

**SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AUGUST 9, 2018
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Southern Conservation District held their regular monthly board meeting on August 9, 2018 at the SCD office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order. John Farrell led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ray Lafferty opened the meeting in prayer.

Supervisors Present

Virgel Caldwell	Curtis Murphy
Oscar Vecellio	Dvon Duncan
Ray Lafferty	Randall Patton
Don Windon	Dennis Bailey
John Brenemen	John Farrell

Supervisors Absent

Randy Prince

Others Present

Becky Floyd, WVCA	Jeremy Salyer, WVCA, via Video
Marty Walker, WVCA	Dave Parkulo, SCD
Gary Redden, NRCS	Danielle Stewart, PCWA

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the July 13, 2018 Southern Conservation District board meeting minutes as mailed. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.

Becky Floyd provided copies of the July 31, 2018 special board meeting draft minutes for review.

Southern Conservation District July Financial Reports

Randall Patton moved to approve the July SCD financial reports as prepared by Akers and Associates. John Brenemen seconded. Motion carried.

Board members reviewed the SCD accounts receivable report for July. Virgel Caldwell discussed the letters from Harold Wolfe on the past due invoice for Jack Taylor. Virgel stated Harold has recommended the district not pursue litigation concerning the debt collection of this matter due to the serious potential for the outcome not being favorable for the district. A lengthy discussion was held on the work performed by the district on Mr. Taylor's pond. Dennis Bailey questioned if the districts liability insurance would cover the cost of repairs to the pond if the district went to court and lost. Virgel stated after reviewing the pictures of the work he does not suggest the district pursue litigation on this invoice. **Dvon Duncan moved the district follow the advice of their attorney and not pursue payment from Jack Taylor or enter litigation for payment of his past due invoice. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

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Oscar Vecellio suggested the district stop work on all pond repairs and water systems. A lengthy discussion followed on the pond work completed for Beverly Whitehead. Dave Parkulo reported he has received the signed certification form that shows Ms. Whitehead received the certified letter he sent to her concerning her past due invoice. Dave stated the letter was sent to her Florida address. The group discussed concerns on litigation for this invoice since the property which the work was completed on has been sold and Ms. Whitehead has moved to Florida. Dennis suggested Virgel or Oscar discuss this with Harold Wolfe to decide the best way to move forward and review the district's policy on past due invoices and when or if a lien should be placed to pursue payments on past due invoices. Virgel and Oscar agreed to meet with Harold Wolfe on the district policy concerning past due invoices and how to proceed with the past due invoice for Beverly Whitehead. Virgel and Oscar will also meet with Harold to discuss the district's liability insurance coverage related to work completed by district crew employees. Randall Patton suggested the Equipment Committee meet to review work concerns and discuss future work on pond repairs or water systems. Becky was asked to place both past due invoices on the September agenda in addition to SCD policy on past due invoices and SCD liability insurance. Randall scheduled an Equipment Committee meeting for September 7. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

A discussion followed on the three past due invoices for Kenny Lambert and past due invoices for David Walker, Tim Hubbert and Tony Reese. The board asked Dave to place these landowners on a no rental list until their invoices are paid. Virgel offered to call each of the landowners if their phone numbers are on file with their request for service.

WV Conservation Agency Administrative Services Assistant III/District Manager Report

Becky Floyd presented the July financial reports for the co-administered funds as prepared by WVCA fiscal staff. **John Brenemen moved to approve the July financial reports for the co-administered funds. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky presented dates for the district's annual banquet. A discussion was held on the date and location for the banquet. **Randall Patton moved the annual banquet be held October 9 at Tamarack Conference Center. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky distributed copies of the revised SCD Committee List.

The group discussed the WVACD bid package for the spring and summer 2019 quarterly meetings. Dennis Bailey will meet with Pipestem State Park to determine if they have space for one of the meetings. The board asked Becky to place this on the September board meeting agenda.

Becky read the request from David Richmond asking for donations to help with the cost of the Raleigh County 4-H Horse Camp. **Curtis Murphy moved to donate \$100.00 from CDO funds towards the horse camp. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky presented the WVCA proposal for districts to design and purchase two display banners. A discussion followed on what to place on the banners to best represent the district. The group decided to order six banners one for each county if this is feasible with the Agency. Dvon asked Becky to place the banners on the September board meeting agenda for board approval on the designs. Becky will check with Davin White to see if the district can order 6 banners.

The group discussed CDO funds and residual dollars that are in the account from past years. Becky reported CDO funds were used to fund the remaining FY18 AgEP contracts instead of district general funds since the operation account was low at the time the AgEP funds needed to be transferred to the interest account. **Dvon Duncan moved to revise the motion from the July meeting to use SCD general funds for the final AgEP payments for FY18 to approve using CDO funds. John Brenemen seconded. Motion carried.**

The group discussed the residual FY18 Supervisor Travel and Per Diem funds totaling \$14,406.00. Oscar stated at this time the general account will carry the next payroll and monthly invoices. The board discussed transferring the FY18 residual dollars to the money market account in September if funds are low in the general account. Dvon asked Becky to place this on the September board meeting agenda.

Supervisor Report

Ray Lafferty reported on attending the NACD meeting at Williamsburg, Virginia. Ray handed out information on the meeting and discussed the meeting topics. Ray thanked the board for sending him to the meeting. Ray discussed attending the national NACD meeting in Texas in February of 2019 if the board chooses for him to represent them at the meeting. Dvon asked Becky to place this on the September agenda.

