

Southern Conservation District  
November 14, 2019  
Minutes of Board Meeting

The Southern Conservation District November 14, 2019 board meeting was held at their office, 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV. Virgel called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

Virgel Caldwell shared thank you notes from Becky Floyd and from the family of Carol McKinney.

Bill Harris led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Randy Prince opened the meeting with prayer.

Virgel Caldwell presented 5 year service pins to Randy Prince and Oscar Vecellio.

Supervisors Present

Virgel Caldwell	Randall Patton
Randy Prince	Oscar Vecellio
Bill Harris	Curtis Murphy
John Farrell	John Breneman
Dennis Bailey	Jeff Mitchem

Supervisors Absent

Ray Lafferty

Others Present

Lynn Woods, WVCA	Marty Walker, WVCA
Dave Parkulo, SCD	Tim Daubert, Beckley Sanitary Board
Katy McBride, NRCS	John Peplowski, Beckley Sanitary Board
Brian Sparks, WVU Extension	Luke Stevens, Beckley Sanitary Board
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA	Judith Lyons, WVCA (by skype)

**Randall Patton moved to approve the October 10, 2019 board meeting minutes. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.**

**Southern Conservation District Financial Reports**

**Randall Patton moved to approve the October district financial reports as prepared by Akers and Associates. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.**

Two LWS CDs (ending in 626 and 705) are up for renewal 11/21/19. Oscar Vecellio has been researching options for better rates as the current rate is 0.1510%. He has found a bank offering almost a full percent more. Discussion ensued. **Curtis Murphy moved and Randall Patton seconded the motion to delegate authority to Oscar Vecellio to move the two CDs to another bank for a better rate. Motion carried.**

Dave Parkulo provided updates on Accounts Receivable. **Randall Patton moved to approve the October accounts receivable report as prepared by Akers and Associates. Randy Prince seconded. Motion carried.**

**Southern Conservation District Crew/Technician Supervisor Report**

Dave Parkulo reported on equipment rentals, OM&R, and farm work completed during the last month. Most cost-share work has been completed. He also gave an update on projects currently in progress.

**WV Conservation Agency District Manager Report**

Lynn Woods presented the October financial reports for the co-administered funds as prepared by WVCA fiscal staff. **Randy Prince moved to approve the October financial reports for the co-administered funds as prepared by WVCA fiscal staff. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.**

Virgel Caldwell presented the FY19 Agreed Upon Procedures engagement report from Lowe and Associates and reviewed the findings. **Oscar Vecellio moved and John Farrell seconded the motion to accept the FY19 Agreed Upon Procedures report. Motion carried.**

The following invoices were presented for board approval:

SCD Invoice 4863	OM&R work	\$2,000.00
SCD Invoice 4908	OM&R work	\$1,280.00
SCD Invoice 4909	OM&R work	\$2,625.00
SCD Invoice 4914	OM&R work	\$4,914.00

**Randy Prince moved to approve the invoices presented for payment. Dennis Bailey seconded. Motion carried.**

Virgel Caldwell reported that there has been a request from Independence Middle School for assistance with a high tunnel and asked Katy McBride to provide more information. She explained that the school wants to install a high tunnel for their science and bio classes and were hoping the SCD might partner with them in doing so. Virgel noted that the District is in possession of a 20 x 30 high tunnel which was donated by Pucketts for a demo project and suggested that might be donated to the school. **Oscar Vecellio moved and Randy Prince seconded the motion to donate said high tunnel to Independence Middle School.** Discussion ensued. It was noted that three schools would have access to it. It was also noted that the donation would be considered made on a first come/first served basis as no other schools have asked for such assistance and there is only one high tunnel available. **Motion carried.** Additional discussion ensued about installation of the high tunnel. **Dennis Bailey moved and Oscar Vecellio seconded the motion to donate SCD work crew time to set up the high tunnel. Motion carried.** Curtis Murphy volunteered to call Pucketts to explain the decision and perhaps get donated assistance with the installation. Katy will wait to notify the school until Curtis talks to Pucketts.

All districts have been asked to appoint a representative to the WVACD Water Resource Committee. It was noted that Ray Lafferty already serves on the committee. Jeremy explained that there will be a meeting of the committee December 11<sup>th</sup> and the goal is to have a rep from every District present. Discussion ensued. It was decided that in light of Ray's health issues an alternate would be appointed. Bill Harris volunteered to be the alternate. **Dennis Bailey moved and Oscar Vecellio seconded the motion to appoint Bill Harris as the alternate member. Motion carried.** Bill will coordinate with Ray.

Virgel Caldwell presented the current list of committees for updating. Discussion ensued.

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John Breneman announced that he will regretfully resign his position as District Supervisor for Fayette County, effective today, due to failing health. The Board offered their thanks for his service and expressed that they hate to lose him. He will submit a written resignation at the end of the meeting.

The committee list was reviewed and updated. **Dennis Bailey moved and Randall Patton seconded the motion to change the committee list. Motion carried.**

A new MOU between SCC, WVCA, SCD, and Mountain RC&D was presented for approval. Discussion ensued. **Bill Harris moved and Oscar Vecellio seconded the motion to delegate Virgel Caldwell to sign the agreement. Motion carried.** Jeremy Salyer will get RC&D contact information for Randall Patton.

