

OCTOBER 18, 2018

In Attendance

Supervisors: Charles Lipscomb, Chairman; Oscar Harris, Vice-Chairman; Jim Withrow, Secretary; Jeremy Grant; Peachie Arthur **Absent:** Don Stephens

Others: Dennis Brumfield, CPA, District Bookkeeper; Jackie Byars, District Conservationist, USDA; Kim Fisher, Area Director; Pam Russell, Jennifer Skaggs, and Sherry Pearson, District Manager; WVCA.

Call to Order

Chairman Lipscomb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the district office in Point Pleasant.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

On a Harris/Grant motion the agenda was adopted with the minutes approved as presented, motion carried.

Financial Reports

General & CDO Funds - District CPA, Dennis Brumfield reviewed the financial reports.

Co-Administered Funds - WCD Co-Administered Funds Report as presented by DM as prepared by WVCA.

Financial Transactions for October were approved as presented with on a Withrow/Harris motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Don sent a report in his absence. The report was reviewed by the board. **On a Harris/Grant motion payroll of \$626.50 was approved as submitted by the Treasurer. Motion carried.**

Report of Supervisor

WVACD Quarterly – District Directors Lipscomb and Withrow reported on the meeting.

Ag Listening Session – Chuck, Jim and Oscar attended the listening session. Jeremy facilitated a session in another area that evening for the Dept of Agriculture. A lot of good information was exchanged.

Programs

AgEP - Jennifer Skaggs, Agriculture Program Manager

Gave a presentation on the Agriculture Enhancement Program (AgEP) giving the history of the program how it started, where it started and how it progressed to where it is now. The rule changes to allow supervisors to participate. Eligible participants can appeal and non-eligible have no right to appeal. The local CD can set local needs as far as what practices to offer. They can set rates, caps and maximums. The staff that is available here at the district to assist with the program. She explained they cannot provide a full conservation plan for each applicant.

AgEP

The following payments were approved on a Harris/Grant motion, motion carried.

Lime

M. Dale Stone	\$546.00	26 tons
Nicole Dean	\$840.00	49 tons

Russell Kidwell mentioned that some of the water and lime contracts were having trouble getting started because of the wet weather. After a brief discussion the board decided to send a letter to those folks. **On a Harris/Withrow motion the board decided to send a letter the last week of November asking if they want to extend or cancel and if no reply their contract will expire the end of December 31st. Motion carried.**

CHERRY FORK - Pam Russell, Director of Conservation Services

The Cherry Fork Watershed Based Plan has been completed for the HUC 12 Headwaters of Eighteen Mile Creek. This is in the lower Kanawha watershed mostly in Putnam County. Such practices as installing septic systems, pumping existing systems, stabilizing streambanks, writing conservation plans, installing best management practices, education and outreach. She explained the 319 processes and that the funding comes from DEP. If the board approves of the project the next step would be to submit the proposal to DEP for funding.

On a Withrow/Grant motion the board approved to proceed with the Cherry Fork 319 Project. Motion carried.

Jackie showed a topo map of the area in Putnam County where the project will be concentrated. The board can decide which area to begin the project. Discussion led to the area with the most folks to participate.

OM&R WATERSHED DAMS-Judith Lyons sent a written report.

Inspections are scheduled for Tuesday, the 23rd beginning 9 a.m. at Mill Creek Site 13 monument. Supervisors will meet at the Ripley Field office at 8:30 a.m. to travel to the site by 9 a.m. She reports that Dave with Southern CD has not been at Site 9 to provide a cost estimate on the additional work needed at the site.

Correspondence

- ◆ Letter from Brian Farkas regarding the SCC approving an increase in supervisor per diem from \$60 to \$80 as requested by the Little Kanawha CD. There will be no additional funding appropriated for this increase.

Old Business

- ◆ Sealed Bids for Potato Equipment – The equipment needs to be ready for inspection for prospective bidders. Currently the diggers are still in use. All equipment will need to be cleaned and taken to Lakin Farm. Jeremy said there is no problem having the equipment left there for public inspection. Russell mentioned that the tank on the planter belongs to a local farmer. He will contact him about the district reimbursing him for the tank. It was decided that equipment will not be ready in November to put out on bid.
- ◆ Banquet Review – Sherry reported the total cost was \$2,015 which is about double from previous the year. The pros were the venue was very nice and the turnout was about the same as usual. More folks seemed to be from Jackson County. The cons were the time limit for presentations, the banquet lasted too long.

New Business

- ◆ **LOR GKRC&D – On a Harris/Withrow motion the board approved to request Great Kanawha RC&D’s FY19 Funding of \$17,575. Motion carried.**
- ◆ **Per Diem Rate Change – Arthur made a motion to table until November when the full board will be present with Withrow second motion carried.**

Agency Reports

West Virginia Conservation Agency

Kim Fisher, Area Director - Written Report Submitted (attached)

She gave dates of next year’s quarterly meetings: April 22-23 at Pipestem and July 15-16 at Triadelphia. AgDay breakfast will be at 7:30 on January 30th. AgEP Managers will be operating one for the North and one in the South Area which is Jennifer Skaggs. The deadline to apply for Century Farms has been moved up to February 1st with sign information due to John Sencindiver by April 1st. She suggested that district’s work on updating their policy manual. Audits need to be scheduled for the F18 audits. She pointed out the contact number for Citizen Contact Reports is always in the Agency’s monthly report.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jackie Byars, District Conservationist

Talked about working to the deadline of 4:06 with Sherry to submit the grant proposals to NRCS for two positions, the 4:00 p.m. deadline kept our proposals from being considered. However, there were three in the state that were funded. There were no EQIP dollars approved for WCD. The Focused Conservation proposals submitted by the local work group were not funded. The reason would be they were more for production and less for conservation. The New Farm Bill for 2019 has not yet been funded yet. A change of the CSP and EQIP programs being one program has been mentioned. In personnel matters the Conservation Technician position for Ripley has closed but no panel has been sent to the state yet. Also, the Soil Conservationist for Point Pleasant was offered to two candidates one turned it down and the other had already accepted a job with the Corps. Therefore, the soil conservationist position could now take up to a year to be filled.

Adjournment

Chairman Lipscomb stated the date of the next meeting will be Thursday, November 15, at 9 a.m. With no further business, Chairman Lipscomb adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Sherry Pearson

Approved by: _____

James Withrow, Secretary

Attachments