

Special Board Meeting/Committee Meetings

Minutes

September 23rd, 2024

10:00 AM

Open & Welcome

SCD Chairman, Randall Patton

The SCD met for a scheduled Special Board Meeting with Committee Meetings to follow at their office location at 463 Ragland Road, Beckley WV 25801.

Those in attendance: Members of the board; Randall Patton, Bill Harris, Ed Hendrick, Steven Johnston

Ron Testerman, Randy Prince, Rachel Prince (via teleconference)

Staff: SCD/WVCA; Dave Parkulo, Braden Snyder, Jeremy Salyer, Jacob Lavender

Special Board Meeting SCD Items of Business

1. Approval of LWS & CC O&M Agreement Amendments

Jacob Lavender stated he has everything ready for the agreement amendments, that he needs signatures and approval today of adding the sponsors to the amendment. Once NRCS signs the amendments it will be official. He provided copies of the agreement amendments for Little Whitestick and Cranberry Creek O&M agreements.

Steven Johnston moved to approve the agreement amendments, Bill Harris seconded, motion carried.

2. Set SCD O&M inspection dates

After a brief discussion with Jacob Lavender and Dave Parkulo the inspection dates have been set for October 15th 16th and the 18th for the dams and channels.

3. LOR ID # 16219 AgEP Exigency Program:

10017-S Amount: \$ 10,000.00

Braden Snyder reported on the receipt of the AgEP Exigency Funds to the district. He reviewed the current exigency funds spent and receipts. He provided a written report for the funds allocated from the program and what is remaining justifying the request for additional funds.

An LOR is requested to be submitted to receive additional funds to cover payments from applications received.

Bill Harris moved to approve the LOR request for an additional \$10,000.00 exigency funds to support the livestock water cost-share, Ed Hendrick seconded, motion carried.

Braden Snyder stated he has submitted his two weeks' notice and accepted a position with WV DEP. His last day will be October 4th. He has been working with Morgan Dial who will be

covering at the Southern Conservation District office until the position is filled. Braden shared his appreciation to the board for their support to his programs.

A brief discussion was held about the status of the drought.

Bill Harris moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting, Randy Prince seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 10:21 AM

Committee Meetings (Updates)

Equipment

Randall Patton opened the committee meetings with the equipment committee.

Dave Parkulo reported on the Chevy 3,500 needing a radiator he replaced, and the cost was \$1,700.00. He also noted a few other repairs to vehicles.

Randall Patton inquired about the upcoming work of the conservation crew. Dave Parkulo reported he has four pond cleanouts on the schedule as well as work to be completed at Plum Orchard Lake. He also stated he is starting on a fence project at Shady Spring but is concerned about the dry conditions and may have to use the auger.

He is reviewing the most recent plans and completing the estimate for the Testerman feedpad project working with Levi Cyphers with WVCA to completion of the estimate per the current contract modification received.

Bill Harris inquired to Jacob Lavender about seeing that the estimate from SCD is coordinated with Levi Cyphers in short order in hopes the modified contract will be ready before Braden Snyder leaves. He noted to be sure the contract modification was on the next board agenda.

Dave Parkulo continued to report on the projects and work being completed for farm work in the field as well as operation maintenance and repair.

He asked Jacob Lavender about the O&M invoices sent for verification from the office for the slip repair, sediment removal and some fall mowing. Jacob Lavender said he would have those verified.

A discussion was held amongst members of the board and Dave Parkulo about various equipment items ordered for repairs, O&M verification of payments and future expenses of maintaining the channels.

Ed Hendrick reported an update on the Raleigh County Commission, City of Beckley and Sanitary Board agreements and annual funding allocations.

Dave Parkulo, Bill Harris and Ed Hendrick discussed the fund appropriations from the City of Beckley, Raleigh County Commission and City of Beckley as sponsors.

Jacob Lavender stated that he could pull fund reports and show expenditures from Little Whitestick and Cranberry Creek.

