

**Southern Conservation District  
Minutes of Meeting  
February 11, 2021**

*The Southern Conservation District* met for their regular monthly board meeting in the conference room at their office location at 463 Ragland Road Beckley WV, 25801. The meeting was called to order at 9:51 AM after everyone in attendance arrived and conference call attendees were present. Curtis Murphy led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, Randall Patton led in prayer.

*Those present of meeting:*

***Board Supervisors***

Dennis Bailey, Chairman  
Bill Harris, Vice Chairman  
Randall Patton, Treasurer  
Curtis Murphy, Secretary  
Randy Prince  
Fred Halsey  
Alvin Marchant

*Present via Skype Call:*

John Farrell

***SCD Staff/WVCA***

Dave Parkulo, SCD  
Kenny Maiolo, WVCA  
Marty Walker-Owen, WVCA  
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA  
Aimee Figgatt, WVCA

***Visitors***

Jeffrey Barr, NRCS  
Doug Manning, National Park Service

***Visiting Agency Reports***

Jeffrey Barr District Conservationist, NRCS

The board was provided an update on current programs and projects ongoing in the SCD with NRCS. See enclosed a written report.

Doug Manning, National Park Service

A discussion was had about the Meadow Creek Campground Pollinator Project. Doug Manning shared an overview of the project goals and scope to the board. He requested future assistance from the District and will report with further details after communication with his superiors. A written summary of project is enclosed.



Aimee Figgatt, WVCA Outreach Specialist

Aimee Figgatt presented the upcoming WVCA Spring Seed Program to the board and requested participation as well as funds to support mailings to those in the District who have registered thus far. She will work with Marty as the program progresses to distribute further information. A link was provided that summarizes the seed program.

**Randall Patton moved to approve \$600 to support the WVCA Spring Seed Program at SCD, Bill Harris requested discussion and asked for information, Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.**

Carl Gower, NRCS Forester

Carl Gower provided an update on completed and ongoing forestry management plans and associated projects in the SCD. A written report is enclosed detailing the forestry work

Jeremy Salyer Area Director, WVCA

A summary and overview of his written report was provided to the board. Special attention was made to remind of upcoming dates. He noted that the CDO budget will remain the same in the coming year. Jeremy Salyer's written report was shared, and it is enclosed.

***Southern Conservation District Business***January 2021 Meeting Minutes Approval

**Curtis Murphy moved to approve the January minutes of meeting, Randall Patton seconded, motion carried.**

SCD Financial Reports Approval

**Curtis Murphy moved to approve the financial reports as provided, Randall Patton seconded, motion carried.**

Accounts Receivable Review & Approval

**Randall Patton moved to approve the aging summary, Bill Harris seconded, motion carried**

**Conservation Technician Supervisor Report, Dave Parkulo**

Dave provided a report on the recent maintenance and upkeep of SCD equipment and items at the shop during winter months. He provided a detail summary of services to all equipment cleaning, maintenance and painting of vehicles and heavy equipment.

A recommendation from the building committee was brought forth by Chair Bill Harris.

The SCD renovation plans to update the upstairs portion of the building including the foyer and the conference room were discussed. The project scope is to update the interior by replacing the



paneling with dry wall, painting the walls, adding crown molding, and replacing the current doors with solid core white doors. The approximate estimate is up to \$8,000 for expenditures and improvements.

Dave Parkulo commented that he received correspondence from Judith Lyons to discuss and review the SWA invoice.

**Bill Harris moved to proceed with the improvements to the SCD building upstairs, Randall Patton seconded, motion carried.**

**WVCA District Administrative Report, Marty Walker-Owen**

Marty provided a brief report on recent updates with district operations and the WVCA. She commented her recent work of updating the AgEP Database, correcting the LOR Database, and working on website revisions. Marty provided a copy of all written reports to the board and updated that Judith Lyons will not be able to attend today but has provided a watershed report. She noted that Judith has been in communication working with her on sponsorship requirements for the county commissions. Marty provided an update on the banking inquiries at First Community Bank. She made the board aware of recent internet issues and that IT is scheduled to visit the SCD to coming to address the ongoing problems affecting the phone system and computer work. She has coordinated with Chris Ellison to come to SCD to resolve the reoccurring problems.

