

The regular session of the **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors was held *Monday, January 30, 2012* commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the district conference room. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Robert Wolfe.

Supervisors Present: Harold Matlick, Ed Michael, Joe Shaffer, Sam Wright, Tom Warner, John Sencindiver, Rex Reeder, Joe Gumm and Robert Wolfe

Supervisors Absent: Sheldon Findley

Others Present: Roger Poling, TVCD
Ben Collier, NRCS
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA
Callie Sams, WV DEP
Tony Shaver, FSA
James Nestor, Sr., Guest
Gary Rapking, WVU Extension Service – Upshur County
Larry Layman, WVCA
Herbert Andrick, NRCS
Kristi Freeman, WVCA

Vice Chairman Wolfe called the meeting to order.

Gumm led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The group introduced themselves and Vice Chairman Wolfe welcomed the new Upshur County supervisor John Sencindiver to the district. He also welcomed Tony Shaver to the meeting.

Matlick moved to approve the agenda with additions. Seconded by Reeder and the motion carried. Shaffer moved to approve the minutes of January 11th meeting. Seconded by Gumm and the motion carried.

Finance Report: State Co-Administered Funds/District Funds – **Wright moved to accept the state co-administered funds report. Seconded by Shaffer and the motion carried.**

Discussion was held regarding the district funds report. **Wright moved for Freeman to change the direct deposit for the Shavers Fork Off-site Mitigation project from the general fund to the receiving account as soon as possible. Seconded by Gumm and the motion carried.**

Wright then moved to approve the district report as presented. Seconded by Reeder and the motion carried.

District Report: Conservation Technician

Poling:

- Crew has been working in Elkins – DNR project
- Today they are working in Taylor County on a fencing project
- Equipment repairs: valves are in, have not purchased any parts for the Samsung yet, still researching used equipment. Discussion was held. **Wright moved for the equipment**

committee to look at leasing, repair costs or purchasing a new one and to bring back to the board. Seconded by Gumm and the motion carried.

- Forage sampling in Upshur County
- Official judge for Lewis & Upshur County Silage shows
- Attended grazing steering meeting: grassland contest will hold a planning meeting Feb 8th at Weston NRCS at 10 a.m., also at the meeting another district purchased a lime spreader with lime funds that Brian Farkas approved. **Shaffer moved to send a letter to WVCA Executive Director, Brian Farkas requesting permission to use state lime funds to purchase a 4-ton spreader. Seconded by Matlick and the motion carried.**
- Attended DNR offsite meeting: talked with Angela & TJ about using admin funds for signs
- Building remodel bid opening is now Feb 8th at 1:00 p.m. (Need to look at gas instead of electric heating/cooling units.)

Administrative Officer Report:

Freeman discussed the following:

- AO Conference Call
- FY'11 Audit Report – **Wright moved to accept the audit report as presented. Seconded by Gumm and the motion carried.**
- SPRP invoice issue – Flemington Project – not approved for payment yet.

Report of Officers and Agencies:

WVCA:

Salyer: O&M inspections – April 12th all three structures (Pecks, Shooks & Elkwater). Invoice from North State - \$2680.02 **Gumm moved to pay invoice to North State as discussed. Seconded by Reeder and the motion carried.**

Layman discussed the following:

- Travel/Per Diem will be monitored by Brian Farkas
- RC&D FY'12 has been approved by FY'13 has not yet
- Supplemental Funding for the districts for FY'12 has been approved but waiting for FY'13
- Conservation Districts' personnel plans have been approved FY'12 but need to submit new ones for July SCC meeting
- Guthrie needs the districts' contractors list – working on an advertisement statewide
- Mileage reimbursement stays @ \$.51/mile
- AO's & district chairs will be on the SCC teleconferences
- SPRP FY'12 funds are limited for the balance of this year
- Ag/Conservation Day is March 2nd – There will be shuttles from Laidley Field to the Capitol beginning at 7:30 a.m. – Meeting with the Governor will be at 8:30 a.m. – Shuttles from the Capitol to Laidley Field will begin at 1:30 p.m.
- AO's to call the County Clerks offices after the May Primary Election to report to Guthrie who won Conservation District Supervisor elections for their district
- CD Supervisor Training will be held sometime after the May election in May/June – Please send suggestions to Layman or Freeman by March 1st

