

Southern Conservation District**Board Meeting Minutes****March 14th, 2024****10:00 AM**

Open & Welcome

SCD Chair, Randall Patton

Prayer & Pledge

Those present:

Members of the board: Ron Testerman, Ed Hendrick, Curtis Murphy, Bill Harris, Randall Patton, Randy Prince, Bill Cook, Alvin Marchant

Staff: Marty Walker-Owen, WVCA, Dave Parkulo SCD, Braden Snyder WVCA

Vistors: Brian Fry, WVCA, NRCS: Katy McBride, Hanna Thacker, Brandon Duckworth, Clayton Scott

Southern Conservation District Operations & Business

Approval of February Board Meeting Minutes

SCD/Marty Walker-Owen

Randy Prince moved to approve the February Board Meeting Minutes as presented and reviewed, Ed Hendrick seconded, motion carried.

Randall Patton, Chairman, asked that Mr. Canterbury be moved up to the beginning of the agenda.

Paul Canterbury- Farm Bureau, Mercer County

Paul Canterbury gave an overview presentation of the Farm Bureau to the board and staff.

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*

Marty Walker-Owen gave a brief overview of recent deposits and updates to travel and per diem account, building account and rental payments.

Bill Harris moved to approve the district financial reports as presented, Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.

Review/Approval of Accounts Receivable/Aging Summary

SCD/Dave Parkulo

A brief overview was completed by Dave Parkulo and members of the board of outstanding invoice payments. In discussion of WVCA payments Marty Walker-Owen reported that she and

Dave Parkulo will contact Jacob Lavender for an update on the past 90 days invoice payments due from the agency.

Dave reported that he has contacted the individuals for 90 day past due and expects payment soon.

Ed Hendrick moved to approve the aging summary as reviewed, Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.

WVCA/SCD District Administration Report

Marty Walker-Owen, WVCA

- SCD Office Updates

Marty Walker-Owen provided an update on upcoming timelines with programs. She reported as a reminder the conservation farm tour deadline to submit a district farm is May 31st and stated now is time to be working with county farms in preparation partnering with AgEP and NRCS clients. She asked that everyone help think about producers in their counties to recommend.

Marty reported that the personnel plan and CDO budget previously discussed will need approved at the committee meeting to be submitted for the SCC meeting in April changing to a Special Board Meeting for other approval items needed as well.

She noted she would be working with the SCD bookkeeper and district fiscal as well as her own records to complete the CDO budget in the next few weeks for their review at end of March.

Marty commented she has sent out four Century Farm packets but has only received one in return completed for submission by April 1st.

She gave an update on the current CD dates of maturity for renewal per request of Randall Patton. CD renewals are coming due April 14th and May 3rd 2024 for the OMR CDS and the District CD.

- Review/Approval of Co-administered WVCA Financial report

Ed Hendrick moved to approve the co-administered reports as presented, Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.

Conservation Technician Supervisor Report

Dave Parkulo, SCD

District Work Project Updates

Dave Parkulo provided an overview of the conservation crew projects completed since last month including fence project at Patterson Creek #41 for the PVCD, farm work project in Wyoming County, Howards Creek brush cutting and lime tonnage delivered to Fayette and Raleigh Counties about 35 tons.

He reported he has completed the silt fence installation at WorkForce property in Beckley from the culvert project .

A water system project is being concluded in Raleigh County.

He commented that he has completed all mowing estimates for the Western District (7) and Potomac Valley District (25) as well as a herbicide plan for two of Western's dams. He reported

that Little Whitestick Channel, Cranberry Creek Channel and Soak Creek channel mowing estimates have also been completed.

Trash rack installation of replacements will be done on Brush Creek site 12, 10 and 6.

Dave reported he has been in meetings with Braden Snyder and Ron Testerman to create a revised feedpad design plan due to original submission not being functional.

He updated the board on the pursuit of cyber insurance for the direct deposit of employees he and Marty are working on .

Conservation Specialist Report

Braden Snyder, WVCA

- AgEP Updates

Braden Snyder provided an overview of his written report to the board.

(see attached to the minutes)

He reviewed the current program updates for AgEP including Nutrient Management approvals and Frost Seeding from the January application period.

- 319 Program Updates

Braden reviewed the current pumping and replacement contracts with the Pipestem 319 project. Bill Harris inquired about the completion date of the funds for septic projects.

WVCA, NRCS & SCD Updates/Approvals

District Conservationist

Katy McBride, NRCS

Katy McBride provided an overview of her written report provided to the board (see attached to the minutes) She made staff introductions of new roles at the SCD with NRCS, Brandon Duckworth Area Conservationist as well as Clayton Scott with the Watershed Division.

A discussed was held in regard to NRCS current program offerings, farm tour conservation planning and position availability.

Watershed Manager South Report

Jacob Lavender, WVCA

Brian Frye attended the meeting today to review the work orders for mowing this season, he provided the work orders to Dave Parkulo. He provided an update to the board on the upcoming work of the dam sites.

Area Operations Manager Report

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Marty Walker-Owen noted that Jeremy Salyer was not able to attend the meeting today due to a schedule conflict he is conducting interviews in the Eastern Panhandle.

Supervisor Reports/Approvals

Conservation Movie Discussion

John Farrell, SCD

John Farrell introduced his interest in a community viewing of a conservation movie called "Kiss the Ground" Marty placed the movie trailer on the screen for all. A discussion was held about the district supporting and promoting a public viewing of the film as an effort to promote conservation.

John Farrell will contact the theatre in Hinton to check on availability and cost to show the movie in Summers County. He also noted the drive-in movie in Pipestem or the SCD conference room as a site. He commented that the movie producers wish to encourage viewings of the movie and there is a form online where you can submit a request for a showing. He will follow up with the board and Marty.

Marty Walker-Owen noted to have a successful turnout for the showing we need to advertise in advance and market the event.

Randall Patton and Dave Parkulo briefly discussed the plan for updating the downstairs portion of the building.

Visitors

Hanna Thacker, NRCS

(Randall Patton residing in McDowell County recused himself from the meeting to avoid conflict of interest in the discussion)

- Signature on Elkhorn Creek Incentive Payment

Hanna Thacker reported on the fair market appraisal and Elkhorn Creek incentive payment adjustments for the increase in the buyout. Hanna Thacker reported that the application currently includes about 30 people.

Ed Hendrick moved to approve the change in incentive payment, Ron Testerman seconded, motion carried.

Hanna Thacker reported on another voluntary buyout available to limited resource areas which includes McDowell County within the Southern Conservation District.

Hanna reported on the program for the emergency watershed protection available to participants within the floodplain of that area.

WVACD Updates

Heather Duncan, WVACD

No report given at this time.

Public Comments

Closing Remarks & Meeting Reminders:

Monthly Committee Meetings/Special Board Meeting March 26th 10:00 AM (*last Tuesday of month*)

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Marty Walker-Owen, Admin.

X Marty R. Walker-Owen

Fred Halsey, SCD Secretary

X Fred C. Halsey

Randall Patton, SCD Chairman

X Randall Patton