

SOUTHERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Southern Conservation District held their regular monthly board meeting on September 13, 2018 at the SCD office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Randy Prince led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Randall Patton opened the meeting in prayer.

Supervisors Present

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

Supervisors Absent

Ray Lafferty

Others Present

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

Randall Patton moved to approve the July 31, 2018 special meeting minutes as mailed. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.

Randall Patton moved to approve the August 9, 2018 board meeting minutes as mailed. John Farrell seconded. Motion carried.

Randy Prince moved to approve the August 21, 2018 special board meeting minutes as mailed. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.

Southern Conservation District August Financial Reports:

Board members discussed the new building account that was opened by the Finance Committee after past discussions on district funds. The new account was opened at First Community Bank with \$10,568.29 transferred from the SCD operation account. This account will be used for building expenses and rental income.

Randy Prince moved to approve the August financial reports for all SCD bank accounts and Certificate of Deposits as prepared by Akers and Associates. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.

Board members reviewed the August accounts receivable report. Virgel reported he is still working on collecting payments from Tony Reese, Tim Hubbard and Beverly Whitehead. Dave

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will provide him the billing information and a copy of the signed request for service for Ms. Whitehead. Virgel will submit the billing information to Harold Wolfe for action to be taken to collect the past due debt.

The group discussed the current insurance policy for the district. The current liability policy does not cover workmanship of the district crew.

Dave Parkulo suggested the board take a final action on the past due invoice for Jack Taylor. **Dvon Duncan moved the board have no further contact with Jack Taylor concerning his past due invoice due based upon the advice from Harold Wolfe and provide no further services in the future. John Brenemen seconded. Motion carried.**

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the August accounts receivable report as prepared by Akers and Associates. John Brenemen seconded. Motion carried.

Southern Conservation District Conservation Technician Supervisor Report:

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

Dvon Duncan reported Detlef Ulfers with the Raleigh County Commission talked to her on behalf of Dave Tolliver, Raleigh County Commissioner, concerning phone calls they have received about brush on Soak Creek Channel. Dave stated Mr. Ulfers also called him about the phone calls the Commission has received concerning the channel. Dvon asked Dave to follow with the Mr. Ulfers on the calls to determine what part of the channel the landowners are concerned about related to brush needing to be cut. A discussion followed on the five-year plan that is in place for the channel. Jeremy suggested a meeting with the commission to review the five-year plan.

Dave reported he is working the WVDMV on the new tags the district will be required to obtain for their vehicles.

WV Conservation Agency District Manager Report:

Becky Floyd reported the district received Dunloup project funds totaling \$6,911.85 from NRCS. The funds will be returned to the WVCA to close out the project agreement.

Becky presented the August financial reports for all co-administered funds and certificate of deposits as prepared by WVCA fiscal staff. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve the August financial reports as presented. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

Becky presented the following invoices for payment approval:

SCD Invoice 4648	OM&R work	\$2,275.00
SCD Invoice 4651	OM&R work	\$950.00
SCD Invoice 4652	OM&R work	\$2,754.00
SCD Invoice 4653	OM&R work	\$1,000.00

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SCD Invoice 4654	OM&R work	\$1,620.00
Waters Agricultural Lab	319 Wickline Site	\$50.00

Randall Patton moved to approve the invoices presented for payment. Dvon Duncan seconded. Motion carried.

Becky reminded supervisors to be sure and return the registration form for the October WVACD meeting to her prior to September 24. Copies were provided to each board member.

Becky reported the September 14 meeting with the engineering firms to review EOI packets was canceled due to concerns on possible flooding from the hurricane. The group rescheduled the meeting for September 21 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Becky will notify the engineering companies and Judith Lyons.

Becky presented the draft designs for the two banners the district will have made with assistance from the WVCA. **Dennis Bailey approved the designs as presented. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.** Becky will work with the Agency on the final designs and on ordering the stands for the banners.

Becky reported districts will be reimbursed up to \$350.00 for the cost of the room and light refreshments for the listening sessions being held throughout the state. **Dennis Bailey moved to approve up to \$350.00 for expenditures towards the listening session being held at Ghent Fire Department. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.**

The group agreed to not take any action on the residual FY18 supervisor travel and per diem funds until FY19 funds arrive from the state. Jeremy stated all letters of request are still being processed through the state auditor's office.

Becky reported Kimberly Neal with the WVCA has submitted statement of reviews for DF-CF site 1, Brush Creek site 5 and Brush Creek site 6 for district approval and signature. **Randy Prince moved to approve the statement of reviews as presented by the WVCA. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.**

Visiting Agency Reports:

WV Conservation Agency

Jeremy Salyer stated since most of the items in the Agency report had been covered he would address the Agency's concern on potential rainfall from the Hurricane Florence. Jeremy reported Judith Lyons asked him to request the district be on stand by for EWP work under the current forced labor work agreement. The board asked Jeremy to contact them if needed. Jeremy stated the Agency managers will be holding a call on Sunday to assess the weather.

Jennifer Skaggs stated she wanted to touch base with the board on few items related to AgEP during her recent absence from work. Jennifer suggested a meeting be scheduled to discuss

the board's concerns on the current AgEP funding formula. The SCD AgEP Committee will meet with Jennifer and Marty on September 28 at 11:00 a.m.

Piney Creek Watershed Association

Danielle Stewart reported on ongoing projects and encouraged supervisors to attend the October 26-27 state watershed celebration day being held at Adventures on the Gorge.

A discussion was held on the American Chestnut trees at the YMCA soccer field. The board asked Danielle to work with Dave Parkulo to be sure 4 of the 8 trees are replanted at the district in the front yard. Danielle stated she will also have the American Chestnut signage for the trees.

