

Greenbrier Valley Conservation District

August 21, 2025, 7:00pm
Regular Board Meeting, Approved Minutes

The Greenbrier Valley Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 7:00 pm in the conference room of the USDA service center located in Lewisburg.

Those present:

Supervisors:

Chairman, Gary Sawyers
Gary Truex
Donald McNeel
Avery Atkins (Virtual)
Carolyn Miller
Timothy VanReenen

Others:

Adam Merritt, NRCS
Wanda Smith, NRCS (Virtual)
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA (Virtual)
Jacob Lavender, WVCA
Morgan Dial, WVCA
Jason Nicolai, WVCA (Virtual)
Angela Feamster – Sawyers, WVCA

Chairman Sawyers called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and welcomed everyone.

Chairman Sawyers led in the pledge of allegiance and Timothy VanReenen led the group in prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Timothy VanReenen moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2025, regular board meeting. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.

Guests

No guests were present.

Administrative Specialist Report

Angela Feamster-Sawyers reviewed the highlights of her report which is attached.

Funding Requests

Timothy VanReenen moved to approve and send the following LOR:

LOR ID: 16410

Purpose: FY25 Q4 CD Employee Reimbursement

Amount: \$13,333.16

AGR: 1024-09

Gary Truex seconded; motion carried.

Donald McNeel moved to approve that the district make a \$50.00 donation to The United Methodist Temple's Service and Witness Ministry (a group of volunteers who build wheelchair ramps for individuals in the community) in memory of Janet Munson. Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.

Cooperating Agency Reports

- NRCS – Wanda Smith, the District Conservationist for Monroe County, reported on the current status for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and that design submissions must be submitted to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) by August 29. She noted that they have approximately 68 designs, with 21 currently in limbo. She reported on recent funding cuts, which affect the agreements for ACES employees. Additionally, she reported that no applications have been received for the District Conservationist position in Lewisburg for Greenbrier North, under the critical vacancy announcement opportunity. Furthermore, she noted that applications for the first round of funding for program year 2026 are due by August 29; late applications will be rolled into the second round or later.

Adam Merrit, Acting District Conservationist for Greenbrier Valley North, reviewed the highlights of his report, which is attached.

- FSA
- Forestry
- WVCA – Area Director Jeremy Salyer announced that the CDO budget has been finalized and mentioned the upcoming audit. Angela Sawyers noted that the audit has not yet been scheduled, but it will be soon. Jeremy also reported that the State Conservation farm tour is scheduled for next week. Additionally, he addressed the Ag Enhancement LOR and discussed Senate Bill 941.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

- **Financial Reports**

Gary Truex moved on behalf of the committee to accept the general and CDO funds report, and file for audit. Timothy VanReenen seconded; motion carried.

Gary Truex moved on behalf of the committee to accept the WVCA restricted funds report, and file for audit. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.

Gary Truex moved on behalf of the committee to pay the bills, per payables list. Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.

Watershed

- Updates- if any

Donald McNeel moved to approve and send the following LOR:

- **LOR**

LOR ID: 16418

Purpose: FY26 O&M Allocation

Amount: \$12,220.00

*(Marlin Run \$3,055; Marlin Run Channel \$3,055; Howards Creek \$3,055; Howard Creek Channel \$3,055= \$12, 220.00)

Gary Truex seconded; motion carried.

Jacob Lavender reminded the board of supervisors that it is nearing the time to schedule the annual dam inspections. After discussion, it was agreed that the inspections will take place on Monday, October 6, 2025. They will begin at Howard's Creek Dam at 9:00 AM and then proceed to the Marlin Run Dam around 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

319 Committee

• Payments for Approval

Chairman Gary Sawyers recused himself from the meeting because of a conflict of interest regarding the upcoming payment for approval, and Timothy VanReenen assumed the role of chair.

NPS 1847 Upper Meadow River II

Donald McNeel explained that the amount to be approved for Mr. Sawyers had increased by \$37.50 from what was listed on the agenda, bringing the total to \$1,117.97. This increase was due to the inclusion of 75% of the value of the tire that Mr. Sawyers owned, which should have been accounted for in the final payment amount.

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following payment:

- Gary Sawyers- Watering Trough & HUAP - \$1,117.97

Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.

Gary Sawyers returned to the meeting, and continued his role as chairman

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following payments:

- Margaret Wilson – Septic Pumping - \$238.50
- Steve Redden – Septic Pumping - \$150.00

Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following payment:

- Travis Cadd – Septic Replacement- \$5,998.50

Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.

Indian Creek IV:

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following payment:

- SGS WQ Monitoring -\$129.93 for June 2025

Gary Truex seconded; motion carried.