She completed an LOR process training with Anita May at Guthrie now that she has access to the information as corrected by Jay Crump with WVCA IT.

**Randall Patton moved to approve the personnel plan as reviewed and revised, Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.**

**Conservation Specialist Report, Kenny Maiolo**

Kenny gave an overview of the current program work with the 319 project in Pipestem Creek Watershed and provided a draft sample of the outreach material he is working on with WVCA Outreach Specialist, Aimee Figgatt.

No AgEP contracts have been completed to approve at this time.

Dave Parkulo and Kenny Maiolo presented the details of the map plotter for purchase for use of the WVCA and SCD staff for map plotting and printing.

**Randall Patton moved to approve the purchase of the map plotter, Bill Harris seconded, motion carried.**

**Randall Patton moved to purchase the extended warranty on the map plotter, Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.**

**Pasture Weed Management Pilot Program SCD Approval**

**Randall Patton moved to approve the pasture weed management pilot program at the SCD, Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.**



### ***Supervisor Updates & Reports***

Bill Harris provided a report and recommendation from the building committee earlier in the meeting, see notation above.

Dennis Bailey gave an update on the recent discussions within the AgEP subcommittee regarding the allocation formula adjustments.

Randy Prince provided a report on the treasurer office information he has obtained. Randy provided written information to Randall Patton for review and discussion.

An update was given by Dennis Bailey on the recent AgEP subcommittee discussion and plans moving forward with allocation formula changes.

Randall Patton provided an update on his recent review of the financial accounts. Randall shared interest rate comparisons from MCNB as relative to the current standing with First Community Bank.

**Randall Patton moved to relocate the certificate of deposits and current checking accounts at First Community Bank to MCNB except for the operating account.**

A discussion was had about the five CD's and the money market account of Southern Conservation District currently with First Community Bank.

**Randall Patton amended his above motion.**

**Randall Patton moved to transfer the checking accounts and certificate of deposits from First Community Bank and the checking account from BB&T all to MCNB. The transfer of funds will include the action of combining the two SCD CDs from First Community into one CD at MCNB. The money market account will become a reserve checking account at MCNB. (see enclosed an attachment to the official minutes to document the active accounts of this motion)**

**Fred Halsey seconded the motion, the motion carried.**

**Bill Harris moved to adjourn the board meeting, Randall Patton seconded, motion carried.**

***Meeting Adjourned 1:25 PM***

### ***Upcoming meetings & Important reminders***

*Tuesday February the 16<sup>th</sup> OM&R 10:00*

*Check signing Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup>*

*Committee Meeting February 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 AM*



Respectfully Submitted:

District Administrative Specialist, Marty R. Walker-Owen

SCD Chairman, Dennis Bailey





***"A Partner in Conservation  
Since 1935"***



**Monthly NRCS Report  
February 2021**

**Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP):**

- Inspecting implemented practices
- Completing field visits for interested participants for FY21.
- Application deadline for FY21 was November 20, 2020.
- Eligibility deadline for FY21 for applications on file is March 12, 2021.
- Eligibility letters have been sent out to those that are not currently eligible to make sure eligibility paperwork is submitted to FSA by March 12.
- Ranking deadline for FY21 is April 16, 2021.
- Obligation deadline for FY21 is June 25, 2021.

**Agriculture Land Easement Program:**

- Looking for new potential easement applicants
- These perpetual easements can be co-sponsored easements for Farmland protection.
- Applications accepted on a continual basis.

**Conservation Stewardship Program – Classic**

- Accept applications on a continual basis.
- Have not received application deadline for FY21 yet.
- Should be receiving deadline for applications soon.

**Conservation Stewardship Program – Renewals**

- Two CSP Renewal applications were preapproved.
- Obligation deadline was January 21, 2021.
- Currently in review process by area/state office prior to obligation.



