

**Minutes of the GVCD Regular Board Meeting  
October 21, 2021**

The Greenbrier Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 7pm, at the Lewisburg USDA Service Center. This meeting was primarily virtual, to comply with social distancing recommendations during the COVID 19 pandemic. Call-in information was posted with the agenda, to comply with open meetings rules. Those attending were:

**Supervisors Participating by telephone:**

Timothy VanReenen  
Jerry Clifton  
Avery Atkins  
Gary Truex

**Supervisors Present:**

Gary Sawyers

**Supervisors Absent:**

Carolyn Miller

**Others:**

Jeremy Salyer (WVCA) (call-in)  
Dorian Perez (NRCS) (call-in)  
Judith Lyons (WVCA) (call-in)  
Donny Dodd (NRCS) (call-in)  
Barry Level (GVCD)  
Lynn Woods (WVCA)

**Call to Order**

Chairman Gary Sawyers called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion was made by Timothy VanReenen and seconded by Jerry Clifton to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2021, regular board meeting. Motion passed.**

**Guests**

Hannah Walls was scheduled for November, not October.

Donny Dodd (NRCS) addressed the Board, requesting that the GVCD consider facilitating a meeting with potential sponsors for flood control projects on Howards Creek and also Sewell and Boggs Creek. NRCS has planning funding

already in place but cannot proceed without local sponsors. Discussion ensued. Donny will forward more information to Lynn Woods to distribute to the Supervisors and this will be put on the November agenda for further discussion/action.

### **Administrative Specialist's Report**

Lynn Woods submitted a written report, which is attached, and reviewed highlights.

### **Funding Requests**

#### **Cooperating Agency Reports**

- *NRCS* – Dorian Perez reported on the status of NRCS contracts. They are working to reschedule expirations dates and doing modifications to get contracts back into compliance. One problem they face is getting engineering designs approved, due to volume of contracts. Another is waiting on consultations with outside agencies for permits, etc. He and his staff are working to clear a 3-year backlog created by staffing shortage and pandemic. They are doing re-assessments on a first-come first served basis. He asked for information on the GVCD's cost-share program and Barry Level will share information with him.
- *WV Division of Forestry* – No report
- *FSA* – No report
- *WVCA* - Jeremy Salyer submitted a written report, which is attached. He noted that the AgEP "spot check" is now the AgEP "administrative review" and that it is time to start annual policy manual reviews. Jeremy noted everything else he had to discuss would be covered by the agenda and report.

#### **Unfinished Business**

- *WVCA* employees' return to office settings has been delayed until further notice.
- There was no discussion on seeking a lawyer. Item postponed.
- Gary Sawyers asked if there were any more additions or changes to the *WVACD* survey that was sent out for review after the last meeting. There were none. **Jerry Clifton moved, and Avery Atkins seconded the motion to approve and submit the *WVACD* survey responses, as written. Motion passed.**

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Finance Committee:*

##### Financial Reports:

- *General and CDO Funds Report* – **Timothy VanReenen moved to accept the General and CDO Funds Reports and file for audit. Seconded by Avery Atkins. Motion passed.**
- *WVCA Restricted Funds Report* – **Avery Atkins moved to accept the WVCA Restricted Funds Reports and file for audit. Seconded by Timothy VanReenen. Motion passed.**
- *Payment of all General Funds bills*— **Jerry Clifton moved to pay all General Funds bills, per payables list, as presented. Seconded by Avery Atkins. Motion passed.** List is attached.

#### *Agricultural Enhancement Program Committee*

- Timothy VanReenen noted there had been a state meeting he was unable to attend, but Barry Level attended. For the GVCD, business is as usual.

*Grassland Committee:*

- Nothing to report this month.

*Building/Equipment Committee:*

- Gary Truex referred to Eugene Wickline’s monthly report which was emailed to Supervisors.