2018 WVACD/SCD Nominations

Randall Patton reported he worked with Randy Prince on the nominating committee for the 2018 Carroll Greene/SCD Supervisor of the Year, WVACD Honorary Member and WVACD Member At Large nominations. **Randall Patton moved to nominate Curtis Murphy for the 2018 Carroll Greene Award and SCD Supervisor of the Year. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.**

Randall Patton moved to submit Ken Scott as the SCD 2018 WVACD Honorary Member recognition. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.

Randall Patton moved to nominate Ray Lafferty as the SCD nominee for the 2018 WVACD Member At large Award. John Farrell seconded. Motion carried.

Visiting Agency Reports

WV Conservation Agency

Jeremy Salyer reviewed the Agency report. Districts are being asked to host listening sessions being conducted by WVCA, WCDA, WVU Extension. Districts are also being asked to locate a suitable location with a large room for the listening sessions. The room should have the capacity to hold up to 50 attendees with room for breakout sessions. Meetings are tentatively set for the last week of September but dates for each district have not been provided yet. Dvon asked about food and who covers the cost of the room? Jeremy stated at this time districts have just been asked to locate suitable space. He will let Becky know as soon WV Department of Agriculture provides more information to the Agency. Becky will check on spaces for the breakout sessions.

Jeremy reported Davin White is seeking to relaunch the Communications Committee that was in place for districts to share program information and news. The WVCA will hold the first teleconference on August 22. A time has not been set for the teleconference. Dvon Duncan will represent the district. Becky Floyd will also participate in the teleconferences.

Jeremy reported the new SSRP (Streambank Stabilization and Restoration Program) will begin on October 1. The SSRP program is a cost share program to assist West Virginia landowners by providing streambank stabilization and removal of qualified stream blockages.

Becky provided copies of the WVCA Watershed Section Report for Judith Lyons.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Gary Redden discussed the "maple syrup focus project" the local workgroup reviewed at their last meeting. Gary stated this project has been submitted for Southern and Guyan Conservation Districts. The Guyandotte River project will be a 2020 focus project. Oscar discussed concerns on foresters being available to help landowners with the timber stand improvements for this project. Gary stated this is not just for maple syrup production but could involve any tree that produces syrup. The project will enhance the forest habitat in addition to syrup production. Gary discussed the local group he is working with in McDowell County that will assist with training later this year. **Dennis Bailey moved to approve the 2019 syrup producing and timber stand improvement project. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

Southern Conservation District Crew Foreman Report

Dave Parkulo reviewed on going work and work completed by the crew during the last month.

WV Conservation Agency Specialist Report

Marty Walker presented the following conservation agreements for board approval:

Jerry Wheeler

Thomas Wiseman

Lonnie & Drema Johnson

Robert Greer

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Allison Cyrus
Rosemary Smith
Lloyd Harrell Jr.
Fayette County Urban Renewal
Stacy Young
Wesley Thompson
Wayne Blankenship
Jeremy Rogers
Rodney Wickline
Tommy Ellison
Benjamin Farley
Helen Gross
James Bennett
James Webb
Chris Jackson

Randall Patton moved to approve the cooperators as presented. Dennis Bailey seconded.

A lengthy discussion was held on who the Fayette County Urban Renewal is and if they are a non-profit and who owns the property. Marty stated Fayette County Urban Renewal is the old Whitlock Farm. John Brenemen discussed his concerns that this farm should not qualify as a cooperator or for the AgEP program due to issues on the property being owned by the Fayette County Farmland Protection and then being sold or leased to this group. John asked Marty who signed the cooperator form and AgEP application and if they signed as the owner or operator. Marty stated Fayette County Urban Renewal signed the cooperator agreement as the operator and the AgEP application and producer form as the operator and lessee. John suggested researching this in more depth prior to approving their application. Marty stated they will be ranked by the program ranking criteria. **The motion carried with one negative vote from John Brenemen.**

Marty discussed the AgEP Committee meeting held on August 3. Marty reported she is still in the ranking process of the applications requiring a field visit. Marty reported the following number of applications were received during the first application period: 40 lime applications; 18 exclusion and/or pasture division fence applications, 6 water system applications; 11 pond cleanout applications and 7 heavy use area applications. Marty stated field visits are required as part of the ranking process on all the applications received except for the lime applications. Marty requested the board to schedule a special meeting to review the AgEP applications later this month. The board scheduled a special board meeting for August 21 to review and approve AgEP applications. The meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m.

319 Update

A discussion was held on the American Chestnut trees on the 319 YMCA soccer site that need to be transplanted to a new site. Dvon discussed concerns on the health of the trees.

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A discussion followed on the proposal for a VISTA worker. **John Brenemen moved to leave the VISTA option open for possible employment. John Farrell seconded. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Committee Reports/Updates

The group discussed employee wages for this year. **Oscar Vecellio moved no salary or hourly wage increases for the district employees this year. John Brenemen seconded. Motion carried.**

Dvon Duncan discussed forms that are at the Wyoming County courthouse for landowners to sign up as a farm. The forms are cumbersome and lengthy and are not mailed to landowners. Dvon continued the discussion from past meetings on the state formula for allocations of AgEP funds to each district.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell
Chairman

Dvon Duncan
Secretary