

**Southern Conservation District
Minutes of Board Meeting
May 14th 2020**

The Southern Conservation District May board meeting was held at their office at 463 Ragland Road, Beckley WV and also by teleconference due to the COVID-19 guidelines. Chairman Virgel Caldwell called the meeting to order following the leading of the Pledge of Allegiance and Randall Patton led in prayer. The meeting was called to order at 9:46 AM.

Those present of meeting:

Board of Supervisors

(Those present)

Oscar Vecellio
Virgel Caldwell
Randall Patton

(Those present via teleconference)

Curtis Murphy
Randy Prince
Dennis Bailey
John Farrell
Bill Harris

SCD/WVCA/NRCS & Other agencies

(Those present)

Dave Parkulo, SCD
Marty Walker, WVCA

(Those present via teleconference)

Jennifer Skaggs, WVCA
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA
Judith Lyons, WVCA
Mike McMunigal, WVCA
Wanda Smith, NRCS
Carl Gower, NRCS

Approval of March Board Minutes
Motion carried

Review of Accounts Receivable

Charles Gusser 90 days past due, Kenny Lambert 85 past due Edsel 85 past due John Richmond
30 days past on 85 David Simmons 30 days behind 130

WVCA 4,365 past due

Dave Parkulo paid since reporting are:

Reviewed aging summary of making contact to accounts past due and will contact mike akers

Dennis Bailey moved to approve,

Motion carried

Conservation Technician Supervisor Report Dave, Parkulo

Dave Parkulo reported that the crew has finished Cranberry Creek project with exception of partial upper and lower portions. They have removed in excess of 10,000 tons of sediment from the channel. He states that despite the office closure he has been doing equipment rentals but front door closed. He gave a report on multiple uses of the lime buggy and post driver for March and this month and lime delivery and spreading to farms. Has a work order ongoing to spray mill creek number 5 for poison hemlock. Completed a brush project of 8 acres in Marie, working on a pond and water system for cost share currently.

The crew has delivered 105 tons of lime this month, completed fence projects, removed shrubs and installed access road, completed 68 acres of broadleaf weed spraying in summers county. He reviewed current rental of equipment and moving forward with projects best of ability during the COVID 19 situation.

West Virginia Conservation Agency District Manager Repor, Marty Walker

Invoices for Payment Approval:

Cranberry Creek Sediment Removal-WVCA-SCD

INVOICE # 4943	\$86,820.00
INVOICE # 4955	\$156,985.00
INVOICE #4957	\$19,250.00
INVOICE #4961	\$22,980.00

Marty presented the above invoices for approval from the recent Cranberry Creek sediment removal completed by the SCD crew. A discussion was had regarding an invoice listed on the agenda which had not yet been verified by Judith Lyons. Marty commented that Judith Lyons could elaborate during her report, that the item had been listed in error and is removed from the invoices for payment today. INVOICE #4956 in the amount of \$95,052.94 is being reviewed between the WVCA and the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority.

Dennis Bailey moved to approve the above invoices for payment, Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.

Marty reviewed recent sponsorship requests submitted to the district.

The WV Watershed Network requested annual sponsorship from the SCD. Virgel Caldwell commented the amount in years past donated has been \$100.00 per year to support the Watershed Celebration Day for the WVCA and WV Rivers Coalition to continue this event. Marty read the letter of request from the WVWN.

Randall Patton moved to approve the sponsorship in the amount of \$100.00 for the celebration, Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.

Marty presented the budget and project summary submitted by Honeysuckle Hill Nature Discovery Center. This was discussed at the March board meeting per request of the supervisors to itemize project needs for review following the presentation given at that time. In review of the itemized project plans for pollinator garden, interest in conservation and pollination was commented on by members of the board.

Randall Patton made the motion to approve sponsorship to Honeysuckle Hill Nature Discovery Center in the amount as presented of \$1,335.00 to support the pollinator garden. Oscar Vecellio seconded, motion carried.

Marty reviewed a letter sent by Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority in the interest of the SCD to reappoint the current chairperson Teresa Blackmon for the Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority board.

Randall Patton made a motion to reappoint, Dennis Bailey seconded, motion carried.

West Virginia Conservation Specialist Report, Marty Walker WVCA

Marty provided an update of the current AgEP reporting continuing to work with cooperators through completion of contracts while submitting photos and receipts to support project completion. She has been following up with incomplete contracts seeking cancelation or approvals and revisiting ranking scores for lime application approval to spend additional funds remaining to close-out the fiscal year. Marty commented on her recent conference call with current acting interim AgEP South Manager, Mike McMunigal in reference to the plans of assistance for the upcoming application period at SCD with the vacancy of Conservation Specialist. She is working on end of year wrap up with practices and dollars as well as the database and communication with landowners.

Marty presented the following AgEP Payments for Approval:

Water System

Pamela Bailey	\$500.00
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Randall Patton moved to approve, Ray Lafferty seconded, motion carried.

Pasture Division Fence

Matt Epling	\$1,600.00
Cody Jones	\$2,000.00

Curtis Murphy moved to approve pasture fence contracts, Ray Lafferty seconded, motion carried.

Exclusion Fence

Teresa Butts	\$2,000.00
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Ray Lafferty moved to approve the exclusion fence, Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.

Marty presented the following AgEP Cancelations

Lime

Barbara Holiday	\$1,611.50
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Heavy Use Protection Area

Gary Sears	\$1,000.00
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Randall Patton moved to approve the cancelations, Ray Lafferty seconded, motion carried.