### **Agricultural Management Assistance Program**

- Application deadline for FY21 was November 20, 2020.
- Eligibility deadline for FY21 for applications on file is March 12, 2021.
- Eligibility letters have been sent out to those that are not currently eligible to make sure eligibility paperwork is submitted to FSA by March 12.
- Ranking deadline for FY21 is April 16, 2021.
- Obligation deadline for FY21 is June 25, 2021.

### **Other Items:**

- Job posting on USAJobs for a Soil Conservation Technician in the Princeton field office. Accepting applications, position will not be filled soon.
- Offer extended for the Pollinator Specialist that will be a partnership employee between NRCS and WVDNR that will be housed in the Beckley NRCS office. DNR working through hiring process. No start date yet.
- Received a request to partner with the NPS for a pollinator planting adjacent to Meadow Creek Campground. NPS looking for partners to help secure pollinator seed, site preparation for the seeding, and interpretive signs for the planting if the district has any interest.
- Hannah Walls (Pathways Intern) is currently working out of the NRCS Princeton field office. She has been converted to a permanent employee with a duty station of Lewisburg, WV but will continue to work out of Princeton for the foreseeable future due to the pandemic.
- A tentative offer has been extended and accepted for a Pathways Intern for the summer of 2021. Position will be housed in the Beckley field office.



## February 2021 Watershed Section Report

### CCRs:

- None received

### RFAs:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Status</u>
15769	C. May	Fayette	In Progress

### O&M:

#### Brush Ck 4, 5 and 10 riser repair:

- BC 4 and 5 risers have been checked by CEC on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Brian Fry and Levi Cypers were on site with and during the inspections. NRCS ran a camera inspection on both risers and it appears that the concrete is not in good shape in certain places. BC 4 is in worse shape than 5. Both will have to have repairs on the riser. A report will be coming from CEC on the findings.
- Sediment, (95%), was removed from around the risers and access path, placed in the flood pool area along the access path, with the other 5% placed at the edge of the ASW inlet and toe of dam and sloped out to drain for positive drainage. At this stage, it has been determined to leave the sediment where it is and not to take it out to the Mercer County Landfill. This is due to not knowing, if anything, what is in the sediment. If there would be a containment in it, that issue would have to be addressed, which would involve removing all of it and haul out of state to a facility that accepts it. There are no places in the state that will take it. This would be an extremely expensive process. Information was received from WVDEP on the process.

#### Status:

**We need assistance to find a new primary monitor for BC 7a. Without a monitor for the EAP it cannot be processed, and a 300.00 assessment may be charged for reinstatement. If any Supervisor knows anyone in the area, we could use some help with contacting them.**

- Brush Creek Dam #4: EAP: Up To Date
- Brush Creek Dam #5: EAP: Up To Date
- Brush Creek Dam #6: EAP: Up To Date
- Brush Creek Dam #7A: EAP: Needs New Primary Monitor
- Brush Creek Dam #9: EAP: Up To Date
- Brush Creek Dam #10: EAP: Up To Date
- Brush Creek Dam #12: EAP: Up To Date



- Brush Creek Dam #14: EAP: Up To Date
- Brush Creek Dam #15: EAP: Up To Date
- Brush Creek Dam #19A: EAP: Up To Date
- Dave's/Christian Fork Dam #1: EAP: Up To Date
- Dave's/Christian Fork Dam #2: EAP: Up To Date
- Dave's/Christian Fork Dam #3: EAP: Up To Date

Sponsor Reports:

Sponsor reports are being sent to Marty to send out with the agreement for the year. We have not received any sponsor dollars for BC15 (City of Princeton) and BC19 (City of Bluefield) for the past year that would have been for 2020. Those are being checked to see why they didn't sign the agreement or if they will this year. They can still receive the sponsor letter and report and then maybe they will get back on board. The agency does not add any matching funds to the accounts if the sponsor does not send the signed agreement or funding. City of Princeton funding is for the BC 15 and the Brush Ck channel. They may ask for an adjustment if they are no longer sponsoring the dam.

