



GREENBRIER VALLEY

Conservation District

USDA Service Center ♦ 179 Northridge Drive ♦ Lewisburg, WV 24901
Phone: (304) 645-6173

Serving Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas Counties

Minutes of the GVCD Regular Board Meeting April 19, 2018

The Greenbrier Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in the conference room of the Lewisburg USDA Service Center. Those attending were:

Supervisors:

Avery Atkins
Gary Sawyers
Gary Truex
Jerry Clifton
Timothy Van Reenen
Carolyn Miller

Others:

Lynn Woods
Jeremy Salyer by Skype

Call to Order

Chairman Gary Sawyers called the meeting to order at 7:11pm.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Jerry Clifton and seconded by Timothy VanReenen to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2018 regular board meeting. Motion passed.

Guests

- None

District Manager Report

Lynn Woods referred to her written report, which is attached. She pointed out that a nominating committee needs to be appointed for officer selection. Gary Truex and Avery Atkins volunteered to serve and will present nominations at the May board meeting. Nominations will be voted on at the June meeting.

Funding Requests

- Gary Truex moved and Timothy VanReenen seconded the motion to send the LOR for FY19 AgEP funds in the amount of \$90,000.00 Motion passed.

Cooperating Agency Reports

- NRCS – Katy McBride sent a written report. She requested that the Board set a date and time for a Local Work Group Meeting. By consensus, it was scheduled for **May 9, 2018 at 1pm** (following regular committee meetings.) It will be held in the Lewisburg USDA Service Center conference room. Also, Katy has recommended a Greenbrier County farm for the Conservation Farm Contest, which led to discussion about the contest and the

schedule for tours so the group opted to go ahead and address that agenda item at this point in the meeting. Barry Level has also recommended a farm for Greenbrier County. At this time no farms have been named in Monroe or Pocahontas County. A date of **May 15, 2018** was scheduled for the District Tour. Gary Sawyers and Gary Truex will visit the Greenbrier County farms earlier to determine a winner for Greenbrier County. Lynn will let Barry and Katy know the Supervisors will need bio information prior to the tours.

- *WV Division of Forestry* – not present
- *FSA* – not present
- *WVCA*
Jeremy Salyer submitted a written report and deferred to the end of the meeting.

Unfinished Business

- Banquet – no new developments
- Conservation Farm (see above under NRCS report)

Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

Financial Report:

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

Agricultural Enhancement Program Committee:

Timothy VanReenen reported on a number of recommendations from the committee regarding the FY19 AgEP program.

- **Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee and Carolyn Miller seconded the motion to not allocate AgEP funds to Woody Invasive Species and Cover Crop practices for FY19, but to continue to support them through education. Motion passed.**
- **Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee and Jerry Clifton seconded the motion to establish a new practice combination for a “Comprehensive Pasture System” with a cap of \$10,000.00 for FY19. Motion passed.**
- Timothy reported that the committee had planned to recommend a two-year suspension from the program and \$100.00 cancellation fee for non-completion of AgEP contracts. However, discussion with WVCA regarding the uncertain legality of imposing a cancellation fee had altered the recommendation to implementing the two-year suspension only, at this time. He noted that he was advised if the Board wished to pursue the idea of imposing a fee, that an attorney should be engaged to investigate its rights to do so. He was also told it would need to be approved by the SCC. He did note that the District was commended for thinking outside the box in an effort to deter non-completion of contracts. **After some discussion, Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the**

committee to add to the GVCD's AgEP policy a two-year suspension from participation in the AgEP program for non-completion of contracts. Jerry Clifton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee to approve the proposed timeline for FY19AgEP to include sign-ups 1-31 May 18 and 30 April 19 completion deadline. After short discussion, motion passed.
- Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee to approve the proposed AgEP Agreement Addendum with the addition of the new two-year suspension policy. Jerry Clifton seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **Payments**
Timothy VanReenen presented the following for payment:

Lime:

Frances Simmons	\$ 60.00
M.D. Guynn	\$ 411.00

Watering System:

Fredrick Scott Kiddle	\$1,974.05
James Calhoun	\$ 727.21
M.D. Guynn	\$4,998.92

Pasture Division Fence:

Michael Adkins	\$1,602.50
Kevin Johnson	<u>\$1,871.25</u>

Total Payments: \$11,644.93

Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee and Gary Truex seconded the motion to approve the payments totaling \$11,644.93. Motion passed.

- **Cancellations**

Watering System:

Richard C. Johnson	\$621.00
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Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee and Jerry Clifton seconded the motion to approve the cancelation totaling \$621.00. Motion passed.