Marty reviewed the AgEP Applications for Approval Per Ranking and Available district Funds

Lime

Jackie Gill	\$1,275.17
Mike Smith	\$1,062.87
Roy Carper	\$473.00

Dennis Bailey moved to approve the AgEP applications for approval, Ray Lafferty seconded, motion carried.

Mike McMunigal, WVCA gave a report that staff members in the Lewisburg office will be available to assist during application program and ranking during the time of vacancy at the SCD to help Marty with AgEP. Until the position can be filled, Mike offered that Greenbrier Valley Conservation Specialists could be utilized to assist during application periods and ranking.

Jennifer Skaggs, WVCA reported that the call scheduled for Monday the 18th is to discuss how the application periods are being planned statewide within the districts for receiving applications and to review options for how districts are pursuing the application period during the COVID-19 situation. Jennifer reported that the Conservation Specialist position has been re-posted on the WVCA website and Indeed, and they will be waiting until the position has closed before reviewing all applications.

WV Association of Conservation Districts

John Farrell reported an update from Wayne McKeever about cancelations statewide for the farm tour.

Jeremy Salyer WVCA potentially June 1st reopening

Plan of Work due to state committee June 15th placed on next agenda

Set meeting – Send out copy of Jeremy 's report

Judith Lyons WVCA stated that the watershed technicians are currently not doing site visits for call ins at this time due to the current COVID situation but will resume once they are back to normal work, right now emergency visits only. Call ins are being referred to their county and not doing stream plans at this time, will resume when back to headquarters, dam inspections are ongoing, monthly and quarterly are continuing on , reporting

Has worked with Dave on scheduling of Dam mowing to be started, other districts will be obtaining the crew

Capitol , West Fork, and GVD will be seeking the use of scd crew

Scheduling the channel work .

Dams – Kim is preparing the SOR-

June board meeting for signature

Brush creek 5, 6, 10

Looking at trash racks and risers at various needs of repair and replacements – statewide contract for those items for all dams

Painting Contract will be statewide also

Dave completed Contract work as stated in his report, an argeous project to say the least, town of beckley is very pleased with the work- heavy on complaints from the city of beckley so the agency moved forward on completion.

Research on records, 2003 is the last time Judy can determine sediment was removed

In annual inspection reports, sediment bars were noted and had many requests from city of beckley asking for clean and repair of channel condition,

It had not reached 20 percent capacity Raleigh Co Commission and city of beckley but within that maintenance agreement , work was slow due to access points, great job and an enormous bill for the landfill

Sediment material had to be tested before the landfill would be accept it due to DEP regulations , had to be drained and then trucked – the landfull will be using the material as a cap Has an issue with a

95K invoice for material that they will be using for their landfill , certainly bringing to theboard for thoughts, ideas and support that this bill be addressed by reducing that invoice or eliminating

Dennis Bailey comments that at the very least the cost offset by the amount they charge for excavation

Oscar noted about the testing and tons assessment fee, the bulk of that material fell under the 10 per ton

Dave Parkulo noted that the assessment fee was reduced to 35 a ton and then to 26 a ton and then dropped to 10 per ton

Dennis noted about 10K tons to ballpark was an excess of 10K tons

Judith wishes to work together, we helped with cap material and this can be reduced again. Working to obtain a reduction on the amount in cooperation since they received materials they would have otherwise had to purchase

Dave Parkulo discussed the need for the material to be disposed and the proximity near the channel of the landfill.

Randall Patton brought forth the idea that we(as a district) should voice the concerns to the County Commission appointments at the SWA.

A discussion was had about the District having a meeting to discuss the invoicing and keep the funding for maintenance on the channel in a cooperative manner.

Wanda Smith, NRCS reported that she is now the acting DC as of March 30th for the detail covering Beckley office due to the vacancy at the SCD and she is available by phone and email at this time. She reviewed the one staff person per vehicle, one staff per floor in an NRCS building policies with all staff adapting to the Coronavirus situation. She commented on ranking deadlines ongoing and current and noted the work being done within the EQUIP program and CSP. Wanda discussed upcoming opportunities that could be of benefit to the SCD and within the district for landowners and partnering agencies. Please see attached written report for specific program information and additional updates.

Wetland determinations and HEL for an easement are being completed at this time as well as ongoing EQUIP contracts. She noted that opportunities for technical assistance grants will be available in which the district can apply for grants and submit proposals for a shared position.

Also, a field work partnership proposal will be forthcoming for a volunteer to learn on the farm with conservation practices working with a producer to increase their knowledge for a learning experience. A mentor could be a conservation supervisor, this program will be seeking volunteers to serve as a mentors. WV State Extension service will be hosting a workshop on sustainability and conservation, she will send that to Marty to forward to everyone.

Wanda mentioned that a biologist for the NPS contacted her about an upcoming plan for Meadow Creek Campground to install a pollinator garden and habitat with annual grasses and paw paw trees as part of the plan for the NRG Scenic area planning for spring of 2021 project, possible implementation in the fall, keep on radar for signage and equipment needs that the

district could be involved in. John Farrell commented interest on the report for the Meadow Creek area.

Carl Gower, NRCS has completed 26 EQUIP applications and 6 CSP applications and is currently working on timber sale contracts in the district as well as 40 forest management plans reaching the ranking deadline.

Supervisor Reports

Virgel Caldwell set up the Committee for Supervisor Officers Nominations. He selected John Farrell and Randy Prince to work together for recommendations for the June board meeting for the following nominations: Chairman, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Association of Conservation Districts representative.

Closing remarks:

June board meeting is pending to be held regular status in conference room if the state reopens and returns to normal working arrangements.

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 AM

Respectfully submitted:

Marty Walker-Owen, District Manager WVCA

Virgel Caldwell, Chairman

Bill Harris, Secretary