**Watershed Reports**

- *WVCA O, M & R Report*
  - Judith Lyons reported that Gene Saurborn would be in the area next week and could meet with the Board and the City of White Sulphur Springs on Tuesday or Wednesday at 11am. Gary Truex and Avery Atkins will attend whichever day Gene chooses. Judith will let Lynn know which day so she can advise the Supervisors.
  - Annual inspections were postponed due to Gary Truex attending state meeting. Discussion ensued to reschedule and new date of November 3, 2021, was chosen. Marlin Run will take place at 10am and Howards Creek will follow at 1:30 or 2pm. Jerry Clifton and Gary Truex will attend their respective county sites.
  - Sub-agreement with Pocahontas County for tree removal was signed, but Judith did not know if the work had been done yet. This will be viewed at the annual inspection.
- **Jerry Clifton moved, and Timothy VanReenen seconded the motion to send LOR #12691 – FY22 O&M Town of Marlinton Flood Control – in the amount of \$1,750.00. Motion passed.**

**319 Committee:**

- Jerry Clifton presented the following payments for approval:

SGS Laboratory Monitoring Inv# 15163484	Meadow River	\$ 64.00
SGS Laboratory Monitoring Inv# 15163517	319 State Monitoring	\$ 160.00
SGS Laboratory Monitoring Inv# 15163483	S Fork Potts/Sweet Spgs	\$ 64.00
SGS Laboratory Monitoring Inv# 15163518	319 Proposed Indian Creek	\$ 112.00
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>\$ 400.00</b>

**Jerry Clifton moved on behalf of the committee and Timothy VanReenen seconded the motion to approve the listed payments, totaling \$400.00. Motion passed.**

- Jerry Clifton presented the following new contracts for approval:
  - Justin Lewis – Spring Creek – not to exceed \$17,749.00

**Jerry Clifton moved on behalf of the committee and Gary Truex seconded the motion to approve the new contract as shown above. Motion passed.** There was a brief discussion about transfer of funds to Second Creek, but Jerry explained these funds were not part of the amount to be transferred.
- **Jerry Clifton moved on behalf of the committee and Avery Atkins seconded the motion to send LOR #12705 – Indian Creek III – in the amount of \$30,000.00. Motion passed.**

**Actions Between Board Meetings**

None reported

**Correspondence**

- WVU Extension's request for a donation for their Women-in-Ag conference was tabled from last month due to it being changed to virtual format and details being unclear. Lynn reported that it has since been scheduled for November 8-10 via zoom with a registration fee of \$30. **Gary Truex moved, and Jerry Clifton seconded the motion that the District reimburse 1/3 of the registration fee for individuals from the GVCD who attend. Motion passed.**
- Gary Truex moved, and Jerry Clifton seconded the motion to approve/accept the FNBB Pledge Notifications: 180061603; 252019460; 252024582; 252024964; 252019859; 180052856; 203016161; 203016160; 203016122; 252025031. Motion passed.
- Other correspondence not requiring action has been forwarded to Supervisors by email.

### New Business

None

### Other Business

- Committee chairs decided that there will be no committee meetings for the month of November 2021.
- Gary Sawyers reported information from the quarterly meeting and Awards Ceremony held Monday and Tuesday, October 18 & 19, 2021.
  - He congratulated Gary Truex for being named the state Member-At-Large. He also congratulated Timothy VanReenen for being recognized as Honorary Member and receiving his 10-year pin. Gary Sawyers received his 15-year pin and Gary Truex, his 20-year pin. Lynn has emailed the link to the YouTube recording of the ceremony for viewing.
  - He noted that the Education committee of the WVACD had asked Districts for a \$500 donation to help fund scholarships, since they were unable to have their auction fundraiser. This will be on the November agenda for discussion/action.
  - He reported that the District Operations committee had discussed changes to the state code. A copy of the code and the proposed changes was emailed to all Supervisors by Heather Duncan, WVACD Executive Director. Discussion ensued. Supervisors will review the information.
  - Appalachian Grazing Conference is still scheduled for March and student registration is still the same.
  - Ag Day is scheduled February 7 -8, 2022, with a "meet and greet" planned for the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued.
  - There was discussion about an annual Legislative Brief. Gary Sawyers and Avery Atkins will contact some of our elected officials to see what works best for them.

### Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,



**Gary Sawyers**  
Chairman



**Carolyn Miller**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**GS/CM/lw**

**Recorded by Lynn Woods, Administrative Specialist**