

# ***Southern Conservation District***

Special Board/Committee Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2025

10:00 AM

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the conference room of the district office located at **263 Ragland Rd. Beckley, WV 25801**

## **Those in Attendance:**

### Supervisors:

Randall Patton, Chairman

Bill Harris, Vice Chair

Edgar Hendrick, Secretary

Steven Johnston

Curtis Murphy

Ron Testerman

Rachel Prince (Teleconference)

Randy Prince (Teleconference)

### Others:

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Kayla Burgess, SCD

Open & Welcome

SCD Chairman, Randall Patton

- Ron Testerman led the pledge; Ed Hendrick led in prayer.

### **Southern Conservation District Operations and Business**

#### **Grasslands Grant:**

*A motion was brought forth by Bill Harris to return the Pipestem Creek 319 grant payment of \$138,239.39, which had been previously LOR'd to the Southern Conservation District from the WVCA due to the grant project's completion. The motion was seconded by Ed Hendrick and, following a vote, was carried.*

#### **Review/Approval of WVCA Co-Administered Funds:**

*The Board of Supervisors conducted a review of the Co-Administered Funds for May FY2025. Following a brief discussion on the matter, Ed Hendrick moved to approve the Co-Administered Funds for May FY2025 , which motion was seconded by Ron Testerman. The motion was then carried.*

#### **Payment Approvals:**

*Prior to the discussion and vote concerning the AG Enhancement Program, Curtis Murphy exited the room, as he was slated to receive Pond Cleanout payment from the program.*

#### **Payment Approvals:**

- Pond Cleanout:
  - Curtis Murphy in the amount \$1,025.00
  - Angela Gilkerson in the amount \$1,600.00
- Woodland Exclusion:
  - Marty Walker in the amount \$834.00

*The Board of Supervisors then proceeded with the approval of AG payments, with Bill Harris making a motion to approve. Ron Testerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

#### **WVCA State Fair Booth:**

The Board of Supervisors engaged in a discussion concerning the provision of "handouts" for attendees at the upcoming State Fair, noting that the Southern Conservation District did not provide such items last year. The Board expressed a desire to offer materials suitable for both adults and children , with temporary tattoos featuring the District's name and emblem specifically suggested for children. Recognizing the variability in costs for promotional items (e.g., keychains, pens), the Board determined that further investigation into pricing was necessary. Randall Patton then suggested Kayla Burgess (SCD) research and compile pricing information , and it was agreed to table the discussion until the next board meeting to allow time for this research.

**Special Board Meeting Adjournment:**

With no further comments from the board, *Steven Johnston moved to adjourn the special board meeting. Ron Testerman seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 AM.* The board then proceeded directly into the scheduled committee meeting

**Southern Conservation District Committee Meeting:**

**Building:**

Kayla Burgess provided an update on the sign, confirming she has login access, the website information, and has completed the necessary training to operate it. She reported that the sign currently displays various advertisements, including information about High Tunnel Workshops, USDA announcements, and the current date. Kayla Burgess encouraged the group to inform her of any content they wish to have displayed on the sign. Following this, a discussion ensued regarding the staircase project; however, Dave Parkulo informed the Board that due to the current volume of work, he would commence the project at a later date. Additionally, it was noted that there has been no new information from the Beckley Sanitary Board concerning the runoff issue in the parking lot, but the plumbing problems in the bottom restrooms have been addressed.

**Equipment:**

Dave Parkulo provided updates on equipment, leading to a discussion with the Board of Supervisors regarding pending sales and equipment rentals.

**Finance:**

Curtis Murphy presented the finance report, primarily focusing on the District's Certificates of Deposit. He noted that upcoming maturities are scheduled for the 17th of next month. Murphy indicated that current investments are yielding around 4%, and he has already renewed some at this rate. He mentioned a five-month investment also at 4%, aligning with rates offered by Burke & Herbert Bank. He expressed a desire to secure a higher interest rate, ideally 4.5%, for the District's substantial investments.

**AG Enhancement:**

Curtis Murphy initiated a discussion with Steve Dehart concerning the "Farm of the Year" award. Due to specific circumstances, Mr. Dehart was determined to be the winner by default. However, Mr. Dehart expects SCD staff and supervisors to tour his farm. It was noted that Morgan Dial of WVCA has already been in contact with Mr. Dehart. Subsequently, it was decided that Curtis Murphy would collaborate with Morgan Dial to arrange the logistics for visiting both Mr. Dehart's and Jason Tarp's properties. Bill Harris expressed interest in having Mercer County supervisors also attend this visit. A brief discussion also took place regarding AG Enhancement Program (AGEP) obligations. It was clarified that despite limited information on sign-ups, the

\$18,000 USD provided by SCD for AGEF obligations has been placed in a new, separate account to prevent any commingling of state and AGEF funds.

**319 Water Quality:**

Though brief, Ron Testerman reported no new updates on 319 Water Quality. However, a discussion followed regarding the current status of water sample collection by a District employee. It was noted that an individual had been actively sampling prior to their promotion, but the position is currently vacant.

**Education & Marketing:**

Ron Testerman provided an update on the photo contest. Jesus Nandi Roman informed the Board of Supervisors that he has developed a judging rubric and will collaborate with representatives from NRCS, FSA, and USDA to complete the judging process. The plan is to utilize the NRCS conference room for the judging, after which Mr. Nandi Roman will compile and evaluate the votes, presenting this information to the Board prior to final submission.

**Meeting Adjournment:**

*There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair.*

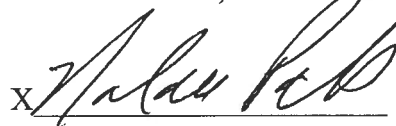
**Dates To Remember:**

SCD Board Meeting: July 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM @ 463 Ragland Rd, Beckley WV, 25801

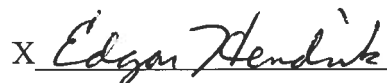
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Respectfully Submitted:

**Randall Patton, SCD Chairman**

X 

**Edgar Hendrick, SCD Secretary**

X 

RH/EH/as

Recorded By: Jesus Nandi Roman, Administrative Specialist