



GREENBRIER VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

USDA Service Center
179 Northridge Drive
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901
Phone (304) 645-6173

Serving Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas Counties

Minutes of the GVCD Regular Board Meeting May 19, 2016

The Greenbrier Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, May 19, 2016, in the conference room of the Lewisburg USDA Service Center. Those attending were:

Supervisors:

Avery Atkins
Jerry Clifton
Carolyn Miller
Gary Sawyers
Gary Truex
Timothy VanReenen

Others:

Jack O'Connell, NRCS
Katy McBride, NRCS
Bobby White, VVA
Raymond Erskine, VVA
Ray Erskine, VVA
Jim Quick, VVA

Participating by Video Conference:

Brian Farkas, WVCA
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA
Judith Lyons, WVCA

Call to Order

Chairman Timothy VanReenen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Since there were a number of guests, he asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Gary Sawyers and seconded by Avery Atkins to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2016 Regular Board Meeting. Motion passed.

Guests

- Matt Tuckwiller was unable to attend as planned, due to an accident, so the floor was given to the next guest on the agenda.
- Bobby White spoke on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1072. The group is attempting to construct a Veterans' Memorial in White Sulphur Springs. The site is located on the Howards Creek Channel, behind 50 East Main, where the GVCD owns an easement. He explained that their group has had a survey conducted by Chuck Taylor, which he believes correctly identifies the boundaries of the easement owned by the GVCD. If that is the case, their plans will not affect the easement. However, the neighboring property owners have had their own survey done, which conflicts with Mr. Taylor's survey. If the neighbors' survey is correct, Mr. White said that their plans would encroach upon the GVCD easement by three feet for a distance of 16 feet. The

group was seeking permission for use of the easement in the event that happened. Discussion ensued and members of the Board stated that while they were very much in support of honoring our Veterans, the granting of permission to use the easement was not a simple matter. Timothy VanReenen explained that the District is bound by many EPA restrictions related to flood control. Brian Farkas added that there would be hesitation to allow anyone onto any easements and especially in this situation, where the existing weir may require extensive maintenance or removal. The consensus was that the District would provide the group with a copy of the original easement for comparison to their survey. Katy McBride offered to contact Donny Dodd to obtain a copy for them. No permissions to use the easement were granted.

District Manager Report

Lynn Hutchison referred to her written report. She noted that most items would be addressed as part of the agenda, but pointed out that nominations for officers needed to be addressed. **A nominating committee was appointed which consists of Jerry Clifton, Gary Truex, and Carolyn Miller.** A copy of the DM report is attached.

Financial Report

- **General and CDO Funds Report** – Gary Truex moved to accept the General and CDO Funds Report and file for audit. Seconded by Jerry Clifton. Motion passed.
- **WVCA Restricted Funds Report** – Gary Sawyers moved to accept the WVCA Restricted Funds Report and file for audit. Seconded by Avery Atkins. Motion passed.
- **Payment of all General Funds bills**—Carolyn Miller moved to pay all General Funds bills, per payables list, as presented. Seconded by Avery Atkins. Motion passed. List is attached.

Funding Requests

It was noted that FY17 LORs should be submitted by June 27, 2016.

Cooperating Agency Reports

- *NRCS – Jack O’Connell and Katy McBride*

Jack O’Connell provided copies of the Long Range Plan to the Supervisors for review and noted that the next Local Work Group meeting would be held on June 1, 2016 at 1pm at the Lewisburg United Methodist Church. The goal will be for partners to review the concerns in the plan and choose those to pursue. A copy of his written report with details and additional information is attached.

Katy McBride reported that she has been approached by several people regarding a Women in Agriculture Day and would like to plan one in the District and have involvement from the GVCD Board. She said that Susan Davis was interested in doing a joint event for Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties and Lynn Hutchison has agreed to assist in whatever capacity the Board would approve. In answer to Board members’ questions, she suggested holding the event at the WVU Building or a central location for Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties if one could be identified. The event would likely take place in late summer (after the Fair) or early fall and plans would be made for around 200 attendees. The Board asked that more information with cost estimates be provided for consideration.

- *WV Division of Forestry* – not present
- *FSA* – not present

- WVCA

Jeremy Salyer referred to his written monthly report and asked to speak at the end of the meeting, as much of his report would be addressed by the agenda items.

