

*Southern Conservation District*  
**Special Board Meeting / Committee Meeting Approved Minutes**  
**January 28, 2025**  
**10:00 AM**

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 10:00am in the conference room of the district office located at 463 Ragland Road Beckley, WV 25801.

**Those in attendance:**

**Supervisors**

Randall Patton, Chairman  
Bill Harris  
Steven Johnson  
Ron Testerman  
Ed Hendrick  
Bill Cook  
Curtis Murphy

**Others**

Attorney, John Wooton  
Dave Parkulo, SCD  
Kayla Burgess, SCD  
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA  
Shane Pettrey, WVCA (Virtual)  
Morgan Dial, WVCA  
Jesus Nandi, WVCA  
Angela Feamster-Sawyers, WVCA

Open & Welcome

SCD Chair, Randall Patton

Chairman Patton called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

Steven Johnson led in the pledge of allegiance; Bill Cook led in prayer.

The order of the agenda was changed to cover matters that the board of supervisors needed to discuss with attorney, John Wooton.

## Special Board Meeting SCD Items of Business (D/M)

### 1. Per Diem/ Policy Update

Attorney John Wooton and the board of supervisors reviewed State Codes & Policies pertaining to district Supervisor Per Diem. Discussions were held regarding the recent motion that was passed in the last State Committee meeting to decrease the supervisor per diem amount from \$150.00 back down to \$80.00. Following discussions,

*Ed Hendrick moved to authorize John Wooton to make calls to the State Conservation Committee, and/or the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Attorney General or whomever else necessary to discuss the recent supervisors' pay reduction during the term of their office. Bill Cook seconded; motion carried.*

Discussions ensued relating to this matter.

### 2. Brush Creek Site 12 Violation

Bill Harris explained the issues concerning Brush Creek Site 12 Violation to Mr. Wooton and inquired about the best way to approach the situation with the current landowner.

### 3. Little White Stick Temporary Easement

Dave Parkulo expressed concerns to Mr. Wooton about the Little White Stick Temporary Easement, which is described as property of the State Conservation Committee rather than deeded to the district. Following some discussions, Mr. Wooton advised that whatever the district wanted to do, let him know and he'd be happy to try to straighten it out or get something worked out on it. Dave will send Mr. Wooton the temporary easement.

In addition, Dave informed Mr. Wooton that the Beckley Sanitation Board is wanting to be added to the original O&M Agreement in order to become a sponsor for the Little White Stick and Cranberry Creek channels, and he inquired whether the document needed to be redone and reviewed/signed by all parties, or if an addendum page could be added to the agreement to include the Beckley Sanitation Board. Mr. Wooton requested that information be sent to him, and he would review it for determination.

#### 4. AgEP Ranking Approvals

Morgan Dial presented and explained three potential options for the FY25 AgEP second round of signups for Frost Seeding and Nutrient Management for the board of supervisors to consider based on rankings and funding allocation.

*\*Curtis Murphy, being an applicant for Nutrient Management, recused himself from the meeting.\**

*Following some discussion, Bill Harris moved to approve the FY25 Nutrient Management applications as presented in option 3 down to a ranking of 95 for a total amount of \$15,262.50. Steven Johnson seconded; motion carried.*

*\*\*Curtis Murphy returned to the meeting.*

*\* Ed Hendrick, being an applicant for Frost Seeding, recused himself from the meeting.*

*Steve Johnson moved to approve the first four applicants as listed in option 3 for frost seeding. Bill Harris seconded; motion carried.*

*\*\* Ed Hendrick returned to the meeting*

*\*Ron Testerman, being an applicant for Frost Seeding, recused himself from the meeting.*

*Steve Johnson moved to approve Ron Testerman's frost seeding application. Ed Hendrick seconded; motion carried. (see attached for the list of approvals).*

*\*\* Ron Testerman returned to the meeting.*

## 5. Building Lease Renewal

The board of supervisors discussed the building lease agreement that they have with the USDA, which is set to expire in December 2026, and exchanged suggestions for potential renewal rates.