- Finally, Timothy noted that the GVCD is in the top performers for completion of AgEP contracts and Jeremy Salyer made the point that we should clearly state the two-year suspension policy on every application so that each cooperator is well aware of the consequences of non-completion/cancellation.

Grassland Committee:

- Gary Truex reported that the Farm Show at the Fairgrounds is scheduled for May 11, 12, and 13. GVCD will be making presentations on Woody Invasive Species management and Rotational Grazing, as well as, demonstrating one of the new Extreme post drivers. Presentations are scheduled for 2pm and 4pm at the WVU Building on Friday and Saturday. No presentations on Sunday. A total budget of \$400.00 for food and

incidentals for the presentations has been requested. **Gary Truex moved on behalf of the committee and Carolyn Miller seconded the motion to approve up to \$400.00 for food and incidentals for the Farm Show presentations. Motion passed.**

- Gary Truex reported that the Land Judging and Homesite Evaluation contest is scheduled for May 3 at the PMC in Alderson. Registration begins at 9:30am and the contest at 10am. A budget of up to \$500.00 has been requested for food. Southern CD will reimburse GVCD for half of the food up to \$250.00. Discussion ensued. **Gary Truex moved on behalf of the committee to approve up to \$500.00 to pay for food for the event, with SCD reimbursing half. Avery Atkins seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Building/Equipment Committee:

- Extreme Driver post drivers are scheduled to arrive on 4/20 at 11:30am. Gary Truex will be there for the delivery.
- Gary Truex reported on an incident with Big Silver. It is being repaired. He also reported on scheduling problems that have occurred since scheduling has been done in the office rather than by the Equipment Coordinator. Two incidents occurred where equipment was scheduled to go out but office personnel were not aware that the last renter had not returned the equipment on time. Discussion ensued regarding ways to improve this system.
- Gary noted that annual review for Eugene needed to be rescheduled from April 9 since he was unable to attend that day due to a fire call. New date was set for 9am on May 2 prior to Plan of Work meeting. Lynn will let him know and remind him to do self-evaluation form.
- It has been suggested that the weekend rate for equipment rental be dropped. It was pointed out that weekends actually allow more time for use rather than less, and weekends are in high demand. **Gary Truex moved and Timothy VanReenen seconded the motion to eliminate the weekend rates and return to a strict daily rate, noting that Sunday does count as a chargeable day. Motion passed.** While on the topic of rates, Lynn Woods relayed the message that Eugene Wickline has suggested raising rental rates 20-22% due to the rising cost of parts and the significant wear and tear from heavy use and hauling the equipment long distances. Discussion ensued. Rental rates also need to be established for the new post drivers. A proposed rate schedule was developed by the group with an increase of 20% of the current rate, rounded to the nearest dollar. Consensus was to set the new post driver rates at \$180.00 per day. It was decided that a special board meeting would be held on April 25, 2018 at 9am to vote on the new rates. Lynn will post an agenda and send a skype invitation on April 20.

Other Committees

None

Watershed Reports

- *WVCA O, M & R Report* - no report

319 Committee:

- Jerry Clifton moved on behalf of the committee and Avery Atkins seconded the motion to approve the pumping contract, not to exceed \$300.00, for Kenneth Gwinn, under the Sewell Creek Septics grant. Motion passed.

Jerry Clifton presented the following invoices for payment:

INVOICES

Grant	Billed From:	Participant	Amount
Spring Creek	WVDA	Outreach	\$40.00
Howards Creek	CEC	City of WSS	\$3,860.92
Sewell Creek Septic	Treadways	Kenneth Gwinn	\$115.00
Total Invoices			\$4,015.92

Jerry Clifton moved on behalf of the committee to pay the invoices in the total amount of \$4,015.92. Timothy VanReenen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Actions Between Board Meetings

None

Correspondence

- Gary Sawyers reported a letter requesting sponsorship of Senior Conservation Camp had been received. Discussion ensued. **Motion was made by Timothy VanReenen and seconded by Jerry Clifton to contribute \$125.00 toward the cost of camp for two teens from each county in the district for a total of six, as was done for Junior Conservation Camp. Motion passed.**
- Gary Sawyers read a letter detailing the results of the WVU Soils Team performance at Nationals.
- Gary Sawyers read an invitation to the GEHS FFA banquet. Supervisors were reminded to send in their RSVP cards by the April 30 deadline.