Brian Farkas reported that the Agency has been asked to prepare for a 10% budget cut. Timothy VanReenen asked how this would affect existing programs. Mr. Farkas stated that it would depend on whether or not accounts are swept before the cuts are made. If the Agency is allowed to make cuts without the sweeping of accounts, the programs should be ok. The Agency plans to manage the \$872,000 cut by eliminating vacancies, not growing, etc. However, if vacancies are taken away first and then more cuts are required, funding assistance to the districts could be affected. He noted that Supervisors should communicate to their Delegates and Senators that these budget cuts would be ruinous to conservation as we know it and for years to come, as it would take several years to get it back.

Judith Lyons

- reported there were no CCRs.
- A blow out on Snake Run is being addressed by Dennis Burns' group. They will be using services of the engineering firm to move forward.
- Annual dam visits were successful.
- O & M Job showings are scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 2016. Meeting place for the Marlin Run event is the Methodist Church parking lot at 12:30pm. Brian Fry's estimates for Marlin Run are approximately \$1,500 for brush cutting and \$1,200 for mowing. Rock replacement was not included, as that was determined to be due to a violation and is the responsibility of the offending landowner. The showing for Howards Creek will be at 3:30 and the meeting place is the dam. Estimates for Howards Creek are approximately \$3,200 for mowing and \$1,000 for brush cutting and trash removal. Gate repair or replacement was not included as the problem can be solved by chaining the gate with logging chains. Judith Lyons will bring all necessary paperwork for the job showings. **Jerry Clifton will attend the Marlin Run job showing and Gary Sawyers and Gary Truex will attend the Howards Creek job showing.**
- Ms. Lyons encouraged the Board to review their DamWatch correspondence and recommends participation.
- June 1st is the tentative start-up date for the Cherry River project. Gary Sawyers asked if we have money in our accounts for that and Ms. Lyons said that it has been requested.

Unfinished Business

- *Conservation Farm* – Timothy VanReenen reported that Bill Canterbury from Monroe County was selected as the District Conservation Farm winner. Jeremy Salyer stated that the area tours have not yet been scheduled, as District judging would not be over until the end of May. He suggested that Mr. Canterbury be contacted to see if there are any bad dates for him. Lynn Hutchison will make contact and relay information.
- *Century Farm* – Gary Sawyers and Debbie Echols have been appointed to review and verify applications. They plan to do this on May 24, 2016 prior to the job showings. Names are due to John Sencindiver by June 1.
- *Green Bank Potato Project* – Timothy VanReenen reported that we now have a signed copy of the agreement. He also said that the planting had not started yet due to the weather. Brian Farkas noted that the Department of Agriculture will now be planting and harvesting the crops so the equipment will not be in the District until the end of the season, at which time we will receive half the equipment.
- *Poster Contest* – Lynn Hutchison reported that several hundred posters were received for the contest and that a judging panel and time for judging needed to be determined. Jack O'Connell said that he and NRCS staff would volunteer to do the judging. He and Lynn will make arrangements to judge ASAP before the end of school.

Committee Reports

Agricultural Enhancement Program Committee:

Cancellations: None

Approvals: None

Payments:

Lime

Willard Boone	\$ 357.98
Charles L. McCormick	\$1,683.00
Rocky Parsons	\$ 450.00
Michael McCormick	\$1,522.50
Calvin Elmore	\$ 243.75
Frederick Scott Kiddle	\$ 507.75
Gerald M. Erskine	\$ 762.00
David L. Workman	\$ 668.99
John Bennett	\$ 589.86
Sharon Kearns	<u>\$ 879.36</u>
Sub-total	\$7,665.19

Gary Truex moved to approve the lime payments totaling \$7,665.19. Gary Sawyers seconded. Motion passed.

Watering System

Richard Nichols	\$2,456.57
David Lee Kennedy	<u>\$1,407.50</u>
Sub-total	\$3,864.07

Gary Truex moved to approve the watering system payments totaling \$3,864.07. Jerry Clifton seconded. Motion passed.