WVACD Bid Package:

Dennis Bailey reviewed the bid package received from Pipestem State Park for 2019 WVACD meetings. The group discussed potential farms to host a cookout and an agricultural tour for the meeting if the bid package is accepted by the WVACD. **Dennis Bailey moved to submit the bid package from Pipestem State Park to the WVACD. John Brenemen seconded. Motion carried. Dennis Bailey moved the District sponsor a meal and a tour not to exceed \$500.00 cost to the district if the bid package is accepted by the Association. Curtis Murphy seconded. Motion carried.** The location of the tour and farm will be decided if the bid is accepted by the WVACD. Becky will submit this for the district.

WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report:

Marty Walker reported approval letters and unfunded letters have been mailed to cooperators. She is working on the agreements. Marty presented the following insert from the WV Conservation Districts, WV Conservation Agency and State Conservation committee program document: 5.0 Eligibility- AgEP financial assistance is available for implementation on all agricultural land within West Virginia. Agricultural land is defined as land being used in a bona fide program of agricultural production. All landowners and/or lessees engaged in the production of agricultural, horticultural or forest products may apply, except for government entities. A government entity is defined as an entity which is closely affiliated, general by government ownership or control with federal, state and local governments. Conservation Districts may determine the eligibility of cooperators that lease government lands, provided the lease agreement is equal to or exceeds the lifespan of the practice.

Marty reported the insert is provided to help make the district aware of the current state AgEP program language regarding government entities. Marty stated she was unaware at the time of the recent sign up period that Fayette County Urban Renewal was a government entity. At the time she advised them to sign up as a group due to past conversations she had with the people managing the farm. The above information is part of the research Marty has done since the last board meeting after presenting the Fayette County Urban Renewal lime application for board approval. A lengthy discussion followed on the lease the Fayette County Urban Renewal has on

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the property which John Brenemen stated is owned by the Fayette County Farm Land Protection Board. Marty stated she does have a copy of the lease in their current lime application file. Jennifer stated if the Fayette County Urban Renewal group has leased sections of the farm to individual landowners then those individuals could apply for cost share at a future application period. Marty questioned since she had encouraged the group to sign up as Fayette County Urban Renewal instead of individuals could the lime application be changed to individuals and then presented for board approval. Jeremy reminded the board the Fayette County Urban Renewal managers and/or operators/workers on the farm would not be eligible. Jennifer discussed the district's role and stated the district has the final decision on if they will approve cost share applications on any government leased properties for individuals leasing the property from the government entity. Marty questioned the difference on the Fayette County Urban Renewal group versus Sprouting Farms when they considered applying for cost share. Dennis Bailey stated he believes Sprouting Farms owns the farm. The discussion continued at length with a decision being made to add discussion and review of the SCD AgEP policy to the SCD AgEP Committee meeting agenda for September 28.

Marty presented the following corrections to approved AgEP applications:

Lime Application Ken Scott \$805.75 (previous amount approved \$1,611.50)

Heavy Use Area Application Ronald Testerman \$1,776.00 (previous amount approved \$2,000.00)

Pasture Division Fence Application Terry Bennett \$1,125.00 (previous amount approved \$600.00)

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the corrections to the approved application amounts for Ken Scott, Ronald Testerman and Terry Bennett as presented by Marty Walker. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.

Marty presented the PDF application for Michael Mines totaling \$2,000.00 for board approval. Dvon Duncan and Dennis Bailey recused themselves from the meeting due to being related to Michael Mines. **Randy Prince moved to approve the PDF application for Michael Mines. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried. Dvon Duncan and Dennis Bailey returned to the meeting.**

Dvon asked Becky to note in the minutes the lime application presented for Fayette County Urban Renewal is ineligible due to the state AgEP program guidelines. Marty will notify the group of the decision on the lime application.

319 Update:

Dvon Duncan updated the board on the Upper Guyandotte Watershed Based Plan and current updates to the TMDL's. Dvon reported Tim Craddock with WVDEP has said the new TMDL's may be ready for public notice by January 2019.

WV Association of Conservation Districts:

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Becky Floyd reminded supervisors they will need to make their hotel reservations for the October WVACD meeting by September 24.

The group discussed the 2019 NACD meeting being held in Texas. Dvon asked Becky to place this on the October agenda for further discussion on board members possibly attending the meeting.

Supervisor Reports:

Randall Patton gave an update on the review of district finances and operations he has performed since becoming the equipment committee chairman. Randall commended Dave Parkulo for getting the labor cost down during the last month. Randall scheduled an Equipment Committee meeting for September 28 at 10:00 a.m. Randy Prince asked that the Safety Equipment committee meet at 9:00 a.m. prior to the Equipment Committee meeting.

Virgel Caldwell reported he has contacted the PSD concerning the brush left on Brush Creek Site 15 where the power line was cleared. The PSD will clean up the brush.

Dvon Duncan reported on changes to Mountain RC&D officers.

Gary Redden apologized for arriving late to the meeting. Gary stated they are working on closing out items for the fiscal year. The focus group maple syrup project did get approved for 2019.

Oscar Vecellio presented the report from the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority on the high tunnel being constructed under the NRCS grant. Gary stated he is working with James Allen to have the high tunnel constructed by late winter and ready for spring planting.

Dvon encouraged board members to review the information she asked Becky to provide on the role of district supervisors.

Oscar reported he is working with Becky and the Department of Agriculture on renting additional office space to a new WV Department of Agriculture employee that will be housed at the district office.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Virgel Caldwell
Chairman

Dvon Duncan
Secretary

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