Ed Hendrick asked Jacob if he would provide the last ten years of Little Whitestick and Cranberry Creek.

Dave Parkulo stated he has already provided those figures. Randall Patton noted that they have looked at the fund reports and looked at the history of payments and expenses before.

A discussion was held with Dave Parkulo, Jacob Lavender and members of the board about agreements with the local sponsors in addition to the annual funding agreements.

Building

Bill Harris opened the discussion on items for the building committee and referred to Dave for updates. Dave Parkulo reported he has continued to have issues with the downstairs restroom. A discussion was had about the sewer line and toilet concerns with the restroom downstairs. He noted he has rented the equipment to clear the line multiple times and is considering purchasing the equipment instead of renting.

The fire escape was mentioned as still needing completed but the crew and Dave do not have time at this current workload schedule to build it. Randall Patton recommended calling and contracting someone to build the fire escape stairway.

(Finance Committee) Curtis Murphy not in attendance today.

Randall Patton mentioned the CDS would be due for renewable in December.

AgEP

Braden Snyder gave a report on outstanding cost-share contracts.

Bill Harris requested the feed pad revised contract be ready and available at the next board meeting.

Randall Patton noted he spoke with Curtis Murphy about the pasture weed program and he had shared to allow Braden Snyder to handle moving that forward. Braden commented he didn't see any activity taking place with this until Spring.

Braden Snyder reported on the NASDA grant introducing warm-season grass pasture planting currently being facilitated by the WVCA. He noted the first application was received and it was in our district.

Morgan Dial, Braden Snyder and Bill Harris discussed the NASDA grant recipient and the program going forward in Braden's absence.

Bill Harris reported the State Committee Meeting would be held to discussion upcoming programs.

319 Water Quality

Braden Snyder reported that he has finished his final report for Pipestem and given that to Jacob Lavender.

Jacob Lavender noted there would be a request coming to the district to send back the federal money that wasn't used from the original LOR. He said the money would be going back to Guthrie for a drawdown of funds.

Jacob Lavender and Braden Snyder reported on the Pipestem project overall for septic projects and the agriculture reduction load for stream impairments.

Education & Marketing

Ron Testerman reported on the district Open House that was held at the SCD. He noted that we had received several new sign ups and applicants for the NRCS programs as well as new interest in the equipment rentals. He noted a few new cooperators to the district for our programs also. He also stated that Marty had written a report following up from the outreach day that is more detailed.

It was noted by Randall Patton he thought we should hold the event yearly in the fall to continue to grow it.

Jacob Lavender and Bill Harris discussed legislators being contacted to plan on attending outreach events. Ron Testerman stated he had reached out to several in the district and did not hear back.

Upcoming changes in the allocation formula for AgEP were discussed by Bill Harris and Jacob Lavender.

Closing remarks:

Bill Harris provided an update on Brush Creek sites 14 & 15 contracting is moving forward and are at the final design where they can package and put out bids. He also noted they are finishing up changes of the area of impact at Brush Creek site 12. He gave an update on emergency waterflow and easement violation at site 12 and noted additional information should be coming to the district in a form of a letter that the board can provide to the district attorney.

Randy Prince shared with the group that when it comes to requesting money from the state that everyone on the board should know their delegates within their district that it is much more effective than receiving an email from someone in the office.

He emphasized that members of the board should personally know their delegates.

Randy Prince brought up an item he wished for all to think about. He stated that ever since he was on the board there has been an office assistant at the district. He stated the previous office administrative person had an office assistant his entire time of being on the board and the district had one before to help at the office. He stated the problem of phone calls not always able to always be answered while people are away in the field and Marty being stressed without help.

Randall Patton stated he would be interested in supporting hiring someone part time to assist Dave.

Randy Prince stated he wanted the office assistant to be put on the upcoming board meeting agenda.

Randy Prince moved to adjourn the meeting, Rachel Prince seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM

Respectfully submitted:


Marty Walker-Owen, Admin.

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Ed Hendrick, SCD Secretary

Randall Patton, SCD Chairman

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