Pasture Division Fence

Richard Nichols	\$2,041.25
Kenneth G. Kelly	\$1,467.50
Kenneth E Smith	\$2,205.50
Jack C Wilkins	\$5,000.00
David Lee Kennedy	\$2,305.00
Avery Atkins	<u>\$3,598.75</u>
Sub-total	\$16,618.00

Avery Atkins recused himself. Carolyn Miller moved to approve the Pasture Division Fence payments totaling \$16,618.00. Gary Sawyers seconded. Motion passed.

Exclusion Fence

Clyde Wickline	\$4,862.50
David Lee Kennedy	\$3,425.00
Michael F. Teubert	\$3,472.50
Girionza H. Scott	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
Sub-total	\$16,760.00

Gary Truex moved to approve the Exclusion Fence payments totaling \$16,760.00. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.

Woody Invasive Species Management

David Lee Kennedy

\$2,250.24

Gary Sawyers moved to approve the Woody Invasive Species Management payments totaling \$2,250.24. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.

Total AEP Payments approved: \$47,157.50

- The committee reported that there had been discussion regarding allowing the cost for spreading of lime to be a reimbursable cost. Timothy VanReenen noted that there are no state regulations to prohibit this—that it is a District decision. Consensus was that it would be complicated and that no changes would be made to the policy at this time.
- The committee reported that there had been discussion regarding extending the deadline for AgEP practices to be completed, but that they did not recommend an extension be granted.
- The committee reported that FY17 signups are set for June 20 – July 8, 2016, pending availability of funding.
- Jeremy Salyer noted that Senate Bill 159 was vetoed, due to a piece of legislation it included that was unrelated to our issue. For the time being, Districts are operating under the emergency rule, which allows Supervisors to participate in cost sharing programs at levels greater than \$1,000.00. However, unless it is revisited in the special session, we will revert back to the \$1,000.00 cap as of July 1, 2017.
- Jeremy Salyer also noted that any/all advertising and discussions regarding FY17 funding should be qualified with “pending availability of funds,” as we do not yet have a budget.
- Timothy VanReenen noted that Grass Tech, Barry Level, plans to spend at least one day of the signup period in each of the outer-lying areas of the district.

Finance Committee:

Nothing to report.

Grassland Committee:

Gary Truex reported that the Outreach in Ballard went well. The committee recommended that a \$50.00 donation be made to the Ballard VFD for use of its building. **Gary Truex moved to make the \$50.00 donation to the Ballard VFD. Carolyn Miller seconded. Motion passed.**

Building/Equipment Committee:

- Gary Truex reported that he had received two estimates but they were not helpful due to distance. No other information has been received.
- No action has been taken on a tractor purchase.

Policy Committee

Grass Tech position – **Jerry Clifton moved to accept Pam Burns’ resignation. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed. Gary Truex moved to go into Executive Session for personnel discussions. Avery Atkins seconded. Brian Farkas pointed out that the intention to go into Executive Session was not on the agenda. He stated that while personnel issues can be discussed in executive session, it must be noted on the agenda. Motion and second were withdrawn.** There was some discussion regarding the Grass Tech position, with Avery Atkins suggesting to hire a part-time tech with scheduling and supervision to be done by the current Grass Tech. Jerry Clifton noted that we need help immediately. **Gary Truex moved that a committee be appointed to develop scenarios and report back. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.** Discussion ensued about when the committee would report. Brian Farkas was asked if the position

could be lost due to budget cuts if not filled by June 30 and he said that would be a possibility. **Jerry Clifton, Avery Atkins, and Gary Truex will serve on the committee and will have a preliminary plan before end of June.**

Watershed Reports

WVCA O, M & R Report – Judith Lyons

- See “Cooperating Agency Reports.”

