

Special Board Meeting/Committee Meetings
Minutes
July 30th, 2024
10:00 AM

Open & Welcome

SCD Chairman, Randall Patton

The SCD met for a scheduled Special Board Meeting and committee meetings at their location at 463 Ragland Road, Beckley WV, 25801.

Those present: Members of the board; Ron Testerman, Ed Hendrick, Curtis Murphy, John Farrell (via teleconference) Bill Harris, Randall Patton, Randy Prince, Rachel Prince, Steven Johnston

SCD/WVCA Staff: Dave Parkulo, Braden Snyder, Jacob Lavender, Jeremy Salyer, Marty Walker-Owen

NRCS: Katy McBride, (via teleconference)

Special Board Meeting SCD Items of Business

1.) O&M WVCA Allotment FY25 LOR discussion/approval SCD/WVCA

LOR ID: 16178
Purpose: FY25 O&M Allocation
Amount: \$58,045.00
AGR: 1478-00

Randall Patton opened the discussion about the change in funding allocation for O&M to SCD. He turned the discussion to Jacob Lavender, WVCA Watershed Manager South for the O&M allotment LOR funding item on the agenda to report to the board.

Jacob Lavender noted that the agreement that came out last year listed that the funding could change based on annual funding allocation. Jacob Lavender gave an overview of the reason behind the revised allotment to be the amount of available watershed funds statewide.

He reported to the board that the changes were due to of the \$1 million dollars WVCA received, the WVCA watershed division met and reviewed the funds to be distributed across the state for all of the dams and channels and they looked at the financial need. He stated they treated districts that were not as financially stable as an area of need when they broke down the fund allocation as an as needed basis. He said since Southern has money in different accounts to support the O&M maintenance as needed, they looked at other areas in the state that did not have money to complete the items needed for planned operation and maintenance.

Ed Hendrick inquired as to who made the decision to cut the funds. Jacob Lavender stated the watershed division reviewed the Co-Administered funds available at each district and made the decision to cut the funds and allocate "X" amount of dollars.

A discussion was held between Bill Harris and Jacob Lavender in relation to the O&M fund allocation for SCD and more specifically the directed repairs as well as routine maintenance.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

REPORT NO. 1000
JANUARY 1961

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Randall Patton noted that he was not in favor of the change of funds not being discussed before sending the LOR for approval. He stated he had no idea about the upcoming changes until after the LOR was sent.

Randall Patton shared that members of the district attended local commission meetings recently and quoted the amount the district would be receiving from the WVCA and shortly after meeting, the funding amount discussed had changed.

An at length discussion was held between Randall Patton, Bill Harris, Jacob Lavender and Dave Parkulo about the operation maintenance and repair for SCD.

Dave Parkulo noted that in the past Brian Farkas directed anything outside of routine mowing and cutting that was considered structural items of need fell under repair to be paid, such as outlet channel work.

Bill Harris moved to accept, approve and send the LOR: in the amount of \$58,045.00 requesting the O&M FY25 allocation from the WVCA, Randy Prince seconded, motion carried.

Ed Hendrick

Dams/Channels Sponsor Funds

Ed Hendrick reported that the Sanitary Board has discussed they are willing to contribute \$10,000.00 for each channel but a letter has not yet been received at the SCD from the SWA noting this discussion.

Ed Hendrick stated he has attended nine meetings between the Raleigh County Sanitary Board, Raleigh County Commission and City of Beckley expressing the need for funds.

Dave Parkulo noted that Marty Walker-Owen had sent the information to county administrator, Vicky Reed for Mercer County which included the annual funding agreement, SCD letter and invoice. He stated that Mercer County had obligated \$37,000.00 for this year and agreed to review a possible increase for next year at budget time in March.

Bill Harris inquired about a sponsor report that used to be provided by the WVCA watershed section to the district that could be provided to the sponsors to show what their money contributed to for that year. He noted in the past Judy, with the state agency had always prepared those reports with pictures and amount of funds used.

Jacob Lavender stated he could provide that report to the AS for the district. Marty Walker-Owen noted she used to receive a sponsor report by email from the WVCA to distribute to the sponsors with her annual packet of O&M letter requesting sponsorship and has not for a few years.

Bill Harris and Steven Johnston asked that the report be prepared for this year to be provided to Mercer County and other sponsors for each of the watersheds to show what their money helped pay for and what the work cost.

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. It is a very important document, as it sets out the President's policy for the new year. The President states that he is pleased to see the Congress assembled, and that he is confident that the country is in a good position to meet the challenges of the future.

2. The second part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Treasury, dated January 1, 1861. It is a very important document, as it sets out the Secretary's policy for the new year. The Secretary states that he is pleased to see the Congress assembled, and that he is confident that the country is in a good position to meet the challenges of the future.