New Business

- None

Approval of Conservation Agreements & Terminations

- None

Approval of Conservation Plans

- Conservation Plans for the following individuals were presented for approval on behalf of NRCS:

Don E. Johnston
 William H. Zink IV
 Michael Graybeal
 Benjamin L. Ellis
 James W. Harrison

Jeffrey L. Bland
William K. Nester
Peter Stephens
Dustin E. Simmons

Avery Atkins moved and Carolyn Miller seconded the motion to approve the Conservation Plans as presented. Motion passed.

CREP

- **Avery Atkins moved and Timothy VanReenen seconded the motion to approve the CREP payment to Will Nester in the amount of \$220.80 for Contract #11106. Motion passed.**

Other Business

- Poster contest will be judged following the meeting. A \$25.00 budget was requested to purchase a trophy and small giveaways. **Timothy VanReenen moved and Carolyn Miller seconded the motion to approve the budget of \$25.00. Motion passed.**
- The floor was returned to Jeremy Salyer to complete his report. He noted that photos need to be taken and submitted for the new Supervisor Directory. (Lynn has already taken photos and sent in the current ones. Others will be sent in after the election.) He reported that the Engineering Firm selection process will have to be repeated. Lynn stated that GVCD has already voted on and requested an extension of the current agreement. She will send a copy of the agreement and request for extension to Jeremy so he can look in to what needs to be done. He reported that passage of bills will speed up the EWP process. He has been assigned to a committee to update the Supervisor Handbook and requested Supervisor input. He is also on a committee for AgDay that is working on a new method of doing displays.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary Sawyers
Chairman



Carolyn Miller
Secretary/Treasurer

GS/CM/lw

Recorded by Lynn Woods, District Manager

GVCD District Manager Report

April 19, 2018

Items Needing Action:

- See Agenda
- Nominations for FY19 Officers
- Selection of Conservation Farms
- Review of Century / Sesquicentennial Farm applications - names to Sencindiver by June 1
- Poster contest judging

Accomplishments:

- Draft minutes for March regular board meeting have been distributed and are awaiting approval at this meeting.
- Committee meetings' minutes were distributed.
- Centralized Google calendar for equipment scheduling has been set up in the GVCD office.
- Barry Level attended the Grassland Evaluation contest at Jackson's Mill on 4/13 and the Grazing Land Steering Committee meeting on April 6.
- Invitations and copy of current plan sent for Plan of Work meeting scheduled for May 2.
- CDO Budget has been submitted.
- Quarterly report has been prepared and distributed.
- Land Judging plans are progressing. Deadline for registration is April 25.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

April 19-20	Envirothon
May 2	Plan of Work Meeting
May 3	Land Judging at PMC – 9:30am
May 9	Committee Meetings – 9am
May 11-13	Farm Show at Fairgrounds – GVCD presentations at 2pm and 4pm; will be there all day
May 17	Regular Board Meeting
By May 31	County & District Conservation Farm Selections



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
179 Northridge Dr.
Lewisburg, WV 24901
(304) 645-6172 (Phone)

NRCS REPORT – GREENBRIER VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

April 19, 2018

Farm Bill Programs

- EQIP – Staff have been working on getting their pre-approvals approved / obligated (see the March report for more details)
- AMA – No funding yet (may not get any for FY18)
- CSP – Deadline to accept new applications was March 2nd; deadline for renewal sign-up was March 13th; waiting on timeline (to process applications)
- FCA (Focused Conservation Approach) – The AO (Area Office) and the SO (State Office) would like for the field offices to be working on their FY19 and FY20 proposals. District Supervisors, please work with your NRCS staff on developing a new (or update an existing) proposal.

Personnel/Other

- Lewisburg Field Office has a new employee – Chris Elliott. Chris came from the Huntington Field Office and will be in the role of Soil Conservationist.
- Jack has officially retired. His last day was April 6th. Julie Stutler, DC in Cross Lanes, was the Acting DC the week of April 9th. Jason Crislip, DC in Parkersburg, is our Acting DC this week (week of April 16th). We do not know any further details at this time.
- Field Office staff have been working on the pre-approvals for FY18, surveying and designing engineering practices, contract maintenance, Ag Learn trainings, etc.
- Chris, Silas, and Josh attended a week-long engineering training in Flatwoods last week
- Katy assisted with the Grassland Evaluation Contest last Friday in Jackson's Mill; she will be assisting with the Envirothon this Thursday (19th) and Friday (20th) also at Jackson's Mill; she is also working on an ACEP-ALE plan for a Greenbrier County participant.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Also, the district may want to consider whether it wants an engineering firm that also has the ability to perform environmental assessments.

Legislative Update

The Legislature passed, and the governor sign, two bills that affect how the SCC/WVCA are able to respond to natural disasters.

