

**ELK CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2020**

Supervisors Present:

Donald Burroughs
Shirley Hyre
Clark Mollohan
Mike Smalley
Ken Stowers

Supervisors Absent:

Rebecca Lilly

Others Present: Suzie Steele, WVCA/ECD DM; Kirk Burroughs, ECD Equip./OM&R Manager; Tammy Hoover, ECD DA; Russell Young, WVCA Cons. Spec.; Kim Fisher, WVCA Area Director; Judith Lyons, WVCA; Larry Greynolds, NRCS/Assoc. Super. (Nicholas County); Johnny King, WVDOF; Jennifer Liddle; WVDEP; Josh Porto, BCHS Vo-Ag Teacher

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mollohan called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Ms. Hyre**.

AGENDA: **Mr. Burroughs** moved to approve the agenda; **Mr. Stowers** seconded; motion passed.

Dec. 17, 2019 Minutes: **Mr. Stowers** moved to approve the minutes (copy attached); **Ms. Hyre** seconded; motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT/DEC. 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: **Ms. Hyre** reported that all accounts are in good order. **Ms. Hyre** moved to approve the financials and file for audit; **Mr. Burroughs** seconded; motion passed. **Ms. Hyre & Mrs. Steele** reported on the balance in the supervisor travel and per diem account.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: **Ms. Hyre** moved to approve the payment of bills (list provided at meeting and attached); **Mr. Smalley** seconded; motion passed.

BCHS Greenhouse Project – **Josh Porto**, BCHS Vo-Ag Teacher, presented a PowerPoint and a letter of request for support from the district on the construction of the new greenhouse at BCHS (copy of letter attached). **After discussion, Mr. Smalley** moved to at this time donate \$1,500.00 to the project; **Ms. Hyre** seconded; motion passed. **Mr. Porto** also reported on the rain gauge that the district purchased for his classes.

REPORTS

DEP: **Mrs. Jennifer Liddle** reviewed her handout (copy attached). She asked for suggestions of community and civic organizations to possibly partner with. Having these programs will qualify for the use of 319 funds. She explained the programs and reported on the Watershed Education Day to be held April 16, 2020 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at Carnifex Ferry in Nicholas County for 5th grade students.

DISTRICT EQUIPMENT/OM&R MANAGER'S REPORT: **Kirk Burroughs** reported that he is checking on tire prices for one of the spreaders.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: **Mrs. Steele** reviewed her written report. (copy attached). District policy, plan of work, and budgets will be reviewed on Feb. 11 beginning at 9 am.

DISTRICT ASSISTANT'S REPORT: **Ms. Hoover** reviewed her written report. (copy attached). **Ms. Hyre** moved to approve offering the grant writing seminar that the district purchased to partnering agencies; **Mr. Burroughs** seconded; motion passed. The viewing(s) will be offered after the next board meeting on Feb. 25 and possibly other days as requested.

WVCA CONSERVATION SPECIALIST REPORT: **Mr. Young** asked the supervisors for any comments they may have that need submitted to the State AgEP committee for the FY21 program. He reported on the balance in the district's AgEP account and potato funds. He also mentioned a new app that is being worked on for the agency. He reported that the WVAWV tree grant program has been completed. He thanked everyone for their help in delivering trees and materials.

AREA DIRECTOR'S REPORT: **Mrs. Fisher** reviewed the Agency's report. (copy attached).

WVCA PERSONNEL: **Ms. Lyons** asked which supervisors will be attending the Watershed meeting on Friday, Jan. 31 at the Capitol. **Mr. Burroughs** and possibly **Mr. Smalley** will attend. This meeting will cover OM&R for the coming season. **Mr. Burroughs** stated that he is securing estimates for the ECD from other work crews. **Ms. Lyons** stated that she will provide estimates also. Discussion ensued about the purchase of a slope mower for the district. Funding avenues were discussed also. The consensus of the board is to pursue this option as compared to contracting the OM&R out. She reported on the engineering and work to be done at Salt Lick Site 8. She stated that she would like to attend the Braxton County Commission meeting in March to keep them in the loop on OM&R work. She asked supervisors to attend also if possible.