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following payment:

- Tessa McCoy- Septic System Replacement - \$5,000.00

Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following payment:

- Nancy Bouldin- Septic System Pumping - \$300.00

Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.

Following discussion, *Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to delegate Gary Sawyers with authority to approve remaining payments for Second Creek & Indian Creek IV. Gary Truex seconded; motion carried.*

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following payment:

- Spring Creek II:
 - SGS WQ Monitoring -\$86.62 for June 2025

Gary Truex seconded; motion carried.

- SMART Farms

Donald McNeel moved on behalf of the committee to delegate Gary Sawyers with the authority to approve remaining payments for Rob Jiranek. Timothy VanReenen seconded; motion carried.

GLCI Grant Field Day Discussion

Jason Nicolai shared updates regarding the Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Grant. After some discussion, it was decided that anyone interested would meet following the October/November committee meeting to share ideas and begin the planning process.

Agricultural Enhancement Program Committee

Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee to approve and send the following LOR:

- LOR

LOR ID: 16432

Purpose: FY26 Ag Enhancement Program Allotment

Amount: \$94,700.00

AGR: 1508-00

Gary Truex seconded; motion carried.

Timothy VanReenen moved on behalf of the committee to approve the following AgEP applications for FY26:

Lime

McGrady, James	\$2,421.00	Monroe County
Hefner, Chad	\$945.00	Greenbrier County
Beard, William S., Jr.	\$802.50	Pocahontas County
Rose, Bruce	\$2,085.00	Pocahontas County
Callison, Stella	\$466.50	Monroe County
Furrow, Patti	\$651.00	Monroe County
Vass, Butch	\$1,206.00	Monroe County
Wilfong, Charles	\$2,250.00	Pocahontas County
Smith, Lefty	\$1,261.50	Monroe County
Garten, Jeremy	\$289.50	Monroe County
Shinaberry, Ricky	\$2,193.00	Pocahontas County
Furrow, David	\$576.15	Monroe County
Kearns, Sharon	\$1,038.00	Pocahontas County
Morris, Bane	\$870.00	Monroe County

\$17,055.15

Comprehensive Pasture Development

Hefner, Chad	\$1,640.00	Greenbrier County
Furrow, Patti	\$1,243.75	Monroe County
Adkins, Michael	\$3,224.10	Greenbrier County
Young, Roy	\$7,866.60	Greenbrier County
Morris, Bane	\$9,130.00	Monroe County

\$23,104.45

Watering System

Wills, Roger	\$869.05	Greenbrier County
Larew, Charles	\$500.00	Monroe County
	\$1,369.05	

Pasture Division Fence**\$0.00****Exclusion Fence**

Williams, Scott	\$5,000.00	Monroe County
Belcher, Todd	\$5,000.00	Monroe County
	\$10,000.00	

<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>\$51,528.65</u>
---------------------------	---------------------------

Carolyn Miller seconded; motion carried.

Timothy noted that with remaining funds, GVCD will reopen AgEP Signups for the month of September.

Grassland Committee

Nothing to report.

Building/Equipment Committee

- Updates (if any)

The board of supervisors reviewed the monthly equipment report, which is attached.

Gary Truex moved on behalf of the committee, to approve the cancellation of the district credit card account with First Citizens Bank, ending in 1179. Timothy VanReenen seconded; motion carried.

Reported action between board meetings

On August 5, 2025, Gary Sawyers, acting with delegated authority, accepted the following bids for the King Cutter Potato Hillers:

Potato Hiller Bid #1 -\$140.00 – Submitted by: Kevin Hoke

Potato Hiller Bid #2 - \$145.00 – Submitted by: Kevin Hoke

Education Outreach/Events Committee

- Updates, if any

Carolyn Miller moved on behalf of the committee to approve \$1500.00 in additional funds to cover expenses for the Legislative & Awards Banquet.

Correspondance

Gary Truex moved to accept FNBB Pledge Notifications:

180059416,180073187,232159750. Donald McNeel seconded; motion carried.

Angela Sawyers read a thank you card that the district received from Katy McBride and Chairman Sawyers read a letter received from WVACD.

Other Business

Nothing to report

Dates to Remember:

September 10, 2025 – GVCD Committee Meeting @ 9:00am

September 18, 2025 – GVCD Regular Board Meeting @ 7:00pm

September 25, 2025 – GVCD Legislative & Awards Banquet

With no further business the meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Sawyers".

Gary Sawyers
Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary R. Truex".

Gary Truex
Secretary/ Treasurer

GS/GT/as

Recorded by: Angela Feamster-Sawyers, Administrative Specialist