DFCF #3:

I have attached the GEO investigation report that NRCS sent to us. It appears that the PSD was working down there and getting some information and did not inform anyone that they were doing that. They didn't provide a plan to the Agency or NRCS for review. Normally, NRCS will review the plan and comment or provide suggestions. They nor the agency was provided that beforehand and David Dove, WVDEP gave his approval for them to proceed.



Southern Conservation District

Beckley/Princeton Field Office's

Forestry Monthly Report

February 2021

- 17 Forest Management Plans Completed for FY 2021 Applicants (1 CSP 16 EQIP)
- 17 more Forest Management plans to write (6 CSP 11 EQIP)
- Currently working on 7 CSP and 27 EQIP Forestry Applications for FY 2021

#### Future Events

- Continue meeting with applicants
- EQIP Deadline has passed for FY 2021 but still taking CSP Applications for FY 2021
- Get timber sales ready with West Virginia Division of Forestry help
- Continue to complete tree marking for all FY 2020 CSP and EQIP Agreements WVDOF has been a big help in this process.





## **February 2021 WVCA Report**

### **WVCA Operations**

The WVCA employees will continue to telecommute until the governor removes his “safer at home” order. It’s anticipated this will last into 2021.

The WVCA is encouraging its employees and supervisors to follow COVID protocols and wear masks and practice social distancing. The WVCA also encourages the use of telecommunication as much as possible.

### **WV State Conservation Committee**

The SCC/WVCA is still waiting on the Attorney General’s office to provide its opinion regarding conservation projects that involve water quality.

The SCC/WVCA will inform the districts when the opinion is issued and potential courses of action.

### **West Virginia 2021 Legislative Calendar**

February 10, 2021 - First day of session

March 1, 2021- Legislative Rule-Making Review bills due

March 16, 2021 - Last day to introduce bills in the House

March 22, 2021 - Last day to introduce bills in the Senate

March 28, 2021 - Bills due out of committees

March 31, 2021 - Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin

April 10, 2021 - Last day of session

**AG Day and the Legislative Breakfast have been cancelled for this year. You are encouraged to keep up continued conversation with you legislators.**

### **2021 Dates for the WVACD Quarterly Meetings**

January 19 & 20      Flatwoods - Cancelled

April 19 & 20      Stonewall

July 19 & 20      CCD

October 18 & 19      Flatwoods

### **AgEP:**

- **February 2021-** Comments reviewed and forms revised
- **March 2021-** State AgEP committee meeting to finalize upcoming FY AgEP
- **April 2021-** Presentation of upcoming FY AgEP to SCC
- **May/June/July 2021–** CDs to finalize upcoming FY program, update AgEP agreement addendum, take action to approve LORs



### **Request to Conservation Districts**

The WVCA is encouraging Conservation Districts to review and update their District Policy Manuals. Districts are also encouraged to review their CD Employee Manual (if you have one) and CD Plan of Work.

**The district personnel plan is due to SCC in March, so please add to your February agenda for review and approval.**

### **Engineering Expression of Interest**

Review your current contract and if needed, prepare to advertise and go through interview/selection process if needed.

The WVCA is interested in working with the district to ensure they retain a firm that has strong civil engineering and is familiar with dams. Because of questions raised about these agreements, it's important to make sure that the scope of work is clearly defined and an agreement between the district and engineering firm is signed.

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

### **O&M Sponsor letters**

Now is the time for districts to reach out to local sponsors regarding the annual Operation and Maintenance agreements. The watershed section is developing sponsor reports for the districts to send along with the reminder letters.

The O&M agreement templates should be updated to reflect FY22. The amount in the agreement has not changed for the new fiscal year.

Per the state Auditor's office, a new signed amount is required before the WVCA can release its match.

### **Conservation Farm Tour**

Although COVID-19 still has the state in its grips, it's time to plan for the 2021 conservation farm recognition in your district. There are ongoing talks about what a statewide contest will look like this year. This is being developed by the District Association and the Awards Council.

We hope to have a define plan by April. In the meantime, districts should consider how to honor local cooperators.