

The **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors held a Regular Board Meeting on *March 11, 2015* commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the district conference room in Philippi, WV. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman John Sencindiver.

*Supervisors Present:* John Sencindiver, James B. Nester, Sr., David Bonner, Sam Wright, Sheldon Findley, Tom Warner, Joe Shaffer, Joe Gumm, and Rex Reeder.

*Others Present:* Hillary Woofter – WVCA, Joyce Frey – TVCD, Jeremy Salyer – WVCA, Ben Collier- NRCS, Corey Lambert – TVCD, and Ronnie Helmondollar – WVU Ext..

Nester led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors:** None present

**Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:**

*March 11, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda:* **Reeder moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**

*February 23, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes:* **Reeder moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**

**Treasurer Report:** Frey stated that she will give a full financial report at the next district board meeting. She gave a brief summary of account balances and monthly invoices paid thus far.

**District Report:**

Lambert reported that he has been calling cooperators and scheduling farm visits. He had accompanied Poling on several AgEP site visits, and was meeting with Ben and Cecil at the NRCS office to go over several upcoming jobs. The district crew was still on low-earnings, but Karl and Dave had been working on repairing various district equipment. Drove to Charleston with Nester to look at purchasing a new trailer. When the trailer is moved to the manufacturer's store in Saltwell, they will purchase it. Still awaiting a formal bid submission for selling the 900 gallon storage tank. Lastly, commented that he will research the cost of repairing the black truck versus the cost of purchasing a new one.

*Ronnie Helmondollar joined at 9:10 AM.*

*Findley moved to go into executive session per WV state code 6-9A-4a to discuss a personnel issue; seconded by Shaffer; motion carried. The board went in to executive session at 9:14 AM.*

*Findley moved to resume regular board meeting at 9:29 AM; seconded by Shaffer, motion carried.*

**District Manager Report:**

Woofter reported that letters of approval and denial had been sent to all AgEP applicants for the spring 2015 program. She had been posting educational material to the district's Facebook page in celebration of National Groundwater Awareness Week, and had also submitted a press release to the local papers to try and encourage awareness of groundwater conservation. She signed up to participate in two webinars scheduled for later in the month, with one on developing community gardens and the other discussing invasive plants BMPS. She commented that she has enjoyed attending Frey's beekeeping classes, and was looking forward to attending the 2015 Appalachian

Grazing Conference. Lastly, she asked that a budget committee meeting be planned for later in the month so as to discuss the FY16 CDO budget.

**Dates (District Meetings/Work Sessions) to Remember:**

- I. March 12, 2015 – Eat & Reap Dinner 6:30 PM, Camp Pioneer in Beverly**
- II. March 13-14, 2015 – 2015 Appalachian Grazing Conference, Morgantown**
- III. March 17, 2015 – WesMonTy RC&D Meeting 10:00 AM Weston**
- IV. March 30, 2015 – TVCD Regular Board Meeting 9:00 AM**

**Report of Officers and Agencies:**

WVCA: *Jeremy Salyer* reviewed his written report (copy attached). Requested that Frey give him an estimate on the additional costs of processing supervisor's per diem through district book keeping.

WVU Extension: *Ronnie Helmondollar* reminded everyone of the Eat & Reap dinner scheduled at Camp Pioneer the next day and that two bull test sales were coming up. Additionally, the WV Beef Expo is April 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> at Jackson's Mill. A search is underway for finding a new director of WVU Ext. Services, and there is still no funding appropriation for the WVU soil testing lab.

NRCS: *Ben Collier* reviewed his written report (copy attached).

FSA: None

WesMonTy RC&D: None

WVDOF: None

Others: None

**Correspondence Received:** Brickstreet Authorization Decision for Everson

**Old Business:**

*Farmland Preservation:* The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>.

*AgEP Cancellations:* None

*Approval of funds for SPRP/OM&R:* Woofter provided a summary of the work completed on Thomas Fork Run that was requested by January Smith, and totaled to a cost of \$1,160.00.

