

**Southern Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes January 11th, 2024
10:00 AM**

The Southern Conservation District met for their regularly scheduled monthly board meeting at their office location at 463 Ragland Road, Beckley WV beginning at 10:00 AM

Those in attendance:

Members of the Board

Ron Testerman, Ed Hendrick, Curtis Murphy, Bill Harris (via teleconference call) Randall Patton, Randy Prince, Bill Cook, Alvin Marchant

SCD/WVCA Staff

Dave Parkulo, Marty Walker-Owen, Braden Snyder, Jeremy Salyer

NRCS

Ruby Daniel, Hanna Thacker, Mat Davidson

SCD Chairman Randall Patton welcomed everyone in attendance to the meeting.

Randall Patton introduced the district representing Attorney, Mr. John Wooten, and welcomed him to begin discussion on the Supervisor Travel Per Diem as noted on the agenda under Supervisor reports.

Ed Hendrick moved to increase the supervisor travel per diem for the SCD to \$150.00 effective on the date the (State) SCC mandated the rate of pay increase to \$150.00 which was February 1, 2023, Alvin Marchant seconded, motion carried.

Southern Conservation District Operations & Business

Approval of December Board Meeting Minutes

SCD/Marty Walker-Owen

Randy Prince moved to approve the December Board Meeting Minutes, Ed Hendrick seconded, motion carried.

Review/Approval of District Financial Reports

SCD/Marty Walker-Owen

District Operating Account

District Building Account

Supervisor Travel & Per Diem Account

CDO Account

District Reserve Account

Randy Prince moved to approve the district financial reports as presented, John Farrel seconded, motion carried.

Review/Approval of Accounts Receivable/Aging Summary SCD/Dave Parkulo

A brief overview and discussion was held in reference to the accounts receivable and aging summary among members of the board, Dave Parkulo and Marty Walker-Owen.

Curtis Murphy moved to approve the aging summary, John Farrel seconded, motion carried.

Chairman Randall Patton asked NRCS staff if they would like to go ahead and present at this time.

WVCA, NRCS & SCD Updates/Approvals

NRCS District Conservationist Report

Katy McBride, NRCS

Ruby Daniel reported on the Annie Project for WVU Extension and left a report for the district to view and share. Mat Davidson reviewed the written report that was provided to the SCD by Katy McBride. Mat noted position changes within the NRCS.

He noted that soil conservation technician interviews have been held to fill vacancies at the Beckley office as well as a WV State Agricultural Educator that they are awaiting selection from interviews held in December.

Hanna Thacker provided an update to the buyout project in McDowell and Wyoming Counties and notified the board of some programmatic changes and she will contact the SCD about signatures for the revised agreement as needed. She also commented on the Upper Guyandotte project.

WVCA/SCD District Administration Report

Marty Walker-Owen, WVCA

SCD Office Updates- Marty informed the board the AgEP applications are underway at the SCD that Braden Snyder will report on later in the meeting, she is currently conducting the administrative review of the AgEP program with Conservation Specialist program work due at the end of January.

Century Farm-Marty Walker-Owen reported on the Century Farm Program that is open now and due to her by February 1st. She reviewed the nature of the recognition of the program for farmers operating within the same family for 100 years or more and offered to provide the application to anyone interested that would be interested in promoting the award. She noted she can print copies for those interested in wishing to distribute them to anyone in their farming community.

Review/Approval of Co-administered WVCA Financial reports

A brief discussion was held between Marty Walker-Owen and members of the board in reference to the WVCA financial reports provided. The CD closure in November of XX9922 was noted as well as the DRAFT reports due to additional documentation requested this week to support the transaction activity. Marty commented that the item requested has been taken care of per her prompt to MCNB bank for the CD closure further documenting the interest/early withdrawal penalty that altered the initial deposit amount due to bank fee absorption.

SCD Conservation Technician Supervisor Report

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Dave Parkulo provided an overview of his report to the board including shop work, farm work and plans for OMR work in the district.

Dave reported that he has completed two cost share pond cleanout projects and delivered 44 tons of lime to Oceana as well as 22 tons of lime to Edmond. He reviewed equipment rental and covered equipment off season maintenance ongoing with winter season in the shop by the crew. He noted brush cutting along Howards Creek and PVCD fence project to begin.

Watershed Manager South Report

Jacob Lavender, WVCA

Jacob Lavender provided a written report to the SCD of the watershed section, he was not able to attend today. Marty provided copies of his report to the board.

Area Operations Manager Report

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer noted a reminder of the upcoming quarterly meeting as well as Conservation Day at the Capitol. He commented on the personnel plan which will need to be on the February agenda so that it can be signed and submitted due to SCC in March. He gave a brief overview of his written report provided to the board.

Conservation Specialist Report

Braden Snyder, WVCA

AgEP Updates/Cancelations/Completions

Braden Snyder provided an overview of his written report that was provided to the board. *(see attached)* He commented on soil sampling this month and his work on planning the grazing pasture walks. He reported that he has been working on the sign-up period for AgEP.

Braden Snyder provided a detailed report of the AgEP funds.

He commented that he would be needing a Special Board Meeting in January to approve the ranked applicants.

319 Program Updates

Braden Snyder updated the board on recent applications received by SCD for the septic 319 program that he is working with.

Supervisor Reports/Approvals

Grassland Conference Attendees

Randall Patton

A discussion was held about the approaching Grazing Conference attendance for those expressing interest in attendance. Host hotel cost and conference registration fees were discussed. Randall Patton asked members of the board and staff to confirm who has expressed interest in attending. Members of the board Ed Hendrick and Ron Testerman stated interest in attending the conference. Randall Patton stated that Dave Parkulo, employee of the conservation

district has expressed interest in attending the grazing conference. Randall confirmed with Marty that she too had interest in attending.

Bill Harris asked Marty Walker-Owen if the WVCA would be sponsoring any of her travel costs or registration to attend or if that was something the district needed to do for her. Marty stated that she has been told the WVCA will not be sponsoring her travel expenses or registration and if she chooses to attend the Grazing Conference, she will need to take vacation leave to do so.

Curtis Murphy moved to approve the expense and registration cost for the Appalachian Grazing Conference for Ed Hendrick and Ron Testerman, John Farrel seconded, motion carried.

Bill Harris moved to approve expenses and registration to support Dave Parkulo from the operating account to attend the grazing conference, Ron Testerman seconded, motion carried.

Randall Patton noted that Marty will be attending as a sponsored Summers County farmer and cooperator of the district, not an agency employee.

Bill Harris inquired if Marty was a cooperator, she confirmed that she is a cooperator of the district. Bill Harris moved to approve to send Marty Walker-Owen as an AgEP cooperator of the district and a farm owner in Summers County, John Farrell seconded, motion carried.

Visitors

Heather Duncan provided an update on the WVACD and gave a review of what is to be expected at the Ag Day set up. She provided information on the quarterly meeting as well.

Closing Remarks & Meeting Reminders:

Central Area Meeting SCD to Host January 26th 10:00 AM

Special Board Meeting -AgEP 10:00 AM January 30th

Next Board Meeting February 1st at 10:00 AM

Randy Prince moved to adjourn; Ed Hendrick seconded.

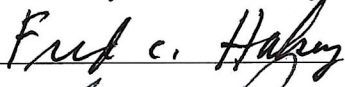
Meeting adjourned 11:53 AM

Respectfully submitted:

Marty R. Walker-Owen, Admin.

X 

Fred Halsey SCD Secretary

X 

Randall Patton SCD Chairman

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