

Southern Conservation District
Committee Meetings Minutes
10-29-24

Open & Welcome

Randall Patton, Chair

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

Randall Patton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Those in attendance: Members of the board; Ron Testerman, Ed Hendrick, Curtis Murphy, Bill Harris, Randall Patton, Randy Prince, Rachel Prince, Bill Cook
SCD/WVCA/NRCS Staff: Marty Walker-Owen, Dave Parkulo, Jeremy Salyer, Jacob Lavender

Curtis Murphy, Finance Chair

Curtis Murphy reviewed the current balances of the bank accounts at SCD. He noted possibly using the sale of the older equipment to repay part of the loans on new equipment.

Randall Patton noted the renewal of the CDS in December.

A discussion was held between members of the board and Jacob Lavender about the recent dam and channel inspections, upcoming potential O&M work in the district, site verifications and other watershed items.

Curtis Murphy, AgEP Chair

Curtis Murphy mentioned the vacancy of the conservation specialist and hopes to have someone soon. Bill Harris and Randall Patton inquired about whether or not the job position has been posted. Jacob Lavender reported that he has submitted the posting to his supervisor and is waiting to hear back on when the position will be posted.

Morgan Dial gave an update and an overview of the current AgEP at Southern. She reviewed what she has been working on during covering the SCD office. She noted Sterling Carr canceling his contract for a pond cleanout. She will be sending a letter out to the remaining people for AgEP as a reminder of deadline.

Bill Harris asked about the 319 project if it had been closed out. Morgan Dial and Jacob Lavender confirmed that the 319 project at Southern has been closed out and reported.

Bill Harris reported on the upcoming changes to the AgEP funding allocation as well as the funding source for AgEP.

Jeremy Salyer reported on the \$10,000,000.00 received by the WVDA for an upcoming re-seeding program that will be available to the districts for the farmers. He said it would be a one

page application and the conservation offices would be administering the application process and preparing the checks.

Jacob Lavender reported on the upcoming GRASS grant that has been developed from WVU Extension that the WVCA will be partnering on. He noted more information will be forthcoming to the districts.

Ron Testerman, Education & Marketing Chair

Ron Testerman gave a report on the education program and noted that Marty has been working on the photo contest and has provided information for everyone. Marty gave everyone a copy of the flyer for the district photo contest, contest guidelines and an application. She stated this was a good way to help market what the district does and involve more people by holding the contest.

Ron Testerman noted he has recently attended the Farm Bureau meeting and the WV Cattlemen Association.

Bill Harris, Building Chair

Bill Harris noted he did not have anything new to report for the building. Marty Walker-Owen gave an update that a new employee with WVDA would be joining the tenants at the end of the hallway for the office space rental.

Randall Patton, Equipment Chair

Randall Patton reported that he spoke with Dave and he as about \$60,000.00 out in current farm projects to be completed before winter. He reported the balance of the operating account to be approximately \$128,000.00. He and Ron Testerman reported on the ongoing work of the crew at the feed pad being constructed in True.

Ed Hendrick discussed items in the letter the board intends to send to Judith Lyons requesting assistance with an additional staff person at SCD.

Marty reminded everyone of the conservation farm tour preparations if you wish to nominate and support the conservation farm tour now is the time to start working with the farmer on how to participate. She reminded she is available to assist and coordinate, she just needs nominations of farms and board interest. She noted if anyone wishes to nominate a farm to let her know and they can work with her to set up the district tour. They can work with her, their conservation specialist and NRCS to get program and conservation planning information for the farms.

Meeting adjourned
11:22 AM

Respectfully submitted:

Marty R. Walker-Owen

X Marty R. Walker-Owen

Randall Patton, Chairman

X Randall Patton

Ed Hendrick, Secretary

X Ed Hendrick