

Southern Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2025

10:00 AM

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

Those in attendance:

Supervisors

Randall Patton, Chairman

Ed Hendricks, Secretary

Bill Harris (Teleconference)

John Farell

Steven Johnson

Randy Prince (Teleconference)

Rachel Prince (Teleconference)

Ron Testerman

Curtis Murphy

Others

Ruby Daniels-Holland, NRCS

Beth Villers, NRCS/USDA

Sigrid Teets, WVCA (Teleconference)

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Darian Bender, WVCA (Teleconference)

Jake Lavender, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Morgan Dial, WVCA

Angela Feamster Sawyers, WVCA

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

Billie Jackson/Joe Jackson, FASTSIGNS

Open & Welcome

SCD Chair, Randall Patton

Steve Johnston led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, Ron Testerman led in prayer.

Southern Conservation District Operations and Business

LED sign/Building Committee Digital Sign Bid Update

During the meeting, Billie and Joe Jackson from FASTSIGNS presented details concerning the proposed future LED sign. They displayed a mockup of the sign design to the group and proceeded to explain the planned dimensions. The presenters also addressed questions from the attendees regarding the sign. Furthermore, they informed the board and others present that the proposal incorporates \$5,000 in assistance coverage, intended to mitigate costs associated with potential future incidents such as vandalism or accidental damage to the sign.

Following discussion on the LED sign, Ed Hendrick motioned to accept the '4 by 8' proposal, referring to the discussed sign specifications. Curtis Murphy seconded the motion. The motion to accept the signage was then carried by the group.

LWG and Conservation Planning Updates

Ruby Daniels-Holland, NRCS

Ruby Daniels-Holland presented updates during the meeting for Katy McBride, who could not attend. The discussion addressed the returning Local Work Group (LWG), which, according to the NRCS guidance, aims to gather recommendations on local natural resource concerns by late June. Jeremy Salyer from WVCA then highlighted the connection between the LWG discussion and his agency's report, noting that LWG input aligns with the WVCA's encouragement for Conservation Districts to review and update their District Policy Manuals and Plans of Work, and finalize Ag Enhancement Program details. Ms. Daniels-Holland also relayed Katy McBride's separate request to schedule a related meeting in May. Following Mr. Salyer's comments, Randall Patton tabled further discussion on the LWG until the committee meeting on April 29, 2025. Additionally, it was reported that flyers for Beth Viller's workshops in Princeton were distributed; updates confirmed she has hosted several well-attended High Tunnel workshops. Their report is attached below.

Approval of Minutes

Ed Hendrick made a motion to approve minutes of the March 13, 2025 regular board meeting. John Farell seconded. Motion carried.

Ron Testerman made a motion to approve minutes of the March 25, 2025 committee meeting. Ed Hendricks seconded. Motion carried.

Review/Approval of March District Financial Reports

District Operating Account , District Building Account , Supervisor Travel & Per Diem Account
CDO Account , District Reserve Account.

A motion was put forward by Curtis Murphy to approve the March Financial Reports. Ron Testerman seconded the motion, motion carried.

Review/Approval of Accounts Receivable/Aging Summary.

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Dave Parkulo presented an update utilizing the current aging summary, providing the Board of Supervisors with specific information regarding the status of payments being made by individuals. Following this financial update, the Board engaged in a discussion exploring potential methods or process changes to potentially expedite the collection or processing of these payments in the future.

- *Curtis Murphy made a motion to accept the aging summary as previously presented. The motion was seconded by both Ron Testerman and Rachel Prince. With all members present in favor, the motion carried.*

Review/ Approval of March District Financial reports.

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

February 2025

Steven J made a motion to approve February 2025 District Financial Reports, Bill Harris seconded. Motion carried.

March 2025

Steven Johnston made a motion to approve March 2025 March District Financial Reports, Rachel Prince Seconded, motion carried.

Conservation Tech Supervisor Report/District Work Updates

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Dave Parkulo delivered a report covering several operational updates within the district. He detailed the current status concerning equipment repairs and recent deliveries that have taken place. Furthermore, Mr. Parkulo provided updates on various other ongoing projects and repair activities within the district's area of responsibility, specifically citing progress on initiatives such as the high fence installation/repair and the pond clean-out project.

Conservation Specialist Report

Morgan Dial, WVCA

Ed Hendricks made a motion to approve the FY26 Agricultural Agreement. Ron Testerman seconded this motion. Following the second, the motion was put forth and carried by the group.

