

Southern Conservation District
Committee Meetings Minutes
April 30th, 2024
10:00 AM

Open & Welcome

Randall Patton, Chairman

The SCD met for their monthly committee meetings at their office location at 463 Ragland Road, Beckley WV 25801.

Those in attendance: Members of the board; Ron Testerman, Ed Hendrick, Curtis Murphy, Bill Harris, Randall Patton, Randy Prince, Bill Cook, Fred Halsey and Alvin Marchant.

SCD/WVCA Staff: Dave Parkulo SCD, Braden Snyder, Marty Walker-Owen WVCA, Jeremy Salyer, WVCA (via teleconference)

(Fred Halsey joined the meeting after Education reports and prior to Finance reports)

Committee Updates

Equipment, Randall Patton

Dave Parkulo provided an update on equipment, conservation crew work both channel and farm related. He noted completion of the creek channel cuttings in Raleigh county.

He shared that the lime spreader and post driver have been rented steadily.

Randall Patton inquired about the easement violation on site 3. Dave reported he has been in touch with Shane Pettry with WVCA and a landowner and the issues have improved.

Marty Walker-Owen reported to Randall as part of the equipment update that when she submitted the invoices to Jacob Lavender for verification he had contacted her and let her know that due to declaration of the flood event work it would be an additional week before he could get technicians out to verify the work but they would as quickly as possible.

A brief discussion was held pertaining to the Fayette County stream blockages reported by Fayette County commission to the WVCA .

Randy Prince inquired about if an update had been made on Arbuckle creek.

Education/Marketing, Fred Halsey

Fred Halsey was not in attendance today. Marty Walker-Owen provided education/marketing updates on her recent activities within the district. She visited three schools since last committee meeting elementary and middle school level in Raleigh county and gave a presentation on soils, water, agriculture and conservation as well as a careers exploration topic.

She provided an update on the land judging and homesite evaluation contest co-hosted by SCD, GVCD and NRCS that was a success with awards provided by SCD and lunch provided by GVCD. She reported there were a total of 7 teams participating and 1 individual.

Randall Patton brought forth the discussion about the district obtaining a FOIA policy. (Freedom of information Act) in the event that an outside sourced company would contact the SCD as they have in the past the SCD would have a policy in place of how to handle that request.

Fred Halsey arrived to the meeting.

Finance, Curtis Murphy

Curtis Murphy inquired about the update on the direct deposit for supervisors. Marty noted to the board that she has been working with MCNB bank representative on the items needed for setting up the iBank account and she received an updated from Johnny Parsons with MCNB that they began working on setting up the accounts and process on April 22nd.

Randall Patton updated the group that he spoke with the bank and confirmed the CDs expire on May 2nd 2024 and will be up for renewal. He asked that they meet at 9:00 AM on Thursday to sign renewals for the CDs.

AgEP, Curtis Murphy

Curtis Murphy and Braden Snyder gave an update on the current AgEP contracts and upcoming application period they have discussed to be June 3rd- June 14th.

A brief discussion was held about the FY25 Ag program.

Marty Walker-Owen reminded of the FY25 administration agreement needing reviewed, updated and approved by the next board meeting for release of application dates , practices etc. so they can properly advertise with the cooperators.

Bill Harris asked about adding any new practices.

Jeremy Salyer noted he would be in contact and get the information needed for FY25 practices. Marty also noted she would reach out and obtain the information.

Building, Bill Harris

Bill Harris provided an update on the building items including the FSA renovations downstairs and a brief discussion was held between he and Dave Parkulo on the remodel updates. It was discussed by the group the replacement of the heating/cooling unit for the building to be placed on the May agenda.

Watershed, Bill Harris

Bill Harris provided an update on the site 12 & 9 NRCS dam rehabilitation work.

-Ed Hendrick update on county sponsorship finances

Ed Hendrick addressed the board with his current conversations with the Raleigh county commission and City of Beckley pertaining to sponsorship dollars for current and previous years.

319, Ron Testerman

Ron Testerman reported on an update for the septic system for John Hawkins and Zach Thomas. Braden Snyder also provided an update for the 319 septic projects.

-Pipestem Creek Watershed feed pad update & discussion

(Ron Testerman recused himself from the committee meeting)

Jeremy Salyer reported on an update to the feed pad project at Ron Testerman's farm. He noted per Gene Saurborn the update at this time is this would need to be an all-inclusive project not just limited to the feed pad he noted a nutrient management plan. Braden Snyder added that he has already contacted Ben Heavner to write a nutrient management plan who is a certified nutrient management planner.

An at length discussion was held regarding the Pipestem Creek funds, feed pad plans , timeline, history and other developmental details.

Bill Harris inquired who with WVCA the board needed to speak with about the project moving forward and who was in charge of 319 currently. Jeremy Salyer stated he was not sure with the reorganization and recommended the board speak with Gene Saurborn and start there with their questions and concerns since he is the lead of the section.

Randall Patton asked Braden Snyder to clarify that at this time there is no paperwork/agreement or proposal for the \$150,000.00 funds that are available for use as 319 funds at Pipestem, Braden confirmed that he does not have an official proposal or paperwork for the specific \$150,000.00.

A discussion was held amongst members of the board and Jeremy Salyer in terms of following up on the matter prior to the next board meeting.

Meeting concluded at 12:10 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Marty R. Walker-Owen, Admin.

X Marty R. Walker-Owen, Admin.

Randall Patton SCD Chair

X Randall Patton

Fred Halsey SCD Secretary

X Fred C. Halsey