

Greenbrier Valley Conservation District

October 09, 2023, 9:15am
Special Board Meeting, Draft Minutes

The Greenbrier Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Monday, October 09, 2023, at 9:15am in the district office of the Lewisburg, USDA Service Center.

Supervisors Present:

Chairman, Gary W. Sawyers
Timothy VanReenen
Carolyn Miller
Gary Truex
Avery Atkins

Others Present:

Angela Sawyers, WVCA

Gary Sawyers called the meeting to order at 9:21am and welcomed everyone.

New Business:

(D/M) Delay of NRCS Cultural Resource Survey's

The board of supervisors discussed contract backlogs in the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District caused by significant delays in NRCS cultural resource reviews, as well as the engineering backlog caused by inadequate staff.

Gary Truex explained that, to his knowledge, the archeologist who had been servicing West Virginia had been pulled back to Kentucky and had not been permitted to service West Virginia since July 30, 2023, and that a tentative offer to an archeologist to service West Virginia has been made but no additional information regarding a start date has been provided. Furthermore, Mr. Truex stated that approximately 55 contracts worth

approximately \$2 million are currently on hold, with approximately 5 remaining from 2022 due to the delay in the cultural resource reviews, and that approximately 56 contracts (Greenbrier County-26, Pocahontas County-17, and Monroe County-16) are on hold due to the engineering backlog.

Following some deliberation, the board of supervisors concluded that a letter detailing these issues be sent to Representatives requesting support in hopes of getting these issues resolved.

Avery Atkins moved to send a letter to Representatives Shelley-Moore Capito, Joe Manchin, and Carol Miller, with copies also being sent to Jon Bourdon, the state conservationist, Steven Baker, the acting state conservationist, and Brandon Duckworth, the assistant state conservationist to explain the existing backlog issues and respectfully seek their assistance in getting these matters resolved within the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District. This motion was seconded by Carolyn Miller. A discussion followed. Motion Passed.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 10:48 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary Sawyers
Chairman

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Gary Truex
Secretary/ Treasurer

GS/GT/as
Recorded by: Angela Feamster-Sawyers, Administrative Specialist