319 Committee

- The committee recommended that the Board pay for two soil tests at \$7.00 each for Western Greenbrier Middle School garden. **Gary Sawyers moved to pay for the tests. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.**

- **Invoices for payment:**

Grant	Billed from:	Participant:	Amount:
20502-GV NPS 1454 St Knapps Creek	The Outhouse	Darrell Hiner	\$ 243.56
20502-GV NPS 1454 St Knapps Creek	Alderman Excavating	Darrell Hiner	\$3,750.00
20502-GV NPS 1454 St Knapps Creek	Roses Excavating	Jerry Parker	\$2,962.50
20520-GV NPS St Sewell Creek	Charlie Parker	Barbara Wills	\$ 132.50
20520-GV NPS St Sewell Creek	GVCD (USPS on card)	Outreach	\$ 11.62
20520-GV NPS St Sewell Creek	GVCD (USPS on card)	Outreach	\$ 339.86
20520-GV NPS St Sewell Creek	GVCD	Outreach	\$ 84.40
20520-GV NPS St Sweet Springs	Waters	Jeff Cook	\$ 29.50
20517-GV Hatchery Wetland III-State	Allstar Ecology	Hatchery	\$ 400.00
20520-GV NPS St Sewell Creek	Charles Parker	Ruben Dancey	\$ 115.00
Total Invoices			\$8,068.94

Gary Sawyers moved to pay the 319 invoices, totaling \$8,068.94. Gary Truex seconded. Motion passed.

- **New Contracts:**

Grant	Participant:	Amount not to exceed:
20514-GV NPS St Second Creek Karst II	Bill Canterbury	\$ 2,000.00
20514-GV NPS St Second Creek Karst II	Tim Hoke	\$10,000.00
20515-GV NPS St Morris Branch	Roy Helmick	\$30,000.00
20515-GV NPS St Morris Branch	Galena Knapp	\$30,000.00
20502-GV NPS Federal Knapps Creek	Jerald Ramos	\$92,855.65
20502-GV NPS Federal Knapps Creek	Thomas Herold	\$71,242.65

Gary Sawyers stated that the contracts for Ramos and Herold had not been discussed at the committee meeting due to timing. **Avery Atkins moved to approve all new contracts except Ramos and Herold at this time and appoint Gary Sawyers to approve and sign those two upon receipt of additional information/explanation. Gary Truex seconded. Motion passed.**

- **Actions Between Board Meetings:**

Gary Sawyers reported the following actions taken between Board meetings:

Sewell Septic Creek Contract	Ruben Dancey	\$ 300.00	Signed by Gary Sawyers
Sewell Septic Creek Contract	James/Barbara Wills	\$ 300.00	Signed by Gary Sawyers
Sewell Septic Creek Contract	Steven Redden	\$5,300.00	Signed by Gary Sawyers
Knapps Creek Contract	Floyd Davis	\$5,300.00	Signed by Gary Truex

Correspondence

Timothy VanReenen reviewed correspondence. The Board did not elect to renew membership in the WVCEC or participate in Brickstreet elections. The Brickstreet policy review/deposit and DamWatch information will be put on the June agenda. He reported that the NACD has asked for input regarding planning processes and that their email has been forwarded to Supervisors.

New Business

- Timothy VanReenen pointed out that we needed to return to the topic of Matt Tuckwiller and his re-appointment to the SWA Board. It had been Mr. Tuckwiller's intention to be a guest at the meeting tonight and express his desire to be re-appointed, but he was unable to attend due to an accident. **Gary Sawyers moved to re-appoint Mr. Tuckwiller to the SWA Board for another term. Motion passed.**
- State Fair sign-up schedules were provided to the Supervisors. Timothy VanReenen asked that Supervisors let Lynn Hutchison know when they wanted to volunteer so she can enter their names on the schedule.
- A meeting to prepare the **District Plan of Work was scheduled for June 8, 2016** following committee meetings.
- Timothy VanReenen reported that our current representative to the Pocahontas County Farmland Protection Board took a job in another county and needs to be replaced. J. L. Clifton, II has expressed an interest in this appointment. It was noted that although he is Jerry Clifton's son, there is no reason that he cannot serve in this capacity. **Gary Truex moved to appoint J. L. Clifton, II to the Pocahontas County Farmland Protection Board. Carolyn Miller seconded. Motion passed.** Lynn Hutchison will get the appropriate paperwork to them. Jack O'Connell suggested that he be asked to encourage them to work more closely with NRCS.
- Garden Projects with Department of Ag – Dennis Burns has identified Western Greenbrier Middle School and Timothy VanReenen has identified Marlinton Middle School as potential sites for garden projects as suggested by Commissioner Helmick. **Avery Atkins moved to send a letter to the Commissioner to ask if funding is available and request \$5,000.00 for each school. Gary Sawyers seconded. Motion passed.** Lynn Hutchison will draft such a letter. Timothy VanReenen also noted that he had asked Louis Aspey what happens to the unused NRCS/WVACD Community Gardens Grant funds. He was advised to contact Jim Moore, but has not yet done that.