Payments for Approval

- Frost Seeding
 - Teresa Butts in the amount of \$454.97
 - Joel Stauffer in the amount of \$330.00
 - *John Farell made a motion to approve Frost Seeding Payments (Butts, Teresa; Stauffer, Joel.) Motion seconded by Curtis Murphy, motion carried.*
- Nutrient Management
 - Robert Keaton in the amount of \$1,500.00
 - Andrew Mullins in the amount of \$1,300.00
 - *Ed Hendricks made a motion to approve Nutrient Management Payments (Keaton, Andrew; Mullins, Andrew.) John Farell seconded the motion. Motion carried.*
- Lime
 - Cody Jones in the amount of \$518.00
 - *Ed Hendricks made a motion to approve Lime Payment (Jones, Cody.) John Farell seconded. Motion carried.*

A copy of Morgan Dial's report is attached below for additional information on payments issued.

WVCA, NRCS & SCD Updates/Approvals

Watershed Manager Report

Jake Lavender, WVCA

Jacob Lavender provided an update on the status of construction projects involving work crews operating in McDowell, Wyoming, and Raleigh Counties. He explained the process for project intake, noting that eligible work sites are being added to the crews' schedules as they are identified and called in. Mr. Lavender also reported that he has been actively coordinating with Shane and Dave Parkulo to delineate duties and ensure operational readiness as these crews transition their focus from previous flood-related work to the current construction assignments.

Area Operations Manager Report

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer presented updates from the April 2025 WVCA Report. Key reminders for Conservation Districts included the June 30 deadline for annual work plans and the encouragement to review internal policy and work plans. For the conservation farm tour, district selections are due June 16. Mr. Salyer also covered O&M agreements, noting WVCA funding will now be allocated by watershed, changing from the previous dollar-for-dollar match.

The Ag Enhancement Program timeline, with practice lists due mid-June, was reviewed, along with a reminder about the availability of WVCA communications help for media contacts.

EWP Land Assurances

Sigrid Teets, WVCA

Updates were provided regarding the status of the Brush Creek 14 and 15 projects. It was reported that the WVCA has been working diligently on the procurement process, seeking to hire both an engineering firm and a construction firm to complete the necessary work associated with these sites. Furthermore, the agency is actively collaborating with NRCS to navigate potential project modifications and the process required to rebid certain components. While a specific follow-up meeting concerning these projects has not yet been scheduled, an update is anticipated sometime before the end of this month.

Supervisor Reports/Approvals

Approval of USDA lease extension

The topic of the USDA lease extension was brought before the group for consideration. Randall Patton formally made a motion to approve the terms of the lease extension, which notably includes an increase in rent amounting to \$2 per square foot per month. Motion seconded by John Farell. It was noted that following approval, the finalized lease extension agreement will be presented to the NRCS.

WVACD Bi-Laws revision/discussion

Bill Harris addressed the status of the ongoing WVACD Bylaws revision process. He informed the group that this item requires more in-depth review and is scheduled for further discussion during the quarterly board meetings taking place the following Monday.

Excavator Repair/Replacement updates/discussion/action

During his operational updates, Dave Parkulo specifically addressed the status of the ongoing repairs for the excavator equipment.

WVACD Central Area Quarterly Meeting Approval

Bill Harris put forward a motion for the group to approve hosting the meeting scheduled for June 26th. Both Curtis Murphy seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Century Farms Update

Ron Testerman provided the group updates on Century Farms. Randall Patton requested a motion for the location of the event to be Richmond Family Farms.

- *Following discussion, motion was made by John Farell to accept location, seconded by Ed Hendricks.*

Public Comments/Closing Remarks

Committee Meeting Adjournment

Ed Hendricks made a motion to adjourn the meeting, motion was seconded by John Farell.


Randall Patton adjourned the committee meeting at 11:59 am on 04/10/2025.

