



GREENBRIER VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Serving Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas Counties

Minutes of the May Meeting

The Greenbrier Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2014 in the conference room of the Lewisburg USDA Service Center. Those attending were:

Supervisors	Others
Jerry Clifton	Laura Bozzi, SE WV Farm Gathering
Carolyn Miller	Diane Browning, Greenbrier Co. FPB
Gary Sawyers	Anita Crance, GVCD
Gary Truex	Larry Layman, WVCA
Timothy VanReenen	Judith Lyons, WVCA
Absent: Barry Miller	Robert Martin, Greenbrier Co. FPB
Associates: None present	Callie McMunigal, US Fish & Wildlife Svc.
	Mike McMunigal, WVCA
	Jack O'Connell, NRCS

Call to Order: Chairman Gary Sawyers called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Chairman Sawyers welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the April Meeting Minutes: Timothy VanReenen moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Motion carried.

Guests:

Laura Bozzi – Discussed the upcoming Southeast WV Farm Gathering sponsored by the Farmer's Market Association at the WV Fairgrounds on June 16-17. The board is requested to consider sponsoring the event. Laura explained that approximately 200 people are expected to attend and will be provided with Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, plus a mixer. The event will give producers with tools for business planning, etc. The board wishes to take time to discuss the donation proposal and respond back to Ms. Bozzi. A letter will be sent to Ms. Bozzi to thank her for her presentation and regrets for being unable to provide a donation due to budget cuts.

Callie McMunigal – Updated the board on a new priority area to establish a fish habitat. She provided the board with copies of the Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership's Strategic Plan. They are looking for new partners to work on projects. This is a voluntary initiative. The Partnership encompasses 981 miles of the Ohio River main stem. Included in the second tier priority area is the Middle New River, which is part of the GVCD.

Diane Browning and Robert Martin – Diane addressed the board and stated her appreciation to them for serving as their representative to the Greenbrier County Farmland Protection Board. She noted that there are three farms in easement and three more in the pipeline for a total of 10 farms being brought in under this program. The FPB has received a boost in finances from

transfer taxes from Westvaco. She introduced Robert "Bob" Martin, who was hired by the board as their project manager. He works part-time at the GVEDC office. Bob serves as a liaison between the farmer and NRCS. He will also work with the appraisers, surveyors and attorneys for eligible farms. Bob provided a status report of the program. The new Farm Bill may have changes on how easement value is determined. Several questions were asked. Diane advised the board that her appointment expires in June. The board members are appointed for a four-year term and may hold two terms maximum.

Administrative Services Assistant Report:

Anita Crance presented her report. She noted several upcoming and/or recently held events. Letters of request were submitted per board approval. A letter was sent to the Guyan CD thanking them for their transfer of Krout's Creek funds to the GVCD. The Conservation Farmer District Tour was held on May 6. Photos were passed around. Swift Level Land and Cattle was determined the district winner. The GVCD Land Judging Contest was held on April 29. Shady Spring and Summers County FFA were the winners.

Financial Report

General and CDO Funds Report – Gary Truex moved to accept the general and CDO Funds report as presented and file for audit. Motion carried.

WVCA Restricted Funds Report – Gary Truex moved to accept the WVCA restricted (co-administered) funds report and file for audit. Motion carried.

Payment of all general funds bills – Gary Truex moved to approve payment of all bills as presented on the attached accounts payable list for general funds. Motion carried.

FY14 state GVCD support budget report – The report for April 2014 was reviewed with the board.

Funding Requests:

Southeast WV Farm Gathering – Gary Truex moved to not fund the event at this time, as the board is unable to do in regard to budget cuts. Motion carried.

LOR – 319 NPS 1412 Kitchen Creek III Ag BMPs – Mike McMunigal stated that Dennis Burns has a lot of landowners along Kitchen Creek/Second Creek interested in fencing and other practices. **Timothy VanReenen** moved to approve the LOR for \$52,244.00 for Kitchen Creek III. Motion carried. The board would like to see the cost benefit ratio for Kitchen Creek as there have been numerous funds spent in this area.

Cooperating Agency Reports:

WV Division of Forestry – No one present to report.

NRCS, FSA – Jack O'Connell reported for NRCS. He discussed deadlines for various programs offered by NRCS. He noted there were 33 applications for high tunnels in three counties. NRCS is working to specialize staff in certain areas of expertise so they can assist in other areas. FSA was not present to report.

WVCA – Larry Layman will report at the end of the agenda.

WVCA O, M & R Report – Judith Lyons informed the board that Brian Fry had checked out a couple of CCR sites that are not eligible under the WVCA program. One particular site received a second complaint and John Nelson checked it out. There has been a slight change of \$700.00 additional to the O, M & R estimate for Marlin Run. Brian Fry has completed the monthly inspections.

