

Little Kanawha Conservation District

Board of Supervisors Meeting
November 10, 2020, 10:00 AM
Mountwood Park, Waverly, WV

Minutes

Attending were:

*** Supervisors Attending ♦ Supervisors by Conference Call**

*Ed Martin, Ritchie County
*Bob Buchanan, Wood County
*Jeff McElfresh, Wood County
*Mike Nichols, Ritchie County
♦Sam Sheets, Roane County
*Russell Wade, Roane County
♦Roger Shaver, Wirt County
*Roseann Adams, Wirt County
*Dale Cunningham, Calhoun County
David Cain, Calhoun County

Others attending or ♦ Others by Conference Call:

♦Kim Fisher, WVCA
Mikayla Hayes, NRCS
DJ Allen, LK RC&D
Jessica Nichols, WVCA

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

- Bob Buchanan called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.
- Dale Cunningham led the pledge. Pledge recited by all.

Introduction of Visitors – Their reports and concerns
None today.

District Business

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion to accept the October 2020 minutes as presented was made by Dale Cunningham and second by Roseann Adams. Majority approved. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Reported Items

- Audit – Dale Cunningham reported we need to do an audit. Bob Buchanan said we can use an educational audit free of charge, however it may not work as fast as using a regular company. We need to put out for bid or use Perry & Associates who are familiar with the District's work. Discussed how Covid may affect handling the audit. *Dale Cunningham moves to ask Perry & Associates for a quote. Second by Russell Wade. Majority approved. Motion carried.*

- Financials filed for audit.

Approval of Cooperators

Agreements – None

Terminations – None

Correspondence – Action Items – None at this time.

Report of Agencies and Others

LKCD District Supervisors Report

- Bob Buchanan discussed the training manual that was sent to all LKCD supervisors for review. *Roger Shaver moves to accept the training manual. Second by Sam Sheets. Majority approved. Motion carried.*
- Roger Shaver reported on a mussel production facility that will be going in at the Palestine Fish Hatchery. Potesta will be doing the engineering on this new facility. It was stated that this will be the only one in West Virginia and is one of only three in the United States.

LKCD Associate Supervisors Report

None at this time.

Field Staff Report, NRCS, District, Jason Crislip

- Staff is in training
- Sign up will be ending November 20th
- No change in staffing the office due to Covid.
- Mikayla Hayes has been offered a position with WVCA working with the District's AgEP.

Field Staff Report, Forestry

Unable to attend.

Field Staff Report, WVCA

- Reviewed the report received.
- Need to set dates for O&M reviews. Mike Nichols will work to set up the reviews. Dates discussed for the O&M reviews were the 8th and 9th of December. Equipment should be looked at while in Spencer for the reviews.

FSA

Unable to attend.

WV DNR Report

Unable to attend.

LK RC&D Report

- Project Sharing is open Wednesday's from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Mini grant applications will be taken from mid-December to the 12th of March 2021.
- They received their funding check and are distributing mini grant checks.
 - At this time, they presented checks to the District for the Soil & Forage Testing Program (\$1,000) as well as the new Jr. Envirothon Program (\$2,000). A Calhoun County Bee Club received a check (\$1,000) as reported by Dale Cunningham. This will assist them to recover from the hive losses of 2019.
- General update on the use of the Project Sharing grounds.
 - The building is dry after a French drain was put in.
 - Renovations are to be done to an office area and then leased out to bring in funds for the LK RC&D.
 - Possible building a pole barn to hold the District's equipment in the winter and shelter a farmer's market in the summer.
 - Bob Buchanan will set up a meeting with Kent Leonhardt, Norm Bailey and the LKCD Board of Supervisors.

Solid Waste Authority Report

- Bob Buchanan reported that there will be a meeting next week.
- Russell Wade had a meeting yesterday. Friday and Saturday next week will be an electronic recycle event. Former Director is still being an issue.
- Mike Nichols will attend his first meeting next week.

WVU Extension

Farmers short courses for Wood County are still up in the air due to Covid. If they are held the District will be asked to present on AgEP.

Special Items of Interest

Emergency Watershed Program/Stream Protection & Restoration Program
Nothing at this time.

North Fork Hughes River Updates & Issues

- Debris Removal Update
No movement on placing the boom. Bob Buchanan will email update.
- Gas Well Update
They were supposed to bring papers for signatures today but are not here. The contacted has been awarded to Patchwork Oil & Gas. Background was discussed.
- Mussel Study – No report has been received yet.

Local, National & State Meeting Report

Local, National or State Meeting Report

- LKCD December Meeting – After discussion the meeting has been set for December 17th, Mountwood Park at 10:00 a.m. There will be a call-in option.

- WVACD Meeting & Training –
 - Roseann Adams discussed meetings that she attended at the WVACD.
 - Scholarship fund discussed.
 - Russell Wade discussed new supervisor training. It was very informative.
 - Bob Buchanan talked about the law and conservation. Discussed opening the code. Supervisors need to have farm knowledge. Urban conservation was mentioned. Need to put water and soil back into the code.