Dates to Remember:

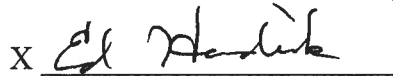
SCD, Committee Meeting: April 29, 2025, at 10:00 AM at 463 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV 25801

Respectfully submitted:

Randall Patton, SCD Chairman

X 

Ed Hendrick, SCD Secretary

X 

RH/EH/as

Recorded by: Jesus Nandi Roman, Administrative Specialist



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

1550 Earl L Core Rd
Suite 200
Morgantown
WV, 26505

Ph: (304) 284-7540
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WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO: WV 300-25-002

SUBJECT: LTP – FY 2026 GUIDANCE ON LOCAL WORK GROUPS (LWG)

Purpose: To provide guidance for conducting LWG meetings by June 27, 2025

Expiration Date: September 30, 2025

Deadline: Action items to be completed by June 27, 2025

Background: This bulletin addresses the Local Work Group (LWG) activities for FY 2026 in West Virginia. Prior to attending LWG meetings, District Conservationists should review Locally Led Conservation in CPM 440 Part 500, and Local Working Groups in CPM 440 Part 501, see attached.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts (WVACD) and West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) agreed to realign the LWG meeting with the Conservation Districts' annual planning meetings. Information gathered from these meetings is to be used for recommendations on addressing natural resource concerns, conservation activities, and the agencies' programs. The process allows for better attended meetings with richer discussions, as well as development of higher quality recommendations to the State Technical Committee.

Enclosed is a copy of the signed agreement outlining activities that must be carried out for a well-planned, well-run, and effective LWG meeting. Public meetings must be posted on the NRCS website 14 days prior to the meeting. DCs should provide the meeting date, time, location (full street address), county, contact person's name, email address, and telephone number to West Virginia's Public Affairs Specialist, Rebecca (Becky) Haddix at rebeca.haddix@usda.gov at least 20 days before the scheduled meeting.

As a reminder, information obtained is subject to our FY 2026 Program and Planning Year. Any recommendations from the LWG for a Focus Conservation Approach (FCA) project must be submitted to the ASTC-FO and [Programs Mailbox](#) by June 27, 2025 utilizing the FCA Template (attached).

Southern Conservation District DC Monthly Report

April 2025

- **Field Visits**

Beckley: 6

Princeton: 7

- **Planning Status**

Beckley Field Office: Assessed and Ranked 12 AMA Applications; 29 EQIP Applications.

Princeton Field Office: Assessed and Ranked 5 AMA Applications; 25 EQIP Applications.

*All eligible applications for FY25 Round 1 have been submitted.

- **Completed Practices**

Princeton: \$11,565.45 (382,106,165,561,647)

Beckley: \$7,867.21 (325,590)

- **Field Office Priorities**

* Finish FY25 Contract Reviews (6 left to do; 4 of those need a 153).

*Work with Area Office on engineering design needs

*Working on ECP applications (7 are eligible, working on maps/conservation plan/ICT)

*Get trees marked for FY24 and FY25 FSI Practices (Carl and Stacy)

- **Upcoming Deadlines**

- **Upcoming Events**

- WV Grassland Evaluation Contest (April 11th @ Jackson's Mill). This is the 25th Anniversary of this contest in WV.

- WV Envirothon (April 15th-17th @ Cedar Lakes).

- **Special Projects / Updates / Trainings**

*Staff have attended several Programs Meetings, attended WVUCES High Tunnel evening meetings (Beckley and Princeton), and Ecological Sciences Monthly Teleconference.

*Beth has hosted several High Tunnel workshops (has had good turnouts for them).

*Katy attended an Appalachian Grazing Conference Committee Meeting, Beckley LFAC Meeting, Quarterly DC Meeting, and Shady Spring High School's FFA Regional Contest (served as an Oral Presentation Judge).

*Staff met with Josh Parks at Glenwood Park in Princeton for a wetland restoration project (property is owned by the Mercer County Commission); providing technical assistance.

*Katy and Donny attended a meeting with Jim Fedders, with Piney Creek Watershed Association, on the wetland project at Woodrow Wilson High School (working on providing

pollinator seed along with hydric plants for the outdoor classroom).

- **Staffing Updates**

- *National Hiring Freeze

- *Angela and Brian were terminated on February 14th (one-year probationary employees), came back to work on Monday, April 7th, and have decided to take the DRP 2.0 (Deferred Resignation Program). This would allow them to be placed on paid administrative leave until September 30th.

