

**Southern Conservation District
September 14, 2017
Minutes of Board Meeting**

Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. The September 14, 2017 meeting was held at the Southern Conservation District office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Randall Patton led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ray Lafferty opened the meeting with prayer.

Supervisors Present

Virgel Caldwell	Oscar Vecellio
Curtis Murphy	Dvon Duncan
Randy Prince	Randall Patton
Don Windon	John Farrell
Ray Lafferty	Dennis Bailey

Supervisors Absent

Travis Prince

Others Present

Becky Floyd, WVCA	Kim Fisher, WVCA, via video
Marty Walker, WVCA	Dave Parkulo, SCD
Jeremiah Johnson, Beckley Sanitary Bd.	
Dave Stewart, PCWA	Bill Harris, NRCS

Virgel Caldwell report Jeremiah Johnson asked to speak at the beginning of the meeting due to his work schedule.

Jeremiah Johnson with Beckley Sanitary Board introduced himself to the board. Jeremiah provided a status update on the mine discharge and flood concerns related to the district property (See Attached Report). Jeremiah reviewed the attached report in detail. Dvon Duncan asked for the notes from Jeremiah to be used as an attachment to the minutes. He will email them to Becky. Dave Parkulo questioned who bears the cost of the repairs. Jeremiah stated this has not yet been determined.

Dvon questioned if the SCD should notify their insurance company to be put on notice. Virgel stated this will be done after more is determined by the board.

Approval of Minutes

Curtis Murphy moved to approve the August 10, 2017 board meeting minutes and the August 15, 2017 special board meeting minutes as mailed. Randall Patton seconded. Motion carried.

Southern CD Financial Reports

Ray Lafferty moved to approve the August SCD financial reports as prepared by Akers and Associates. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.

Dvon Duncan moved to approve the Accounts Receivable report for August as prepared by Akers and Associates. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.

WV Conservation Agency District Manager Report

Ray Lafferty moved to approve the August financial reports for state funded accounts as prepared and presented by WVCA. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.

Becky Floyd presented the following invoices for payment approval:

SCD Invoice 4482	319 Rodney Wickline NPS Site	\$10,000.00
Rodney Wickline	319 NPS Site	\$ 900.00
Rodney Wickline	319 NPS Site	\$ 9,837.00
SCD Invoice 4485	SPRP work	\$ 5,795.00

Oscar Vecellio moved to approve payments on the invoices as presented. Don Windon seconded.

Motion carried. Becky reported Dennis Burns has signed off on three 319/NPS invoices as the WVCA representative.

Becky reported Dennis Burns submitted a completed contract to Greenbrier Valley CD for the 319 Sewell Creek Project for Kenneth Fox totaling \$230.05.

Becky reported the District's annual awards banquet location has been changed to Tamarack Conference Center. The banquet will be held October 3 with a "meet and greet" beginning at 5:30 and the program beginning at 6:00p.m. Invitations have been mailed and the program is in draft form. Becky will work with Dvon and Virgel on the final program details.

Dvon Duncan reported the Wyoming County Water Festival scheduled for September 28 has been postponed. She hopes to hold the event in the spring. Dvon asked the request from Friends of Milam Creek be postponed until the festival has been rescheduled.

The board reviewed the request from WVU Extension regarding donations to the 2018 state Women in Ag Conference being held at Camp Dawson. **Dvon Duncan moved to approve a donation up to \$500.00 from CDO Funds. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.** The amount to be donated will be based upon Exhibit Sponsorship level.

The group reviewed the WVCA-Mercer County Agreement. Brian Farkas is working with the County Commission on the agreement and has asked if the district wants to be a signatory to the agreement. Curtis Murphy stated he feels it is a way to move forward on blockage calls and removals and feels the district should be on the agreement. Dvon questioned what responsibilities and role the district would have as a signatory to the agreement? **Dennis Bailey moved to send the agreement to Harold Wolfe for review prior to the OM&R meeting. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.** Becky will notify Brian of the questions on the agreement. Virgel will provide a copy to Harold Wolfe. Becky was asked to place the agreement on the September 19 OM&R meeting agenda.

Becky reported all award nomination and entries have been submitted to WVCA and/or WVACD.

The farm signs have been ordered for the banquet. Becky will pick these up next week after the check has been prepared for the signs.

Southern Conservation District Crew Foreman

Dave Parkulo reported he is working with Dennis Burns on another 319 project in the GVCD. He is also continue work on the Wickline site. Dave stated the crew has been busy working on several small farm

jobs, completed blockage removal work in Wyoming and Mercer counties and has water troughs scheduled to be installed with landowners in the AgEP program in addition to fence and pond work. Dave will be meeting with WVDNR representative on possible work for the crew. Lime is being delivered upon request by landowners.

WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report

Marty Walker gave a brief overview of the current program. Field visits have started now that the sign up period has ended. Approval and disapproval letters have been sent to landowners.

Marty asked the board to clarify what action to take on funds that become available through cancelations or landowners not using the full cost share amount. Dollars could be held for a second ranking period for other cost share practices or to fund ranked lime applications that were not funded in the first sign up period but qualified through the ranking system. Dennis stated he would like to see a second sign up period since landowners are used to that but he also would like to see ranked qualifying lime applications funded. Marty stated if a second sign period is held it would need to be limited to probably one practice and a short sign up period due to lack of funds. **Dennis Bailey moved to approve Marty to contact landowners on ranking list that have a completed lime application as cancelations occur or dollars become available. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.** All actions taken during the board meetings will need to be reported at the next

319

Marty reported the PCWA 319 project at the YMCA sports complex has been completed.