Conservation Agreements

None

Other Business

- Timothy VanReenen reported that he had met with a representative from Downstream Strategies, who is trying to develop a training hub for farmers. They are seeking approximately 20 acres to subdivide into 1-3 acre plots for training purposes and to increase the availability of local produce. Brian Farkas suggested that they be told to talk to the Department of Agriculture about Cedar Lakes.

- The floor was given back to Jeremy Salyer, to complete his report and/or add anything that had not been covered. He noted that the Stream Management Plan has been renewed and that more information is to come on that subject. He also noted that the upcoming Quarterly Meeting will include training for new District Supervisors. The training is mandatory for new Supervisors only.
- Brian Farkas also stated that Supervisors should be sworn in by their respective county officials once election results are certified.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy VanReenen
Chairman



Gary L. Truex
Secretary/Treasurer

TWV/GLT/lh

Recorded by Lynn Hutchison, District Manager

12:50 PM

05/19/16

Greenbrier Valley Conservation District
A/P Aging Summary
As of May 19, 2016

	<u>Current</u>	<u>1 - 30</u>	<u>31 - 60</u>	<u>61 - 90</u>	<u>> 90</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Barton Ott Machine Shop	17.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.60
BJW Printing & Office Supplies	23.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.18
Boone Tractor & Implement, Inc.	519.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	519.85
City of Lewisburg	17.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.42
First Citizens Bank	648.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	648.62
Greenbrier County Farm Service Agency	520.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	520.00
Komax, LLC	441.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	441.85
S. J. Neathawk Lumber, Inc.	40.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.59
Salford BBI Inc.	225.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225.78
Sherry W. Ferrell	525.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	525.00
Suddenlink	213.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	213.53
Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.	611.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	611.00
Watson Mfg.	937.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	937.21
TOTAL	<u>4,741.63</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,741.63</u>

GVCD District Manager Report

April 22, 2016 – May 19, 2016

Items Needing Action:

- Approval of the April 21, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Financial Reports, Accounts Payable – approval of bills – list provided
- AgEP cancellation, approval and payment requests per agenda
- Approval of Building & Equipment, Finance and Grassland Committee actions, if any
- Approval of 319 contracts and payments per co-administered payables list and 319 agenda
- Grass Tech position
- Century Farm applications to be reviewed (names due to John Sencindiver by June 1)
- Conservation Farmer Area Judging - July
- Appoint Supervisor to accept bid, upon validation, for OM&R work (Job showing 5/24)
- Nominations for officers
- Sign agreement for Green Bank
- Set a date to judge Poster Contest
- State Fair Sign-ups
- District Plan of Work (June 15)
- Appointment to Pocahontas Farmland Protection Board

Accomplishments:

- Draft Minutes for the April 21, 2016 Regular Board Meeting have been sent to Managers and Supervisors and are awaiting approval at tonight's meeting.
- Approved minutes for the March 17, 2016 Regular Meeting and April 11, 2016 Special Meeting have been posted on the website.
- Minutes of all May 11, 2016 Committee meetings were emailed to Supervisors and staff.
- Video Conferencing Equipment received and set up on May 2nd.
- Attended Rainelle Agricultural Learning Center High Tunnel dedication / ribbon cutting on May 3rd.
- Updated Emergency Call List and submitted to Ed Cox.
- Notified Steve May / WVACD that our scholarship winner changed her major and became ineligible.
- Attended District Farm Tour on May 5th. Notified participants of results.
- Worked with Sherry Ferrell to convert to computer generated invoicing to reduce cost and streamline A/R.
- Ordered promotional "cinch sacks" with district name, logo, and county names.
- Received nearly 400 entries in the Conservation Poster Contest. 😊
- Sent press release regarding deadline for Conservation Photo Contest.