**April 2025 Regular Board Meeting
Conservation Services Division (AgEP)
Morgan Dial, Conservation Specialist**

AgEP 1st Signups:

- Allocation:
 - FY25 Allocation: \$60,000
 - District Funds Obligated: \$10,537.73
 - Total FY25 AgEP Funds for approved practices: \$70,537.73
- Landowner Agreements:
 - Received all but 1

Approved Contracts:

- Lime

Extension	Approved For:	Amount Paid	Upon Approval
Rosita Maley	\$165.00	\$165.00	
Cody Jones	\$518.10		\$518.10
James Hartwell	\$1,752.30		

- Woodland Exclusion Fence

Extension	Approved For:
Marty Walker Owen	\$834.00

- Pasture Division Fence

Extension	Approved For:
Jewell Plumley	\$2,500.00

- Pond Cleanout

Extension	Approved For:
Curtis Murphy	\$2,500.00
Charles Lane	\$2,500.00
Angela Gilkerson	\$2,500.00

AgEP 2nd Signups:

- Allocation:

- District Funds Obligated: \$18,525.02
- Total FY25 AgEP Funds for approved practices: \$18,289.52
- Leftover for potential added applicants: \$235.50

These numbers can change due to extensions for first signups

- Landowner Agreements:

- Received 11/19

Approved Contracts:

- Nutrient Management

Name	Cost Share Amount Maximum	Amount Paid	Upon Approval
Jeffrey McLaughlin	\$1,105.00		
Robert Keaton	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Chase McLaughlin	\$1,500.00		
Debra Berry	\$1,495.00		
Adrian A. Harper	\$1,495.00		
Wayne Rhodes	\$1,500.00		
Steve DeHart	\$1,500.00		
Pamela Bailey	\$1,430.00		
Andrew Mullins	\$1,300.00		\$1,300.00
Jamey Gwinn	\$682.50		
David H White	\$520.00		
Clifton Lester	\$390.00		
Brenda Nelson	\$1,500.00		
Jackie Gill	\$65.00		
Total:	\$15,982.50		\$2,800.00

- Frost Seeding

Name	Cost Share Amount Maximum	Amount Paid	Upon Approval
Luther Bennett	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Edgar Hendrick	\$307.02	\$263.75	
Joel Stauffer	\$500.00		\$330.00
Teresa Butts	\$500.00		\$454.97
Ronald Testerman	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Total:	\$2,307.02	\$1,263.75	\$784.97
FS \$ Leftover:			\$258.30

April 2025 WVCA Report

Request to Conservation Districts

The WVCA is encouraging Conservation Districts to review and update your District Policy Manuals. In addition to your policy manual, you are encouraged to review your CD Employee Manual (if you have one) and your CD Plan of Work. If you are already doing these reviews, please disregard this request.

Annual Work Plan

Reminder - District annual work plans are due **June 30** to Guthrie.

Conservation Farm Tour

It is time for districts to think about the conservation farm families to be awarded. CDs should have their district farm selection to their Area Directors by June 16.

O&M Agreements:

CD's are encouraged to continue to work with local sponsors for O&M funding. The change will be that these agreements will not be matched dollar for dollar as they were in the past. The WVCA will be allocating funds on a watershed basis moving forward to help with O&M costs.

Ag Enhancement Program Timeline

- May/June/July – CDs to finalize upcoming FY program, update AgEP agreement addendums, take action to approve LORs Mid June – Deadline for CDs submit final practice list to WVCA (CDs can submit final list any time after SCC approval of practice list)

Press contact reminder

The WVCA wants to remind all CDs that the WVCA Communications specialist is available to help districts with press releases, and media contacts, especially if it the situation involves WVCA programs or staff.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

News Release

West Virginia State Office
1550 Earl Core Road, Suite 200
Morgantown, WV 26505
NRCS.WVPublicAffairs@usda.gov

Southern Conservation District Local Work Group meeting scheduled, May 12

The Southern Conservation District in cooperation with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is hosting a Local Work Group Meeting to gather input from farmers, landowners, state and federal agencies, and agriculture and conservation organizations regarding natural resource conservation priorities. The meeting will be held on Monday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Southern Conservation District office at 465 Ragland Road, Beckley WV 25801.

The local work group includes representatives from cooperating federal, state, and local conservation agencies and is open to the public including all farmers, agricultural producers, and forest owners/managers. As part of NRCS's locally led process, public comments will be sought from attendees on how to best prioritize USDA dollars for your local area.

The Southern Conservation District covers Fayette, McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh, Summers, and Wyoming Counties. NRCS District Conservationist, Katy McBride, and her staff work from the NRCS field offices in Beckley and Princeton.

If you need an accommodation to participate, please contact Julie Stutler at (304) 578-4598, or by e-mail at NRCS.WVtateOffice@usda.gov. For more information contact Katy McBride at (681) 220-5761 or Katy.McBride@usda.gov.

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