Dvon Duncan suggested with the YMCA project being completed this may be a good time to begin meeting with counties along the New River to rank TMDL sites and possible projects. Dvon asked Becky to note that a 319 meeting will be held in November following the OM&R meeting. Dvon will work with Becky and Marty on notification to possible sponsors.

Visiting Agencies

WV Conservation Agency

Kim reminded everyone of the WVACD business meeting and live auction . All supervisors are invited to attend. Registration is due to Becky by September 25 including their registration payment.

Brian Farkas and Timothy VanReenen will be at the SCD office on September 19 following the OM&R meeting for the listening session. Tentative time for the listening session to begin is 11:00 a.m.

Dvon noted the blockage in Mullens was there for 2-3 months. Property owners or someone cut a lot of the big trees and removed as much debris as they could from the Slab Fork Creek Site. Dvon noted it took to long for the site to be reviewed and there is still half of the stream blocked. The report from WVCA says there is not enough of a blockage to be eligible.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Bill Harris reviewed the report for NRCS field offices. Bill stated Gary is on a site visit today. Princeton field office continues to make progress for relocation of the office to another USFS-WEC building.

Piney Creek Watershed

Dave Steward stated the Soccer field project looks good. Their next plan of action will be planting a butterfly garden which will include the American Chestnut trees. Dave will contact Mr. Sypolt about the event and signage for the trees.

WV Association of Conservation Districts

Ray Lafferty reminded board members of the Oct 16-17 fall quarterly meeting. Becky supervisors with meeting and hotel information and registration, including annual business meeting information. Ray discussed the live auction and encouraged board members to donate items to the auction. Ray will take items being donated if supervisors cannot attend. Bring items to October board meeting.

Becky provided copies of the Leopold Conservation Award program for board review. Districts are asked to provide feedback at the October quarterly meeting. Dvon discussed the program and read from the website to describe the conservation farm program. WVACD is looking at how to create a renewed excitement about the Conservation Farm Award program in WV. The top farmer would receive \$10,000.00. A lengthy discussion was held on the proposed program including how small farms can compete against larger farms in the state. Supervisors discussed the size of farms being looked at when ranking is done for the AgEP cost share. Dvon stated she feels the district needs to find a way to help the small farmers. Marty stated current ranking is not designed to address the size of the farm. Farmers are ranked on other items such as need for the practice. Marty stated the cap level set by the District levels the playing field. Dvon questioned should the SCD request growing hops being placed on the state WVACD agenda for discussion at the October meeting. Ray questioned who would be the speaker on this to the Association? Dvon stated she has discussed this with a landowner in southern WV who is growing hops and providing it to local brewery companies. Dvon will contact Timothy VanReenen to discuss this option.

SCD Supervisor Reports

Oscar reported the parking lot paving has been completed. Oscar stated there is one site he is looking at with Dave to finish the gravel area.

Dvon discussed the registration for the national NACD meeting being held January 26-29 in Nashville, Tennessee. The group discussed sending a supervisor. Ray volunteered. **Randall Patton moved to send Ray to the NACD meeting in January. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.**

Dvon Duncan moved to send LOR to WVCA requesting FY18 grant funds totaling \$17,575.00. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried. Dvon reviewed narrative for potential projects including sites in Wyoming County.

A discussion was held on developing a policy to set a time for visitors to speak at the board meeting. Randall discussed his thoughts on visitors speaking at length on various topics. Virgel stated the Chairman could ask the visitor to complete their presentation or report in a timely manner. Dennis suggested visitors be asked to notify the district as to how much time they will need to cover their subject. Dvon discussed the distinction of public that is invited to attend the meeting to discuss a project. Virgel stated he is comfortable with asking public visitors to complete their business if it becomes too lengthy.

Dvon reminded supervisors the coloring books are in the spare office in boxes of 80 to be delivered to county schools. Supervisors will contact their Board of Education offices to see how many books they

need to cover local schools. Marty asked for a couple of boxes to promote her agriculture platform as Mrs. WV.

Dvon discussed the board considering subscribing to one local newspaper per county to keep a district scrap book and to make contacts in their counties and to help with submitting articles to the newspapers on district activities. Wyoming County Times would be \$30 per year. Virgel asked Becky to research the cost for county newspapers and place this on the October agenda.

Dvon is working with Becky on the job description for the VISTA worker associated with the goals the board approved for this position.

Dvon discussed concerns on blockages on bridges and the Guyandotte River and what blockages are eligible. Dvon discussed a complete blockage on a bridge that crosses the Guyandotte River. Who is responsible to address this blockage? The blockage is upstream from the high school and a nursing home. Ray stated this is a huge blockage. Both sides of the bridge are blocked and continues to get larger. Dvon stated the WVCA has stated they do not have jurisdiction on the Guyandotte River. Dennis suggested contacting AML if Consol does not want to address the blockage.

Dvon questioned if the board wants to compile a calendar for 2018. Marty stated she is willing to work on the calendar again this year. John Farrell stated he will work on the calendar with Marty if the board wants a 2018 calendar. **Dennis Bailey moved to create a conservation calendar for 2018 based on the 2017 calendar. Ray Lafferty seconded. Motion carried.** The committee will work to have the calendar printed by January 1.

John stated a large promotional meeting concerning a pipeline in GVCD on October 7 at the Summers County 4-H Camp. Music and food will be presented for the workshop to encourage participation. The meeting will be from noon to 5.

Randy Prince reported a Safety Committee meeting will be held Friday, September 29 at the SCD office. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Virgel Caldwell reported an Equipment Committee meeting will be held Friday, September 29 at the SCD office. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Virgel Caldwell
Chairman

Dvon Duncan
Secretary