SB282 goes into effect June 8 and allows the SCC/WVCA to bypass purchasing requirements during times of declared natural disasters. The bill gives the agency greater flexibility to respond to such events.

House Bill 4162 authorizes the SCC to enter into contracts directly related to natural disaster recovery and stream restoration related to flooding. It also authorizes the SCC to comply with current and future state or federal provisions relating to natural disaster response. The bill goes into effect on May 16.

Supervisor Handbook

The WVCA, in partnership with the WVACD, will be reviewing and updating the supervisor handbook. This effort comes out of the recent 14 district listening session. Suggested changes are encouraged. Please provide any suggestions to Kim or Jeremy.

Northeast Conservation District Discussion

WVACD President Timothy VanReenen, Eastern Panhandle District Chairman Linn Dunham and Brian will be attending a 2-day summit April 23-25 to discuss revitalizing conservation districts, developing the next round of leaders and strengthening the conservation partnership. Information on the effort will be forthcoming.

AGEP:

- **April 2018** - Presentation of FY 19 AgEP to SCC
- **June 15, 2018** – Deadline for CDs submit final practice list to WVCA (CDs can submit final list any time after SCC approval)
- **July 1, 2018** - Start of FY 19 program
- **July 31, 2018** - CDs submit annual progress report (per legislative rule)

Agricultural Day at the Capitol

The WVCA has formed an Agricultural Conservation Day committee to start the planning of next year's program. If you have suggestions please provide them to your Area Director. Agricultural Day at the Capitol will be January 30, 2019.

WVACD Quarterly Meeting Dates/Locations:

July 9 & 10, 2018 Flatwoods
October 15 & 16, 2018 Flatwoods Days Inn

State Conservation Committee Meeting Dates

April 10, 2018
July 10, 2018
October 9, 2018

Watershed OM&R

- North Annual inspections began March 13 and will continue through April 20.
- Work orders along with proposed contracts for the upcoming season will be prepared and presented at the board meetings following annual inspections.
- All districts statewide will be changing to fall annual inspections. Supervisors are invited to attend quarterly inspections that will be performed in the spring.

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April 10, 2018

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October 9, 2018

Watershed OM&R

- North Annual inspections began March 13 and will continue through April 20.
- Work orders along with proposed contracts for the upcoming season will be prepared and presented at the board meetings following annual inspections.
- All districts statewide will be changing to fall annual inspections. Supervisors are invited to attend quarterly inspections that will be performed in the spring.

- Five-year work plans will be developed for all districts.

Citizens Contact Reports

- Call Log Procedure – a call log procedure has been implemented to assure that calls are directed to the appropriate project section staff. Please call 304-872-4302 and your call will be directed as needed.
- Technicians are performing site and generating stream management plans and blockage removal based on the calls that are received.

Stream Projects

- Buffalo Creek – working on a contract to have a job showing this spring.
- South Fork of Cherry River – will have job showing for Phase II of project with work starting late spring or as soon as weather allows.
- Coal River – working out details for a contract to start process of job showing with work this summer.
- Paint Creek (Kanawha Co) – New DEP project, working on survey.

Dam Rehab

- Gannett Fleming is continuing to work on planning studies for Brush Creek 9 & 15 and New Creek 1 & 17, and perform the construction oversight for UDC1.
- Upper Deckers 1
 - WVCA continues to work on the permits and mitigation plan.
 - The contractor moved onsite December 11, 2017 and continues to work on temporary measures to prepare for construction.
- NPCD, SCD, MCD and PVCD – Please track hours that District Supervisors attend any rehab meetings.
- Rehab meetings have been suspended at this time with the exception of Upper Deckers 1. This call takes place on Mondays at 9:00 am.

9:30 AM

04/19/18

Greenbrier Valley Conservation District
A/P Aging Summary
 As of April 19, 2018

	<u>Current</u>	<u>1 - 30</u>	<u>31 - 60</u>	<u>61 - 90</u>	<u>> 90</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
American Forage and Grassland Council	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
BJW Printing & Office Supplies	59.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59.95
City of Lewisburg	17.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.42
First Citizens Bank	260.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	260.06
Fisher Auto Parts	600.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.08
Harry L. Vance Logging	966.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	966.42
Komax, LLC	230.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	230.73
Mon Power	26.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.61
Mountaineer Gas Company	185.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	185.56
Sherry W. Ferrell	375.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	375.00
Suddenlink	217.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	217.04
Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00
WVCEC	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
TOTAL	<u>3,018.87</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,018.87</u>