WVCA PERSONNEL (cont.): Her division is currently reviewing the annual watershed inspections. She reported that someone from her staff will be attending the NRCS survey at Camp Caesar. They will use their report for control points.

SWA Reports: Ms. Hyre (Braxton) reported that they will receive the first installment of their REAP Grant this month. They have hired a new part time employee. The center is in the process of reorganizing the duties of their board members.

Mr. Stowers (Nicholas) reported that they had a meeting last night but only two members were in attendance, so no business was conducted.

NRCS Personnel Report: Larry Greynolds reported that they are waiting to be given a cutoff date on signups. They are reviewing those already received and hope to start writing contracts as soon as possible. He reported that Mr. Sentz requested to schedule a local work group meeting soon.

FSA Personnel: Mr. Smalley reported that they met last Thursday. He informed the board of some of the issues with the loss insurance through FSA.

WVU Extension: None

Forestry Division: Johnny King reported that they are up to date on logging inspections within the Elk CD. They will be conducting the Smokey Program in schools throughout February. He is continuing in assisting with the Envirothon. He will be working with Tyler Putzulu on stewardship programs. He has been attending WVU Extension/Farm Bureau meetings as a part of their meet your forester program. They need to have more landowner education workshops in each county. They have held one in Nicholas County. Braxton County's is scheduled for Feb. 17, 2020. They are trying to get them scheduled in Clay and Webster Counties.

CD SUPERVISORS: Ms. Hyre presented a written copy of her WVACD Quarterly Meeting report (copy attached). She also provided the suggested talking points to the supervisors attending Ag Day at the Capitol on Jan. 31, 2020. She also stated the WVACD budget has been sent to all districts. She reported on the WVACD applying for foundation status. **Mr. Burroughs** reported that he has been assigned to the WVACD Water Resources Committee.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

AG ENHANCEMENT: Mr. Burroughs deferred to Mr. Young, who reported that there will be a meeting of WVCD Conservation Specialists in February. There should be a state AgEP committee meeting in March. He discussed some of the funding scenarios.

BUILDING: None

COMMUNICATION: Ms. Hyre reported that the committee will be meeting tomorrow. Ms. Hoover will be sitting in.

EDUCATION: Ms. Hyre reported that there are a lot of educational functions coming up soon, including the Envirothon training and competition.

EQUIPMENT: Mr. Smalley reported that he is gathering information on the cost of a new lime spreader. He will look at some of the slope mowers when he attends a farm show in February.

FINANCE: Ms. Hyre reported that they had a brief meeting prior to today's board meeting to discuss the BCHS greenhouse. There needs to be a budget/financial committee meeting scheduled.

FORESTRY: None

GRASSLANDS: Mr. Burroughs reported that the WVACD Grazing Lands Steering Committee met on January 10. They are trying to get the statewide farm field day rescheduled. Their next meeting will be held April 3 at the ECD office.

LEGISLATIVE: Mr. Smalley will attend Ag Day at the Capitol. He reported that Mr. Pitsenbarger has been appointed Vice Chairman of the state Legislative Ag Committee.

PROJECT: Mr. Young reported that the WVACD Tree Grant has been completed. He will have a meeting soon on the erosion control project in Braxton County and will be also working with the WVDOH. He then presented information on placing weather stations at elementary schools. The stations would be from Davis Systems and would include the curriculum needed. **Ms. Hyre moved to do a pilot program with Birch River Elementary School at a cost of up to \$800.00; Mr. Smalley seconded; motion passed.**

WATER QUALITY: None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Transfer of Big Ditch OM&R Funds to Camp Caesar Flood Repair Co-Admin Account** – The letter received from Mr. Farkas was reviewed (copy attached). Nothing further. Item will be revisited after watershed study is done.
- **Appointment of Representative to Mountain RC&D** – Discussion ensued. There is also an open position at the Great Kanawha RC&D which includes Clay County. Betsy Morris from Webster County is interested in serving on the Mountain RC&D. She is to let the board know when she has reached a decision.
- **Appointment of Clay and Nicholas County Supervisors** – No action.
- **FY19 Audit Report** – No action

