

SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Special Board Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2018

The Southern Conservation District held a special board meeting on August 21, 2018 at the SCD office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Curtis Murphy led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Randall Patton opened the meeting in prayer.

Supervisors Present

Virgel Caldwell	Dennis Bailey
Curtis Murphy	Don Windon
Oscar Vecellio	Randall Patton
Dvon Duncan	

Supervisors Absent

John Brenemen	Randy Prince
John Farrell	Ray Lafferty

Others Present

Becky Floyd, WVCA	Marty Walker, WVCA
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA	

Approval of Minutes

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the July 31, 2018 SCD special meeting minutes as mailed. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of AgEP Applications (FY19)

Marty Walker presented ranked AgEP applications for board approval. The following lime applications were presented for board approval:

Lloyd E. Harrell Jr.	687.50
Wesley Thompson	575.00
Robert Jiranek	2,000.00
Fayette Co. Urban Renewal	2,000.00
James Bennett	2,000.00
Douglas Jarrell	950.00
Jeremy Rogers	948.00
Rosemary Smith	2,000.00
Robert Peck	253.75
John Kincaid	637.50
Pam Bailey	590.25

Southern Conservation District
August 21, 2018 Special Board Meeting Minutes

Benjamin Farley	1,237.50
Ken Scott	1,611.50
Jim Pate	425.00
Timothy Cox	2,000.00
Wayne Blankenship	750.00
Tommy Ellison	1,300.00
Helen Gross	1,100.00
Stacy Young	800.00
Garry Hall	1,375.00
*Randy Prince	1,862.50
Charles Pennington	1,376.50

Marty discussed the Fayette County Urban Renewal application and stated since the last board meeting research has been done on the questions John Brenemen asked about a government entity being approved for cost share. Jeremy Salyer stated according to his research on this matter with WVCA AgEP staff, a government entity cannot be approved for state cost share. A lengthy discussion followed. Marty asked if the farm manager or a worker on the farm can sign up for the cost share. Jeremy stated if a landowner was leasing a plot on the farm for conservation practices then the landowner could sign up for cost share. The lease would need to be in place depending on the life span of the practice. Marty stated she was not aware of this at the time the group applied for lime. The application was submitted in Fayette County Urban Renewal's name. **Dennis Bailey moved to withdraw Fayette County Urban Renewal from the list of approval for lime cost share until further research can be done to determine the eligibility of the application. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.** Jeremy discussed the application for Randy Prince. He will provide the approval letter for the lime application for Randy Prince. Jeremy advised the board to only approve the AgEP applications contingent upon receiving the state funds since districts have not started receiving FY19 funds yet. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve the remaining lime applications as presented contingent upon state funds being received at the district excluding the application for Randy Prince. Randall Patton seconded.** The group agreed the approval letters should state the approval is contingent upon the district receiving the state AgEP funds for FY19. **Motion carried.**

Marty presented the following AgEP applications for board approval:

Pond Clean Out	
Fred Akerberg	2,000.00
Bobbi McGraw	2,000.00
Michael Barnes	2,000.00
John Scott Jr.	2,000.00

Southern Conservation District
August 21, 2018 Special Board Meeting Minutes

Lonnie & Drema Johnson	2,000.00
Wayne Rhodes	1,000.00
Heavy Use Protection Area	
Carrie Ciliberti	1,344.00
Travis Redden	2,000.00
Ronald Testerman	2,000.00
Elijah Testerman	2,000.00
Water System	
Steve Dehart	1,000.00
Stoughton Gilkeson	1,000.00
Larry McClintic	1,000.00
Joel Neil Gwinn	1,000.00
Roy McDaniel	1,000.00
Exclusion Fence	
Chris Jackson	1,000.00
Caylee Perkins	2,000.00
Mary Milam	1,000.00
Pasture Division Fence	
Terry Bennett	600.00
Allison Cyrus	2,000.00
Michael Mines	2,000.00

A discussion followed on the district's AgEP budget and the funding percentages used for each practice. Marty stated she used the FY18 percentages as discussed by the SCD AgEP Committee. Dennis Bailey suggested dropping the lowest ranked application from each practice to have enough funds for a second sign-up period in January. Marty discussed the ranking process and the time that is put into ranking even if the funds are small at the time of sign-ups. Each application must be ranked. **Oscar Vecellio moved to approve all applications presented excluding the two lime applications earlier discussed and setting a smaller cap for the second sign up period.** A discussion followed on allocating the remaining FY19 funds for the first sign up period. Marty discussed the estimates used for the practices. Money is generally left over from several approved practices due to the practice costing less than the estimates or cancelations. Oscar Vecellio had to leave the meeting. **The motion died for lack of a second.** Dennis Bailey and Dvon Duncan stated they would need to recuse themselves from the vote on the pasture

division fence application presented for Michael Mines due to being related to Mr. Mines. The group stated a quorum will not be present if Dennis and Dvon recuse themselves from the vote. **Randall Patton moved to approve the AgEP applications for pond clean out, heavy use protection area, water systems, exclusion fence and pasture division fence contingent upon the district receiving the FY19 AgEP funds excluding the pasture division fence application for Michael Mines which will be added to the September board meeting agenda. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried. Dvon Duncan moved to allocate the entire \$62,000.00 AgEP FY19 funds during the first sign up period. Randall Patton seconded. A second sign up period will be held based upon the remaining funds at that time. The motion carried.**

Dvon led a discussion on the unfairness of the current AgEP formula used for distributing funds to each district. Dvon encouraged board members to voice their opinion at the next WVACD meeting on the current AgEP funding formula which is partially based on the US Census Bureau number of farms/acreage in each district. Jeremy reminded the group the AgEP funding formula is voted on by the State AgEP Committee of which each district has representation. Marty discussed the need for additional AgEP funds based upon the unfunded applications on hand last year and this year. Dvon Duncan suggested the district write a letter to Brian Farkas and the Association Chairman discussing the unfairness of the existing AgEP state funding formula highlighting the need for additional funds in the Southern Conservation District based upon the unfunded ranked applications over the last several years. Dennis Bailey added the letter should offer options to better suit the needs of each district including assistance to small farms. The board discussed the need for the state AgEP budget to be increased to help carryout conservation on the land. A discussion followed on sending a letter to the legislators. Jeremy encouraged the board to work with the Brian and the WVACD to draft a letter to legislators reflecting the need for the AgEP budget to be increased in the coming fiscal year. The board agreed for Dvon, Virgel, Dennis and Curtis to work with Marty on a letter to Brian Farkas reflecting the need for the current AgEP funding formula to be changed based upon the need to help and assist the majority of cooperators in all districts. The group will meet on Thursday, August 23 to draft the letter the Brian Farkas.

Dvon requested the September board meeting agenda to include the Upper Guyandotte TMDL and update on current watershed-based plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell
Chairman

Dvon Duncan
Secretary