3. The third part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Interior, dated January 1, 1861. It is a very important document, as it sets out the Secretary's policy for the new year. The Secretary states that he is pleased to see the Congress assembled, and that he is confident that the country is in a good position to meet the challenges of the future.

4. The fourth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the War, dated January 1, 1861. It is a very important document, as it sets out the Secretary's policy for the new year. The Secretary states that he is pleased to see the Congress assembled, and that he is confident that the country is in a good position to meet the challenges of the future.

5. The fifth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Navy, dated January 1, 1861. It is a very important document, as it sets out the Secretary's policy for the new year. The Secretary states that he is pleased to see the Congress assembled, and that he is confident that the country is in a good position to meet the challenges of the future.

6. The sixth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the State, dated January 1, 1861. It is a very important document, as it sets out the Secretary's policy for the new year. The Secretary states that he is pleased to see the Congress assembled, and that he is confident that the country is in a good position to meet the challenges of the future.

7. The seventh part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the War, dated January 1, 1861. It is a very important document, as it sets out the Secretary's policy for the new year. The Secretary states that he is pleased to see the Congress assembled, and that he is confident that the country is in a good position to meet the challenges of the future.

8. The eighth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Navy, dated January 1, 1861. It is a very important document, as it sets out the Secretary's policy for the new year. The Secretary states that he is pleased to see the Congress assembled, and that he is confident that the country is in a good position to meet the challenges of the future.

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12. The twelfth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the State, dated January 1, 1861. It is a very important document, as it sets out the Secretary's policy for the new year. The Secretary states that he is pleased to see the Congress assembled, and that he is confident that the country is in a good position to meet the challenges of the future.

Marty Walker-Owen commented she used to receive the sponsor reports in January so she could include with her packet with the letter, invoice and annual funding agreement to the sponsors.

Jacob Lavender noted he would be able to provide that report to the district going forward.

A discussion was held between Jacob Lavender, Dave Parkulo and Jeremy Salyer and Bill Harris in regard to the 7-1-3U agreements, bid processing and sub agreements for maintenance, exigency, O&M etc.

Dave Parkulo asked if there is still a base 7-1-3U for each county sponsor standing then a sub agreement is made for specific projects, Jacob Lavender said yes.

Jacob Lavender said he would make sure there is an updated base agreement to work from.

2.) Approval of FY25 AgEP Funds Marty Walker-Owen

LOR ID: 16194

Purpose FY25 AgEP Allotment

Amount: \$60,000.00

AGR: 1496-00-SCD

Marty Walker-Owen reported she has received the LOR information from the WVCA by email for the FY 25 Ag EP funds and needs an approval for that item so she can proceed with submitting her LOR request. She noted she has spoken with Curtis Murphy about this as well as Braden Snyder and they have talked over the FY25 program.

Curtis Murphy moved to approve the \$60,000.00 FY25 LOR ID 16194, Randy Prince seconded, motion carried.

3. AgEP Exigency Program (Drought Program) Marty Walker-Owen/Braden Snyder

Marty Walker-Owen shared she has received and sent emails to the board about the Exigency Drought Program explaining the details of the drought relief available. She stated she is poised to advertise once she has the approval from the board for the accepted cost-shares and the district has accepted the AgEP Exigency Drought program.

Marty reviewed the list of acceptable items for livestock water supply items to cost share on from the memo received from the agency.

Jeremy Salyer noted the D1 classification across the state initiated the exigency program.

Braden Snyder and Marty Walker-Owen reported on the details of the exigency program per the administrative agreement for SCD's Ag Enhancement Program.

Marty noted as soon as she has approval, she will advertise through the district's Facebook page and district website.

Steven Johnston moved to accept the exigency drought program as presented including the component of connection fees of city water, retroactive to July 17th, Bill Harris seconded, motion carried.

A brief discussion was held about the terms of the drought program between Bill Harris, Steven Johnston, Jeremy Salyer, Marty Walker-Owen, Braden Snyder and Jacob Lavender. It was discussed the program is to be carried out on a first come first serve basis until funds are expended.

4. FY25 Ag Enhancement Application Approvals Braden Snyder/Curtis Murphy/SCD

Braden Snyder gave an overview of his written report and noted a total of 54 applications were received.

Braden Snyder commented that Katie Snodgrass applied for the woodland exclusion fence however called to cancel prior to approvals so he just removed her application from the batch of approvals.

He reviewed the number of applications received for each practice as presented in his written report and shared his three options of funding, the totals and the ranking outcomes.

Braden updated the board on current 319 projects. He stated all septic contracts have been paid. Eli Testerman's portion of the Ag BMP project for woodland and pasture fencing as well as water troughs and pipeline was completed, and Marty has the check ready to be signed today.

District funding support AgEP

(Marty Walker-Owen, recused herself from the discussion due to being on the list of potential AgEP cooperators until the ranking discussion was complete)

Braden Snyder reviewed in detail an excel spreadsheet with the ranking results for the applicants, practices and percentages with members of the board. *(excel sheet attached to the minutes for record)*

A discussion was held between Bill Harris and Braden Snyder in review of the AgEP applicants and ranking results as well as the funds available per practice described in each option.