- EOI – Expression of Interest – Check dates and advertise if needed
- Lime data base – changing to a new system/will need to do a double check of current records before the conversion begins
- Ag Enhancement meeting – thoughts on new program: lime discussion: Wright suggested changing the cost share to 75/25
- WVCA/SCC FY'13 Budget
- OM&R Inspection Schedule – TVCD April 12th
- Annual Partnership Conference will be only 1 day this year
- CAFO's – DEP inspections in the PVCD

WVU Cooperative Extension Service:

Rapking reported that he was a presenter at Ag dinner meetings discussing season extension & horticulture and will begin a master gardener program in February along with Lewis County Extension Agent Bruce Lloyd.

NRCS:

Andrick:

- CSP deadline January 27th; 252 applications in WV with 15 in TVCD (15 million acres in applications with funding for 10 million acres)
- Wetland Reserve Program – second signup ends March 2nd – only 1 application received state wide (Hardy County – 2 acres) during the first signup period. Now have a goal of three per area.
- February 3rd – application deadline for national EQIP initiatives for organic, high tunnel and energy.
- FY'11 WV obligated over 800 thousand with organic producers, this year we have 11 applications for \$62,000.
- President Obama is set to announce an initiative to improve access to implement training and opportunities for rural residents. USDA employees are cross training with Department of Labor to assist in providing information to clients through service centers.
- Hispanic women farmers and ranchers outreach is gearing up again. Expect to hear more soon.

Collier:

- We have received funding for 7 EQIP applications (Grazing land and Beginning Farmer Funds) totaling \$274635.00 in cost share, 9 EQIP/Forestry applications totaling \$25,960.00 in cost share, 1 WHIP/CCPI application for \$1,195.00 and 1 AMA application totaling \$5,5860.00.
- Now in the process of writing contracts for these pre-approved applications and all contracts must be written by March 23rd.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign-up period ended last Friday (1/27/12). We have 15 applications for this program in the district. We will be working on interviews for these applications over the next several weeks.
- Out of 42 active CSP contracts, we have completed all but 2 payments for prior year within the district.

- The 1st sign-up/ranking period for the Organic Initiative, On-Farm Energy and Seasonal High Tunnel initiatives ends this Friday. We currently have 7 applications within the district for the organic transition and high tunnel initiatives. All applications will be ranked with cost estimates by this Friday.
- In the middle of another quarterly Review of Open Obligations for the 1st quarter of FY 2012. Reviews must be completed by February 13th.

FSA:

Shaver reported on office closings, new committee members and DCP signups began on January 23rd.

Others:

Sams attended the Envirothon meeting and plans on working with Michael for a training day of Envirothon teams in the district.

Correspondence Received:

The Conservationist January 2012 Newsletter, Email: NRCS News Release- Soil Surveys Can Help You, WVACD Quarterly Meeting Draft Minutes – January 9, 2012, Email: NRCS News Release – USDA Extends Conservation Stewardship Program Sign-up to January 27, Email: NRCS News Release – USDA Announces Funding for Water Quality Market; Seeks Proposals for Projects, National Watershed Coalition, Pending Mine Permit Application: J.F. Allen Company, Letter from Alfred Lewis, State Executive Director of FSA regarding officer closures, WVSCC Fall 2011 Quarterly Meeting Draft Minutes, Email: District Chairman's Teleconference Notes, Guardians of the West Fork Watershed January 2012 Newsletter, Email: News Release - Farm Bill Conservation Program Sign-up Reminder, Pending Mine Permit Application: Carter Roag Coal Company, LLC, January 2012 Forestry Notes, Email: Region 3 Stormwater Conference – Philadelphia – May 2012, Email: Teets Files for Ag Commissioner, Email: SCC - State Mileage Rate Has Not Changed, Email: Ag Enhancement Discussion Committee, Email: Grassland Evaluation Contest Committee Meeting – Feb 8th at NRCS office at Weston

Old Business:

Elkwater Fork Water Supply Dam Projects/Shavers Fork Off-site Mitigation Project:

- Steptoe & Johnson Invoice #575870 - \$936.50 – **Wright moved to pay Steptoe & Johnson invoice as presented. Seconded by Matlick and the motion carried.**
- SCC authorization letter for the transfer of .30 acres to the Huttonsville PSD

Building Remodel: ~~Bid Opening @ 1:00 p.m.~~ **Extended until February 8th @ 1:00 p.m.**

Dates to Remember:

February 8th – Special Board Meeting @ 9 am

February 9th – EAT & REAP @ 6:30 pm Parsons Fire Hall, Tucker County

February 27th – Regular Board Meeting @ 9 am

Committee Reports:

Cooperator Agreement(s): Maxine Carte – 22 acres (Barbour) **Wright moved to accept cooperator agreement as presented. Seconded by Reeder and the motion carried.**

Lime: Applications: David Bonner – 30 acres (Tucker) **Reeder moved to accept lime application for David Bonner as presented. Seconded by Wright and the motion carried.**
Roger A. Poling – 10 acres (Barbour) **Reeder moved to accept lime application for Roger A. Poling as presented. Seconded by Gumm and the motion carried.**

Payments: Maxine Carte - \$343.97 (Barbour) **Gumm moved to pay lime invoice as presented. Seconded by Reeder and the motion carried.**

New Business:

- Todd Payne Counterclaim
- Auxiliary of Conservation Districts Donation Request - \$25.00 **Reeder moved to donate \$25.00 as requested above. Seconded by Gumm and the motion carried.**
- WVU Soils Team to Host the 2012 National Collegiate Soils Contest - Donation Request – **Gumm moved to donate \$600 as in the past. Seconded by Shaffer and the motion carried.**
- Ag Lab – Philippi Elementary – Week of April 16th - **Wright moved to donate \$900 to Philippi Elementary School for the Ag Lab. Seconded by Shaffer and the motion carried.**
- Earth Day – April 22nd - Gumm would like the district to do something on that day. Wright discussed partnering with businesses for funding conservation projects.

Report of Individual Supervisors:

Gumm reported that RC&D state meeting is tomorrow, Ag Enhancement has brought up lots of discussion across the state, agency will begin monitoring travel/per diem – need to stick with state code, CAFO – district needs to keep updated, Ag Day – display and encourages supervisors to attend the budget meeting on Ag day.

Reeder commented that he is glad to have John aboard, he attended the youth livestock meeting where they are creating a scholarship fund in honor of Chuck Winslow and would like to invite Barbour County to join in, hay & silage show was this past weekend, Appalachian grazing meeting this Friday at 10 am and the Farmland preservation meeting at 6 pm Monday at the courthouse.

Sencindiver attended the hay & silage show and went to Guthrie for orientation & certification. Looking forward to working with folks in the district.

Warner asked where we are with mitigation at Elkwater. Michael reported that it appears that EPA is still going to shut down the project...biggest problem is the trout fishing – 2 sub committees were formed: management/technology committee (Gumm is part of) & public awareness (Michael is part of). Much discussion was held.

Wright stated he was disappointed in the agency for not asking for a raise for supervisors. He talked with Delegate Poling regarding funding for the Little Laurel Run dam project; they were told that Consol was going to fund the project. PA conservation districts will receive \$2.5 million to help control Marcellus wells. Why does WV not do the same? Where is the leadership in Charleston? Lastly, he was surprised to hear that Bloomberg has donated millions to the Sierra Club. Layman stated that in the code that supervisors may receive anywhere from \$60 to \$150 but SCC sets these limits as per the budget.

Shaffer met with a Gas Company to see how many wells were coming to Taylor County and met with Louis Jett. He now has 20,000 crops planted, is very impressed with Louis and is 90% organic farming.

Michael commented that the district needs to start planning a dedication for Elkwater. RC&D has approved projects just waiting on funds from the state. He attended the meeting with corps of engineers. Discussion was held. He then discussed the workgroup Marcellus meeting. More discussion was held.

Matlick commented that districts used to get attention but not in today's society.

**Reeder moved to enter into executive session at 11:58 a.m. Seconded by Gumm.
Shaffer moved to reenter into regular session at 12:30 p.m. Seconded by Warner.**

There being no further business to come before the board, **Warner moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Reeder and the motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 12:31p.m.

Secretary