Things to be Thinking About / Items to Note:

- Appalachian Grazing Conference – March 2017—committee representation, donation, landowner participation expenses
- Long Term Goals 2016-2019
- Education activities
- Equipment Rental policies review
- Spring Newsletter
- Women in Ag Day
- Field Day

Upcoming Dates to Note:

AgEP Timeline

June 15	CDs submit final practice list to WVCA
July 1	Start of FY 17 program
July 31	CDs submit annual progress report (per legislative rule)

Other

May 24	Job showing at Dams for OM&R
June 1	Bid opening for 5/24 job showing – 11am
June 1	Local Work Group Meeting – 1pm – Lewisburg United Methodist Church
June 1	Century Farm names due
June 8	Committee Meetings
June 10	District level Photo Contest deadline
June 16	Board Meeting
June 20-July 8	AgEP FY17 signups
June 27	FY17 LORs due
June 30	FY16 End

Respectfully Submitted,



Lynn Hutchison
GVCD District Manger



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
LEWISBURG SERVICE CENTER
179 NORTHRIDGE DRIVE
LEWISBURG, WV 24901
(304) 645 - 6172 (Phone)

NRCS Report – Greenbrier Valley Conservation District May 19, 2016

Farm Bill Programs

EQIP-Focused Conservation Approach

The Long Range Plan (LRP) has been reviewed by Greg Stone and Andy Sentz. A few minor corrections were made and some details added. It has been submitted back to the Area office for final review and posting on the NRCS website.

The next Local Working Group Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 1 in the basement level of the Lewisburg United Methodist Church. The goal of the meeting is to review the selected resource concerns and select those that will be used in project proposals. Subsequent meetings of focus groups will be held shortly thereafter to select project areas and formulate proposals.

EQIP/AMA Application Pre-Approvals

Progress has been made on preapproved applications not yet been obligated to contract status due to potential impacts of certain practices to the northern long-eared bat. WV Bulletin 190-16-011 lists a few options for obligating contracts and implementing practices that contain tree removal, such as scheduling tree removal between November 15 and March 31 or utilizing herbicides to deaden trees rather than cutting them. If tree removal is in a contract and the removal activity cannot be scheduled in the above time frame, the contract cannot currently be obligated as it may have an effect on the bat population. The Interagency Coordination Tool is also being updated can be updated quickly to display avoidance measures and potential impacts to this species and others with recently modified status.

Six additional WVRV applications have been preapproved in the 2nd round for a total value of \$273k. Three NWQI stream stabilization applications on Knapps Creek have also been preapproved for a total value of \$345k. This brings the total value of EQIP/AMA contracts funded so far to about \$960. The distribution is Pocahontas \$660k, Greenbrier \$180k, and Monroe \$120k.

CSP Application Ranking

CSP applications were ranked and submitted on Monday May 16. Pocahontas County has two applications, Greenbrier has six, and Monroe has seventeen. If they were all approved, the total value of the applications over their 5-year life would be \$240k.

Other News.

- Practice reminders have been hand-delivered or mailed to all program participants.
- Adam Merritt and Katy McBride provided technical assistance on the construction of the Rainelle high tunnel.
- All staff attended a CREP training in Beckley on 5/18-19/2016.
- Andy Sentz is acting as the South Area Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations as Greg Stone acts as State Resource Conservationist. Julie Stutler continues acting as Area Resource Conservationist.

- Barbara McWhorter and Thomas Ward of the Greensboro East National Technical Center held a riparian forest buffer training in Green Bank on 4/28/2016, with most of the Pocahontas and Greenbrier staff attending.
- Easement monitoring has been completed in all offices, and all offices are working on current easement applications. One FRPP closing was held in Monroe County last month.
- Tom Vance has been assisting the Lewisburg office with engineering designs for EQIP contracts and is working with contract holders who are not had recent activity.
- State Conservationist Louis Aspey continues holding monthly teleconferences with the DC's.
- Katy McBride is working on the upcoming Women in Agriculture workshop for Greenbrier Co. and Envirothon.

May 2016 WVCA Report

WVCA Budget- Legislative session ended without a budget being approved. We will keep all informed as things develop. If a budget is not approved by July 1, there are no provisions that allow state government to continue working until a budget is approved. That means WVCA will close and the DMs will not be available to come to work.