Unfinished Business:

Howard Creek Water Line Crossing/Howard Creek Weir/Pedestrian Bridge Project – Brian Farkas has drafted a letter to the City of White Sulphur Springs asking for a meeting to resolve

the water line issue. There is now an attorney working full-time for the WVCA and is housed at Guthrie. We should be receiving a copy of the letter in the near future.

Request WVCA to use O, M & R funds for Legal Fees – Howard Creek Easement Violation – Larry Layman stated that if the water line issue requires legal action by the GVCD, a source for legal fees must be considered. He reminded the board that they now have funds in their O, M & R account transferred from the Guyan Conservation District's Krout's Creek project. Would the board wish to consider going ahead and fixing the water line according to NRCS standards and then bill the City? Discussion ensued. Anita Crance advised the board that she received an e-mail from Steve Hunter (attorney for the City of White Sulphur Springs) with a brief statement that he needed to get in touch with someone from our staff to discuss the water line issue. Anita referred him to Donny Dodd with NRCS. Anita will check with Donnie to see if he has heard from Mr. Hunter. As far as legal fees for Howard Creek, Gary Sawyers would like to see if there are any results achieved from Brian Farkas' letter to the City before a decision is made for further action. Larry Layman doesn't know of anything being done from a technical standpoint. Further discussion ensued. **Gary Truex moved to ask Brian Farkas and the new WVCA attorney to come and meet with the board in a special meeting to discuss the Howard Creek situation before the end of the month on a date of their choosing. Motion carried.**

Letter to David Zorn – Marlin Run issues- Judith Lyons reported that Brian Farkas suggests taking a letter to Mr. Zorn in person and discuss possible easement violations on his property at the Site 1 Marlin Run Dam and cite State Code. If WVDEP were to write a citation, the GVCD as the easement holder would be named as the responsible party due to the passage of SB454. Judith added that she is preparing a letter to Mr. Zorn. Jerry Clifton will accompany her to talk with Mr. Zorn.

Committee Reports:

1. **Agricultural Enhancement Program** – Timothy VanReenen stated that the Ag Enhancement Committee met on May 7 and made the following recommendations for cancellations, approvals and payments based on their review:
 - A. **Cancellations -**
 1. **Lime:** Linda Perry, Jackie A. Kaluk, Charles Burr, David W. Beverage
Timothy VanReenen moved to approve cancellation of Lime Contracts for Linda Perry, Jackie A. Kaluk, Charles Burr and David W. Beverage, as they did not complete their practice by the six month deadline. Motion carried.
 2. **Exclusion Fence:** Charles Erb
Timothy VanReenen moved to approve cancellation of the Exclusion Fence contract of Charles Erb as the practice was not completed by the deadline. Motion carried.
 3. **Pasture Division Fence:** Justin Lewis, John Tomlinson
Timothy VanReenen moved to approve cancellation of Pasture Division Contracts for Justin Lewis and John Tomlinson, as their practices were not completed by the deadline. Motion carried.
 4. **Cover Crop:**
 5. **Youth Grants:**
 6. **Watering System:** Avery Atkins, Mildred Barnett, Clifford Kuhn
Timothy VanReenen moved to approve cancellation of Water Development Contracts for Avery Atkins, Mildred Barnett, and Clifford Kuhn, as they did not complete their practices by the deadline. Motion carried.
 7. **Woody Invasive Species:**

B. Approvals–

1. Cover Crop:

2. Lime:

Roger Wills - \$497.25*

Barbara Boggs - \$458.70*

John Walkup III – \$465.75*

*Cost-share revision from original approval amount

Anita Crance explained that Mr. Wills verified in person that his field has been cleared of all trees that show on his map, and he did in fact spread lime over the entire 11.05 acres. Therefore, an additional amount should be approved for Mr. Wills. There was an error on the agenda for the May 7 special board meeting for Boggs and Walkup and should be approved as corrected above. **Timothy VanReenen moved to approve revised cost-share amounts for lime contracts Roger Wills of \$497.25; Barbara Boggs of \$458.70; and John Walkup III of \$465.75. Motion carried.**

3. Youth Grants:

4. Adult Grants:

5. Pasture Division Fence:

6. Exclusion Fence:

7. Water Development:

8. Woody Invasive Species:

C. Payments–

1. Cover Crop:

2. Lime: Steve Faulkner - \$600.00? The AgEP Committee approved to pay Mr. Faulkner for the amount of lime that he spread. However, it is unclear if Mr. Faulkner has signed a verification statement. No action was taken on Steve Faulkner.