WV Envirothon Committee

- Thanh Ashman sent Jessica Nichols a report that she read to the group. “They have a meeting coming up to discuss ways of presenting a Virtual Envirothon in April. So the education committee needs to develop a plan for implementing this. Also, We have not set a meeting yet for Junior Envirothon. Would like to wait until we see how the Envirothon is developing their competition. Right now, with each county having different school situations (some have become all virtual) it will be hard to move forward for now. Training videos will soon be available for advisors.
- Sam Sheets talked about the state site committee meeting. On the 12th. Invited Roseann Adams to listen and Sam Sheets will send her the info. Other states are working on setting things up virtually as well.

Appalachian Grazing Conference Committee To be held in 2022

Grazing Land Committee Starting to have meetings again.

Communications Committee

- Tygarts Valley CD is moving forward with a Chestnut Tree Planting Program.
- Capital CD has an open Ag & Soil position.
- There is a free agricultural burn permit for farmers needing to burn outside of the normal hours.
- Monongahela CD has a hay shortage and they are putting together a list.
- Video on urban agriculture was discussed. Meeks Mountain.
- Next meeting November 23, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Active District Committee Reports

Equipment Committee

- All equipment is in good repair at this time.
- Jessica Nichols is working with Chris Ellison from the WVCA IT Department to develop a way to rent/track equipment usage on the Cloud. This will allow any staff member in the office with access to place farmers names and phone numbers on a calendar reserving their dates.

LKCD Jr. Envirothon Committee

It is felt that we still need to have meetings for the Jr. Envirothon. Possibly a meeting in Elizabeth.

Ag Enhancement Committee

- AgEP Payments
 - Delores Longfellow – Heavy Use Area - \$2,000.00
 - Arthur Wayne Longfellow – Water System - \$2,600.00
 - Arthur Wayne Longfellow – Invasive Species – \$625.00
 - Angela Smith – Lime - \$986.00
 - Cecil Joy – Lime - \$630.00
 - T. Dale Cunningham – Pollinator Planting - \$200.00
 - David Gainer – Lime - \$288.96
 - Delores Longfellow – Water System - \$900.00
 - Eddie Ross – Lime - \$1,620.00
 - Hazel Boggs – Invasive Species – \$625.00
 - Larry Todd Cole – Invasive Species – \$625.00
 - Roger Rawson – Invasive Species – \$225.00
 - Tony McVey – Lime – \$1,647.64
 - Larry Todd Cole – Water System - \$1,335.00

Motion to approve and recognize the payments made for the month of October was made by Sam Sheets and second by Roger Shaver. Majority approved. Motion carried.

- AgEP Cancellations
 - Mike Murphy – Heavy Use Area - \$2,000.00

Sam Sheets moved to cancel Mike Murphy's Heavy Use Area second by Roseann Adams. Majority approved. Motion carried. Roseann Adams moved to amend the original motion by adding the words "with restrictions for next year's sign up". Second by Sam Sheets. Majority approved. Motion carried.

- There will be a state AgEP meeting December 4th part of which will be the discussion of the formula that will be used for distribution of funding.

Budget Committee

Jessica Nichols requested that you please turn in your expenses as soon as possible thru the end of the year so that the board can have a good review of where you stand on your funds used.

Pollinators Committee

- Last year hard on bees. Discussed help for beekeepers but nothing has been developed at this time.
- Possible item on AgEP for not only planting for pollen but additional assistance as well.

- Colony Collapse Disorder, CCD. Wet warm winters are causing the problem it is thought. Payment protection is based on their honey production and after 4 years of loss the payments are not enough to really assist.
- Bob Buchanan will write up a potential practice for AgEP and send to Sam Sheets for presentation to the AgEP State Committee. Possible half cost of bee nucleus for established beekeepers currently listed with FSA. Bee nucleus cost is thought to be about \$160.00.

District Manager, Jessica Nichols

Jessica Nichols reported that she will bring packets and folders early on the day of the next meeting and then will return to her computer to assist with internet for phone call in attendance.

WVCA Report, Kim Fisher

She was unable to stay on the call for the entire meeting. Please call if you have questions regarding her report.

Closing Activities

Calendar of Events

- December 17th – Board Meeting – Mountwood Park – 10:00 a.m.
- December 23rd – Annual Leave for Administrative Specialist
- December 24th – Christmas Eve – Office Closed Day
- December 25th – Christmas Day – Office Closed
- December 28th – 30th – Annual Leave for Administrative Specialist
- December 31st – New Year’s Eve – Office Closed Day

Meeting Adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Roseann Adams, LKCD Secretary and Jessica Nichols, Recorder.

Bob Buchanan, LKCD Chairman

Roseann Adams, LKCD Secretary

Date approved: _____