported that Lambert's 180 day evaluation was held and no further evaluations were needed until his annual in January.

New Business:

1. **WesMonTy RC&D Grant Contract Approvals:** Reeder moved to sign and approve the RC&D grants as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.
2. **FY15 AgEP Spot-check Results:** *Final report not complete. Postponed until next meeting.*
3. **Steptoe & Johnson Invoice for August 2015 Services \$177.10:** Gumm moved to pay the invoice as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.
4. **FY15 Audit Sutttle & Stalnaker Report:** Gumm moved to accept the FY15 Audit Report as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.
5. **1 Year Lease Contract with Joe Beymer:** Sencindiver moved to accept the one year lease with Mr. Beymer as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.
6. **Estimate for new door on back of building \$2,835.00:** *Additional estimates are needed; postponed until further notice.*

Report of Individual Supervisors:

Gumm – Met with Attorney General Morissey and Senator Boso from Summersville. Would like to get the legislature more involved with the districts, especially at Ag Day at the Capitol.

Reeder- Attended the WVACD Executive Committee meeting the week prior. The Upshur Co. chapter of the WV Farm Bureau held their dinner on September 22nd and Sencindiver was a guest speaker. Was disappointed in the low turnout.

Warner- Is working on coordinating the detail work at Elkwater Dam with Huttonsville. There will most likely not be any mowing for the rest of the season. Probably won't run for supervisor next year as his time to devote to the position has become very limited.

Nester- Assisted with the Tucker County FFA tractor pull.

Sencindiver- Attended the WV Envirothon meeting on September 11th, the next one is planned for October 7th. Will bring in his notes from the WVACD Executive Committee meeting that was recently held. Gave a presentation at the Upshur Co. Farm Bureau dinner. Will be attending the 2015 Water Resource Conference of the VA's on October 5th and 6th at Stonewall Jackson on behalf of the WVACD.

Wolfe- Spoke to Mr. Yeager with the WV DNR about the road to Elkwater Dam and the possibility of creating a public fishing access point. They have already stocked the stream with various species. Received an invite from Senator Manchin to attend a conference on the future of the oil and gas industry in WV.

Public Comment Period: None

There being no further business to attend to, Chairman Wolfe declared the meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Secretary

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

September 28, 2015 Regular TVCD Board Meeting Minutes Summary of Motions

- 1. Gumm moved to approve the September 28, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda & September 8, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**
- 2. Sencindiver moved to not bill Becky Walton for the work TVCD performed; seconded by Nester; motion carried.**
- 3. Gumm moved to approve SPRP site 4435 for funding and that it be given top priority; seconded by Nester; motion carried.**
- 4. Sencindiver moved to accept the agreement with Jerry Greene as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**
- 5. Reeder moved to sign and approve the WesMonTy RC&D grants as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**
- 6. Gumm moved to pay the Steptoe & Johnson Invoice for August 2015 Services as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.**
- 7. Gumm moved to accept the FY15 Audit Report from Suttle & Stalnaker as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**
- 8. Sencindiver moved to accept the one year lease with Mr. Beymer as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.**