3. Youth Grants:

4. Adult Grants:

5. Pasture Division Fence:

6. Exclusion Fence:

7. Water Development:

8. Woody Invasive Species:

D. Other –

- 2. Building and Equipment Committee –** Gary Truex presented the written equipment report as prepared by Sam Masters. Year-to-date income is up about \$500.00 over last year. Rentals have been very busy. The weed wiper has re-appeared on the district lot after a 2-3 year absence.
- 3. Finance Committee –** Nothing to report.
- 4. Grassland Committee – Field Day funding for May 30, 2014 – up to \$400.00**
Gary Truex reported for the Grassland Committee. A Farm Field Day has been scheduled for Friday, May 30, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at Stone Hill Farm, Lewisburg. This is the Kevin Tuckwiller Farm, and is approximately 5 miles west of Lewisburg out Route 60 on Unus Road. Mr. Hendershot did not return a phone call in regard to a request to speak at the event. Dr. Ed Rayburn from WVU Extension has agreed to come. Pocahontas County is preparing some measuring sticks for distribution to participants.

Dennis will take care of advertising in the local newspapers. Tents, tables and other non-food items needed can be paid for with 319 funds. Jim's Drive-In will cater the event. Dennis requests that the GVCD consider donating up to \$400.00 for the cost of food for the Farm Field Day. **Gary Truex moved to provide up to \$400.00 for food for the May 30, 2014 Farm Field Day at Stone Hill Farm. Motion carried.** All district supervisors are encouraged to attend.

In other grassland business, Gary Truex asked the board's thoughts on hiring a replacement grass tech for Jarrett McLaughlin. The board would like to think about it for a couple of weeks before a decision is made.

Watershed Reports:

1. **319 Water Quality Program** – Mike McMunigal reported on the status of 319 programs.

Contracts:

Contract Revisions:

Knapps Creek – Don Lovelace: Mike McMunigal explained that there were two changes to Mr. Lovelace's contract being that the well/pumping plant is being adjusted down from \$10,000.00 to \$8,581.00 and the Exclusion Fence is adjusted to \$1,419.00. Total contract is now \$19,050.00.

Timothy VanReenen moved to approve a contract revision on Donald Lovelace. Motion carried.

Payments:

Cancellations:

Other:

New Business

Nominate supervisor for area conservation farmer judging team – this will be an agenda item for the next meeting, when supervisors are surer about their schedules.

Conservation Agreements/Terminations, CREP Conservation Plans, HEL Plans, and Actions between Board Meetings:

1. **Conservation Agreements/Terminations:**

Agreements were presented on: Bernard Bailey, PO-1212 for 10 Acres; Lanty McNeel and Martha Braddock, PO-1208 for 110 Acres; Lanty McNeel and Martha Braddock, PO-1209 for 41 Acres; Justin and Jeanette Wagner – PO-1210 for 26 Acres; and Philip Doolittle, PO-1211 for 24 Acres; **Timothy VanReenen moved to approve all as presented. Motion carried.**

2. **CREP Conservation Plans:**

3. **CREP Contract Payments:**

4. **HEL Plans:**

5. **Actions Between Board Meetings:**

- a. **319 Contracts/Septic Pumping/Repair/Replacement Contracts**
- b. **CREP Conservation Plans –**
- c. **Other –**

Other Business:

Schedule for WVACD Booth at the WV State Fair – Anita Crance passed around the current sign-up sheet for workers for the WVACD state fair booth. Any supervisor wishing to work a shift should contact their District Manager.

Larry Layman reported for the WVCA. He reviewed the written report with the board. The WVACD Quarterly Meeting was held April 7-8 at Twin Falls State Park. The WV Envirothon was held on April 24-25. Larry discussed the Legislative Rules that were passed in the most recent Legislative Session. There is a proposal to have a form signed that each supervisor could waive the right to apply for cost-share programs for one year. The WV State Conservation Committee will meet on July 15, 2014. District Managers are being requested to contact their County Clerk's offices no later than tomorrow to inquire the results of the recent supervisor elections and inform Guthrie. Ag Day at the Capitol has been set for January 20, 2015. Larry noted deadlines for LOR's for District Reimbursements for Internet, Bookkeeper and Employees. These must be on the June agenda for approval to submit in time. Also for the June agenda, an LOR for CD Operations Grant of \$17,575.00 with the LOR dated on or after July 1.

Anita Crance reported that the draft Partnership Plan of Work is completed. As it was not on the agenda for consideration tonight it will be presented at the next meeting for board approval.

Lyndsee Gay of Pocahontas County has received one of the \$500.00 WVACD scholarships. Timothy VanReenen will make the presentation on behalf of the board at her school's awards ceremony.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:35 p.m.

The June meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



**Gary W. Sawyers
Chairman**



**Gary L. Truex
Secretary/Treasurer**

GWS/GLT/ac

Recorded by Anita J. Crance, Administrative Services Assistant 3/District Manager