Curtis Murphy inquired about the amount of money needed to fund all applicants listed in option three.

Bill Harris asked if Marty was available. She returned to the meeting upon board request to discuss current amounts in the bank accounts. Marty Walker-Owen reported to the board the amount available to date in each of the district bank accounts as follows: building, CDO, operating, supervisor travel and per diem and district reserve.

Marty also reported on the quarterly allotment breakdowns received from the WVCA to support CDO and supervisor travel and per diem.

Bill Harris moved to approve allocation 'Option Three' as presented with additional money provided by district accounts, account yet to be determined, Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.

The amount supported will be \$10, 537.73.

3.) Supervisor Travel Per Diem Direct Deposit

Randall Patton

Randall Patton stated he had spoken with Mike Akers and if they wish to move forward with the direct deposit for supervisor travel and per diem, he said it wouldn't be much trouble to add the account.

An at length discussion was held between Bill Harris, Randall Patton and Dave Parkulo about the employee direct deposit and the supervisor direct deposit.

Dave Parkulo brought forth the fact that the supervisor travel cannot be processed as direct deposit so there would still need to be a paper check for the travel needing to be signed at the board meeting.

Randy Prince commented that he did not see gain from adding per diem checks for supervisors.

John Farrell noted that he was fine with receiving both paper checks at the board meetings.

Bill Harris stated the decision on supervisor travel and per diem did not need to be decided today.

(no vote was taken)

4.) Approval of SCD FOIA Policy

Marty Walker-Owen

Marty Walker-Owen reported that she had worked with Mr. Wooton (the SCD's attorney) on the FOIA policy. Ed Hendrick moved to accept Mr. John Wooton's FOIA policy for the district; Ron Testerman seconded; motion carried.

5.) Ron Testerman 319 Farm Projects Update

Ed Hendrick

Jacob Lavender reported that he has been in contact with Levi Cyphers for an update about the project. He noted that the project is under review at Alliance Consulting.

6.) Grassland Steering Committee

Ed Hendrick

Ed Hendrick stated that Ron Testerman did a wonderful job reporting to the committee what the conservation district does. Ron Testerman and Ed Hendrick updated the board on the recent Grassland Steering Committee.

7.) SCD Employee Raises

Dave Parkulo/SCD

Dave Parkulo provided members of the board with a summary sheet of current employee compensation rates by an hourly rate as well as one salaried employee.

Randall Patton noted to the board the amount of money currently being owed to the district from the work of the conservation crew.

Bill Harris moved to approve the increase in pay rates for the SCD employees as presented effective the first date of the current pay period, July 28th, 2024, Ed Hendrick seconded, motion carried.

Bill Harris moved to close the special board meeting, John Farrell second, motion carried.

Special Board Meeting adjourned 11:45 AM

Committee Meetings (Updates)

Chair- Randall Patton, Equipment

Randall Patton noted everything recommended from the committee was covered during Special Board Meeting for equipment.

Chair- Bill Harris, Building

Bill Harris noted for the record the cost of AC repair to the upstairs of the SCD was \$1,650.00 and cost of new installation of AC/Heat upstairs was \$8,650.00

Chair-Curtis Murphy, Finance

Curtis Murphy reported on the current financial standings of the district and reviewed the bank report Marty provided earlier.

Chair-Curtis Murphy, Ag Enhancement

Curtis Murphy commented that Braden Snyder has done a great job and noted the applications and rankings are complete and Braden will be sending out letters for the contracts.

Chair-Ron Testerman, 319 Water Quality

Ron Testerman noted that the contract check for signature today is the last payment for the state pipestem project.

Chair-Ron Testerman, Education & Marketing

- SCD Conservation Photo Contest (Marty & Ron)

Marty Walker-Owen and Ron Testerman updated the board that they will be working together on the SCD Conservation Photo Contest for the coming year.

- SCD "Know your Conservation District Outreach Day" Sept 6th Friday (Marty)

Marty reported she is working on the plans for an open house at the district and has NRCS, FSA, WVCA committed to providing information for the day.

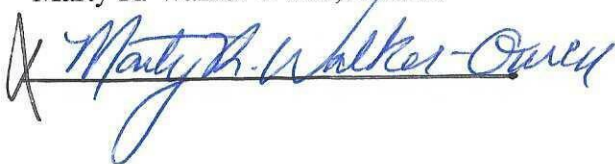
Meeting reminders & important dates:

Next Regular Board Meeting August 8th

WV STATE FAIR dates August 8th-17th

Respectfully submitted:

Marty R. Walker-Owen, Admin.



X Randall Patton

SCD Chairman, Randall Patton

X Ed Hendrick

SCD Secretary, Ed Hendrick