*Steve Johnson moved to table the topic to allow for further discussion and/or considerations on the matter. Bill Harris seconded; motion carried.*

Bill Harris asked Angela to include this item in the February board meeting agenda.

## 6. Mercer County Solid Waste Authority – (Reappointment of Paul Canterbury, term expired June 2024).

*Steve Johnson moved to reappoint Paul Canterbury to the Mercer County Solid Waste Authority. Ron Testerman seconded; motion carried.*

## 7. District Support Allotment/Supervisor Travel Per Diem – Q2-Q4 Update

Angela informed the board of supervisors that due to a clerical error on the actual LORs for Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 district support allotments, they received \$2,000.00 more than they should have, and the difference will be deducted from the Quarter 4 allotment.

*Bill Harris moved to approve the following LOR based on the final recommendations by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture:*

LOR ID:16265

Purpose: WVDA Pasture Renovation

Amount: 0.00

AGR: 1502-00

*Ron Testerman seconded; motion carried.*

## 8. *Ed Hendrick moved to approve WVU Extensions funding requests of \$500.00 for each site for the 2025 winter dinner meetings. Curtis Murphy seconded; motion carried. (Meetings scheduled for Mercer, Summers/Raleigh, and Fayette/Nicholas County).*

9. *Bill Harris moved for the transfer of \$80,000 from the reserve account to SCD's OM&R restricted line of the projects account. Ed Hendrick seconded; motion carried.*

#### 10. Financing of Trailer/ Price Update

*Following some discussion and updates provided by Dave Parkulo, Ed Hendrick moved to approve \$26,500.00 for the purchase of a 25-ton trailer, making a down payment of \$10,000.00 now, out of the operating account, and financing the rest for 2 to 3 months and then paying it off. Steve Johnson seconded; motion carried.*

*Steve Johnson moved to adjourn the special board meeting. Bill Harris seconded; meeting adjourned at 11:32am.*

#### SCD Committee Meetings

Open & Welcome

SCD Chair, Randall Patton

Randall Patton called the committee meeting to order at 11:32am.

Committees – Updates

Randall Patton provided updates regarding the purchase of a new district sign.

#### Education & Marketing Committee

Ron Testerman provided an update on the district's poster and photo contest. Bill Harris suggested that the board consider organizing a field day/pasture walk. Bill also requested that the board consider other activities, such as Women in Ag and the Century Farm Program. He informed the board that Katy McBride had expressed an interest in working with them to identify potential candidates for the Century Farm Program, and he encouraged the board to commit to finding at least one candidate from each county.

Discussions were held about the State and County Fairs. Randall mentioned that the board may want to consider providing support to the Mercer County Fair.

Ag Enhancement Committee

Bill asked the board to think about AgEP practices that they would like to participate in next year. He also spoke about the AgEP formula and of funding.

Building Committee

Bill Harris also asked the board to consider office renovation for the new administrative specialist coming in.

Jeremy Salyer provided staffing updates for the vacant Administrative Specialist position. Bill Harris requested that Angela ask Jacob to provide an update on the Conservation Specialist position at the next board meeting.

Steve Johnson moved to adjourn the committee meeting. Ed Hendrick seconded, meeting adjourned.

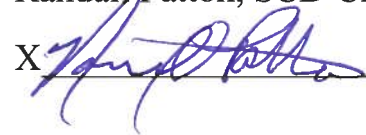
Dates to Remember:

SCD, Regular Board Meeting: February 13, 2025, at 10:00am

Ag & Conservation Day at the Capitol: February 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted:

Randall Patton, SCD Chairman

X  \_\_\_\_\_

Ed Hendrick, SCD Secretary

X  \_\_\_\_\_

RP/EH/as

Recorded by: Angela Feamster-Sawyers, Administrative Specialist