Virgel Caldwell gave the floor to Katy McBride to discuss the Grassland Evaluation Contest. Katy reported there has been discussion about combining the contest with the state land judging contest that is held at the Nestor family farm. Discussion ensued. Consensus of the Board was to keep the events separate, as they are. Katy will share their input with the organizers.

Katy McBride presented a CREP plan revision for Jim Tolliver in Fayette County for approval. **Bill Harris moved and John Breneman seconded the motion to approve the revised plan. Motion carried.**

Dennis Bailey asked that the Board consider recommending Marty Walker to fill the DM position left vacant by Becky Floyd's retirement. Discussion ensued. Jeremy reported that the position had been posted internally and the closing date is 11/15/2019. A Supervisor (usually the chairman) will be invited to participate in the interview process.

**WV Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Report**

Marty Walker provided a written AgEP recap report and a written monthly report for 319 to the Supervisors. Discussion ensued.

Marty presented the following AgEP completed contracts for payment approval:

Heavy Use Protection Area:

Jerry Bennett	\$1,000.00
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Pond Cleanout:

Ronald Shrader	\$1,000.00
George Daniel	\$2,000.00

Lime

Chris Scott	\$ 467.51
Robert Peck	\$ 172.97
James Bennett	\$1,480.32
Richard Breton	\$2,000.00

**Bill Harris moved to approve the completed AgEP contracts for payment. Oscar Vecellio seconded. Motion carried.**



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Marty Walker presented one 319 invoice for payment:

Water Quality monitoring and sampling invoices for Pipestem Creek Project		
Invoice #218622	AnaLabs	\$90.00

**Bill Harris moved and Oscar Vecellio seconded the motion to approve the 319 payment. Motion carried.**

Marty reported that she had done presentations at the request of Piney Creek Watershed Association and WVU Master Gardeners.

Marty reported that there were five applications for the water tank program. At this time, only one cooperator has turned in receipts: Matthew Martin - \$64.00. Authority was previously delegated to the AgEP committee to approve these applications.

Marty asked the Board if they wished to purchase calendars, as in past years. Discussion ensued.  
**Dennis Bailey moved and John Farrell seconded the motion to approve up to \$800.00 to purchase calendars. Motion carried.**

Marty thanked the board for their support for her applying for the DM position and said that if anyone wished to discuss with her she would be glad to share her reasons for doing so.

#### **WV Association of Conservation Districts**

John Farrell reported that the October WVACD quarterly meeting was one of the best he has attended. NACD personnel provided information on how to move legislation; WVCA offered commentary on budget and marketing and the importance of the message "Conservation Matters because Conservation Works." He said there was inspiration to be more educationally involved with youth.

Bill Harris noted that there is potential for interested Districts to host a state field day. Appalachian Grazing Conference is set for March 11-13, 2021. There will be Supervisor Training in January. Ag Day breakfast will be held on 1/31/2020. District Supervisors are encouraged to meet with their Legislators that day. The Century Farm deadline for 2020 is January 1<sup>st</sup>. John Farrell also reported on the Conservation Farm of the Year winner. Virgel Caldwell asked that the field day be placed on the December agenda for consideration.

#### **Visiting Agencies**

WV Conservation Agency

Jeremy Salyer reviewed his written report and highlighted State Committee and Quarterly dates and State AgEP Meeting dates. He reminded the Board that any comments regarding the allocation formula should be given to Marty. Also, it is time for Districts to review their policy and employee policy manuals. There is a projected 4.6% budget cut possible, but the WVCA plans to absorb this cut.

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Judith Lyons provided an update via Skype. All annual inspections have been completed and districts will receive a copy. She noted that the agency and other districts were very pleased with the O&M work that had been performed by the SCD work crew.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Katy McBride submitted a written report and reviewed highlights.

Beckley Sanitary Board

A delegation from the Beckley Sanitary Board presented a proposal for the SCD to partner with them on an RCPP project. They discussed details of their plan for Pinecrest Drainage Restoration Project. Discussion ensued. There was concern about how much involvement the District could have since the property is privately owned. Conservation easements were discussed. At this point, the BSB is not requesting any financial assistance from the SCD. The RCPP deadline is December 3, 2019. With the nearness of that date, it was decided to have a Special Board Meeting on 11/19/2019 at 10am to discuss/approve the SCD's involvement as a partner.

WVU Extension

Brian Sparks reported. There will be a Meet Your Forestry meeting on 11/21 in Nicholas County. He reported there were 14 graduates from the Master Gardeners program so there are available horticulture educators for projects. Winter educational dinner meetings are planned. January will cover industrial hemp, February will cover soil and soil testing with Tom Baisden, and March will address grazing. He requested assistance from SCD for the cost of those meetings and Virgel Caldwell told him to please write a letter requesting funds. He is looking to bring programming to the Meadow Bridge area in the coming year. They also plan to have a Landowner's Opportunities Meeting in the near future as the last one was very successful. He noted that Fayette and Nicholas County Extension offices have Facebook pages.

American Chestnuts

**Dennis Bailey moved and John Farrell seconded the motion to donate \$300.00 to American Chestnuts for membership (same as previous membership level). Motion carried.**

**Supervisor Reports**

Bill Harris presented information about how drought staging is a national program but that the accuracy is limited because the state of WV has only three sites reporting conditions. They need volunteers with

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high speed internet to commit to reporting conditions daily between 7 and 9am. Luke from Beckley Sanitary Board may be able to do this and will get the contact information from Bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Virgel Caldwell

Bill Harris

Chairman

Secretary