SB159- The cost-share program and process for supervisors was vetoed by the Governor. We are operating under the emergency rule. One facet was the implementation of the supervisor eligibility for the AgEP beyond the \$1,000 cap that is in law. If this dies we will have to go back to the beginning of that process. The supervisors would have to go back to the \$1,000 cap.

Supervisor Elections

District Managers are asked to call the county clerk's offices after the May primary election to inform WVCA (Belinda Withrow and cc Area Directors), as to who won the CD Supervisor positions.

Conservation Farm Tour

Districts are encouraged to select your County winners and start planning your district tour.

Timelines:

- **May 31** - County and District judging.
- **July** - Area judging.
- **August** - Statewide judging.
- **October** – Presentation of Area and State awards at WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference.
County and District winners at local Conservation District annual banquets.

Envirothon Results

Top Ten:

Doddridge Co. Gold Team, Ravenswood FFA, Jefferson FFA, Hampshire, Mineral Co. FFA, Cheat River Sirens, Moorefield High School, Roane Co. A, The Amazonians, Cabell Midland FFA

State Fair

The state fair schedule sign in sheet is up and running on the admin site. Rooms are available at The Fairfield Inn in Lewisburg under the name of Clyde Bailey at a rate of \$135.00 per night plus tax.

Due to the late reservation of the rooms, when reserving a room Supervisors **MUST** contact Susan McCormack, General Manager at the Fairfield Inn in order to make that reservation. She can be reached **Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm** at 1-304-645-7999. Her email is susan.mccormack@marriott.com

These rooms cannot be booked online.

Deadline to reserve your room is July 13th 2016. Space is limited, the sooner reserved the better.

Conservation District Operation (CDO) Grant Funds

Directions from Guthrie Fiscal section have been sent out to all DM's on how to request/justify supplemental funding requests. If you have questions please contact Chris Casto or your Area Director.

Agreed Procedures Engagement (Audit)

Please verify your engagement is current. If it needs to be extended or rebid, please begin the process.

Conservation District Plan of Work

Conservation Districts are encouraged to prepare a District Plan of Work. Please submit your Plan of Work to Guthrie before June 15th.

AgEP Timeline

June 15 - CDs submit final practice list to WVCA (Jennifer Skaggs)

July 1 - Start of FY 17 program

July 31 - CDs submit annual progress report (per legislative rule)

Watershed O & M

OM&R

- Project Section staff is performing monthly and quarterly inspections of watershed dams.
- Work continues with NRCS to develop engineering plans for watershed dams. We are reviewing proposals from the PVCD engineer for South Fork Watershed engineering work.
- Watershed section staff is working with Districts to develop plans of work for 2016. Staff will be contacting each District's OM&R representative to begin discussions. If Districts have questions, please contact Judy (South) at 304-807-7437, Ed (North) at 304-590-1969 or Gene at 304-541-9813.

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Dam Rehab

- WVCA has hired engineering firm Gannett Fleming to conduct the planning studies for Brush Creek 9 & 15 and New Creek 1 & 17, and perform the construction oversight for UDC1.
- Upper Deckers 1
 - The contract and permit process is beginning for UDC1 with construction slated for 2017.
 - WVCA is preparing the permit applications and mitigation plan as well as preparing the contract.
- New Creek 1
 - A public meeting was held in Keyser to discuss New Creek 1.
 - Activities (drilling core samples) for the planning studies have begun at the Brush Creek and New Creek Sites.
 - Survey and drilling landrights had to be obtained.
- Brush Creek 9 & 15
 - Activities (drilling core samples) for the planning studies have begun at the Brush Creek and New Creek Sites.
- Brush Creek 14 – NRCS is taking the lead on this site and will assist with landrights.
- Wheeling Creek 25 - NRCS is the lead for this site, rehab is the planning stage.
- NPCD, SCD, MCD and PVCD – Please track hours that District Supervisors attend any rehab meetings.
- Reminder: Rehab meetings are held the first Thursday of each month. Any District that has rehab projects can participate in these meetings by phone.

Streams

- The stream management plan agreement with the Corp (Stream Permit) has been signed and information will be given to districts in the near future.
- Each area manager will be contacting area directors to provide details of activities in their respective areas. As always, feel free to contact Gene or Penny for further information