**Wright moved to approve the invoice for payment; seconded by Shaffer; motion carried.**

Salyer gave a brief summary of the work requested by supervisor Joe Shaffer while the crew was already in Taylor County for another SPRP contract. The invoice totaled \$415.00 but the work was not approved beforehand.

**Findley moved to approve the work be done for Shaffer and to process the invoice for payment; seconded by Wright; motion carried.**

*Ongoing Myles Lumber Case:* Woofter provided a summary of recent events regarding the ongoing trial with Myles Lumber and Warner commented that he had no further discussion with Andy since he last spoke to the board.

**Gumm moved that a letter be drafted to the district's attorney that denies the proposed modifications to the easement as previously submitted by the TVCD board of supervisors; seconded by Reeder.**

**Gumm moved that a letter be drafted to the district's attorney that denies the request to meet for mediation before the trial dates in April; seconded by Nester; motion carried.**

*Ongoing investigation with Mr. Powers Deputy Director- Commission on Special Investigations:* Frey gave a summary of the ongoing investigation and Poling having found that TVCD had overcharged the WVDNR by \$16,500 for work done in 2011 and 2012. The majority of those expenses were for equipment rental. Wright expressed concerns over Poling not having district board of supervisors representation during the meetings with Mr. Powers. Gumm agreed that we should seek counseling on the matter. Wright went on to question if TVCD should pursue legal action against David Smith.

**Wright moved that a letter be drafted to Mr. Powers, asking that he appear before the board to discuss the ongoing investigation; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**

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**Committee Reports:**

**Building/Finance/Budget Committee:** No report. Meeting scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 to discuss the FY16 CDO budget.

**Equipment/Safety Committee:** No report.

**Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee:** Sencindiver reported that the district had received only two team registrations for Enivrothon, both of which were from Elkins High School. Reminded everyone that an education committee meeting would be held directly following the regular board meeting.

**Legislative Committee:** Gumm reported that he, Brian Farkas, Kevin Wickey, and Jim Moore would be going to the NACD fly-in in Washington D.C. on March 17<sup>th</sup> and that they would return on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Andrew Stacy had put together a small booklet of information for their talking points, with a major focus being dam rehab and repair.

**Grassland/AEP Committee:** Reeder reported that the grassland contest is on April 10<sup>th</sup> at Jackson's Mill and the next WV Grazing Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in Weston.

**Conservation Agreements:**

- Howard Phillips (Barbour Co. – 153 Acres)

**Wright moved to approve the agreement; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**

**AgEP Payments:** None

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**AgEP Applications:** None

**Water Resource Committee:** Shaffer commented that he had recently spoken to Chad Biller with Thrasher Engineering about the Barbour County Water Project, and that while there were no updates, it seems the project is funded but no construction plans are underway.

**WVACD Directors Report:** The next quarterly meeting will be held in Flatwoods on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Findley reported that he will be unable to attend. Gumm was appointed as his proxy.

**New Business:**

1. **Future dates for TVCD regular board meetings** – Discussed at length. No action taken.
2. **Steptoe & Johnson Bill for January 2015 Services** – Gumm moved to pay the invoice totaling \$266.53; seconded by Wright; motion carried.

**Report of Individual Supervisors:**

*Nester* – No report.

*Bonner* – No report.

*Shaffer* – Spoke to Kevin Jones about two fallen trees that were blocking a creek.

*Findley* – No report.

*Wright* – No report.

*Warner* – Announced that he was appointed by the Governor to be on the state committee.

*Reeder* – Commented that TVCD may receive a bill for a tire due to damage incurred while moving district equipment.

*Gumm* – Attended the recent WVCA Dam OMR meeting in Flatwoods and would leave the meeting materials with Woofter to be store in the district office. Commented that staff was desiring a meeting to discuss future OMR at Elkwater Dam, and may possibly schedule it for April 9<sup>th</sup> before the on-site inspection.

*Sencindiver* – Attended the auction held at L & T Equipment. Travis Hoover will be opening a new equipment store in Upshur County off of U.S. Route 33.

**Public Comment Period:** None

There being no further business to attend to, Vice-Chairman Sencindiver declared the meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM.

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Secretary

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As prepared by