NEW BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

- **Engineering Agreement for Investigation into Seepage on Salt Lick Site 8** – Mrs. Steele and Ms. Lyons reviewed the agreement. Mr. Smalley moved to accept the agreement; Mr. Burroughs seconded; motion passed.
- **Sponsorship of Great Kanawha RC&D - \$250.00** – Ms. Hyre moved to approve the sponsorship; Mr. Smalley seconded; motion passed.
- **Sponsorship of Watershed Celebration Day - \$100.00** – Mr. Smalley moved to approve the sponsorship; Mr. Stowers seconded; motion passed.
- **District Envirothon Training** – Ms. Hyre reported that it has been suggested to hold the training on a weekday. Ms. Hyre moved to hold a district training at no charge to district teams and a charge just for lunch to outside district teams; Mr. Burroughs seconded; motion passed. Ms. Hoover will contact schools and clubs to begin date selection and planning, with the assistance of Mrs. Steele.
- **District Assistant Attending Small Farms Conference** – Ms. Hyre moved to approve the attendance and payment of registration to the WV Small Farms Conference for district assistant on Thurs., Feb. 20.; Mr. Stowers seconded; motion passed.

AgEP PAYMENTS

James McClung (Nicholas) – Lime - \$467.02
Linda Brown (Braxton) – Lime - \$1,736.63
Michael Shamblin (Clay) – Lime - \$350.00
Phyllis Grove (Braxton) – Lime - \$780.85

Giovanno Romano (Nicholas) – Lime - \$383.31
James Hanna (Nicholas) – Lime - \$1,161.77
Patrick Nettles (Braxton) – Lime - \$288.75

Ms. Hyre moved to approve; Mr. Stowers seconded; motion passed.

DEP

Brooks Run Mining Company, LLC – Renewal, Article 3, Permit U201208 – Holly District, Braxton County

No Comments

Being no further business to attend to and on motion by Mr. Burroughs, seconded by Mr. Stowers, Chairman Mollohan declared the meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER: (OFFICE CLOSED/ECD MEETINGS)

Jan 31	Ag Day at the Capitol & State Watershed Committee Meeting
Feb 5	Envirothon Meeting – ECD/WVACD Conference Room – 10 AM
Feb 11	ECD Executive Committee Meeting – 10 AM
Feb 12	Mountain RC&D Meeting - NRCS office in Beckley at 1 PM
Feb 12	WVU Extension Dinner Meeting – Soils Testing & Fertility – Nicholas Co. Park - 5:30 PM
Feb 13	WVU Extension Dinner Meeting – Cattle Handling – Jackson’s Mill – 6:30 PM
Feb 16	Braxton Co. Farm Bureau – Meet Your Forester, Johnnie King – Flatwoods Community Building - 6 PM
Feb 17	ECD OFFICE CLOSED – Presidents’ Day
Feb 17	Forestry Landowner Education Workshop in Braxton County
Feb 18	WV Dept. of Ag Commission to visit BCHS at 1 pm
Feb 19-22	WV Small Farms Conference @ Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center
Feb 25	ECD Board Meeting – 10 AM
Mar 4	Envirothon Meeting – ECD/WVACD Conference Room – 10 AM
Mar 10	ECD Executive Committee Meeting – 10 AM
Mar 10	WVU Extension Dinner Meeting – Grazing – Sunday Rd. Bapt. Church, Hico, WV - 5:30 PM
Mar 24	ECD Board Meeting – 10 AM
Apr 1	Envirothon Meeting – ECD/WVACD Conference Room – 10 AM
Apr 3	Grazing Lands Steering Committee Meeting ECD Conference Room – 10 AM
Apr 10	Grasslands Evaluation Contest – Jackson’s Mill
Apr 14	ECD Executive Committee Meeting – 10 AM
Apr 16-17	Envirothon Competition – Canaan Valley
Apr 20-21	WVACD Quarterly Meeting @ Mardi Gras Casino & Resort in Charleston
Apr 28	ECD Board Meeting – 10 AM
Jun 15-20	Junior conservation Camp @ Cedar Lakes & Senior Conservation Camp @ Camp Caesar
Jul 20-21	WVACD Quarterly Meeting @ Harpers Ferry
Aug 13-22	WV State Fair
Oct 19-20	WVACD Quarterly Meeting @ Flatwoods Days Hotel