

# *Southern Conservation District*

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2026

10:00 AM

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. 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, Vice-Chair

Edgar Hendrick, Secretary

Bill Cook

Randy Prince (Teleconference)

Rachel Prince (Teleconference)

Curtis Murphy

John Farrell

Ron Testerman

Steve Johnston

Others:

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

Brian Fry, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA (Teleconference)

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Katy McBride, NRCS

Beth Villers, NRCS/WVU

Heather Duncan, WVACD

Open & Welcome

Randall Patton, Chairman

Ed Hendrick led in prayer, and Steve Johnston led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Southern Conservation District Operations and Business**

**Approval of Minutes**

***Jesus Nandi Roman presented the minutes of the January 8, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Curtis Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. John Farrell seconded, motion carried.***

***Jesus Nandi Roman presented the minutes of the February 3, 2026, Special Board/Committee Meeting. Ed Hendrick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Curtis Murphy seconded, motion carried.***

**Review/Approval of January Financial Reports**

*District Operating Account*

*District Building Account*

*Supervisor Travel & Per Diem Account*

*CDO Account*

*District Reserve Account*

***Following the review, Bill Harris made a motion to approve the District Financial reports as presented. Randy Prince seconded, motion carried.***

**Approval of Aging Summary/Accounts Receivable**

Dave Parkulo, SCD

***After review, Curtis Murphy made a motion to approve the aging summary/accounts receivable report as presented. Bill Harris seconded, motion carried.***

**Review/Approval of Co-Administered WVCA Financial Reports**

- January 2026

***After review of the SCD January 2026 Reconciliations and Financial Statements, Bill Harris made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Steven Johnston seconded, motion carried.***

**Conservation Supervisor Technician Report**

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Dave Parkulo opened his report by expressing appreciation for the board's thoughts and prayers during his recent surgery. He reported that the SCD crew is currently completing remodeling work and will continue until the projects are finished. He also noted that several lime shipments are expected to be delivered. He stated that the remaining field work includes one additional pond project, which he plans to complete as soon as possible. Estimates have been sent to Jacob Lavender and the other districts the SCD works with. Current activities are otherwise limited to routine mowing. He also briefly discussed conditions at Site 12, noting that water levels are

rising and may be approaching second-stage levels, with an obstruction located at the inlet. No action was requested from the board.

**Conservation Specialist Report:**

Brian Fry, WVCA

The board reviewed the first page of Brian Fry's Report, which included payment approvals, landowner agreements, proposed changes to the FY27 AgEP practice list, and discussion items related to the GLCI grant. The payment approval for William Travis Redden for \$387.60 was noted. It was also reported that 34 landowner agreements have been received to date. Proposed revisions to the Draft AgEP Agreement and the FY27 AgEP Practice List were discussed. The GLCI grant budget was discussed; however, the final budget has not yet been set. The board discussed delegating authority to approve the final GLCI budget without calling a special meeting. Ron Testerman and Bill Harris were designated to act on behalf of the board for final budget approval once pricing and details are confirmed. The proposed GLCI budget included items such as tent and table rentals totaling "\$1,426.76," promotional sorting sticks, and eco spiral notebooks with sticky notes and flags, bringing the overall proposed total to "\$2,619.26." The Soil Lab Raffle/Certificate discussion was reviewed as presented, and event location discussions were noted, including the offer to host at Ron Testerman's home. The FY27 AgEP Practice List and the Agricultural Enhancement Program Administration Agreement were discussed. Addendum #1 and Addendum #2 were reviewed, including the application period from May 18, 2026, through May 29, 2026, ranking timelines, payment rates, tiebreaker procedures, and delegation of authority provisions. The AgEP Agreement and the FY27 Practice list were reviewed but tabled for further discussion at a later meeting. The remaining portions of the report were discussed in general terms without detailed action.

*Steven Johnston made a motion to appoint Bill Harris and Ron Testerman as the designated board representatives for GLCI budget approvals. Ed Hendrick seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

**WVCA, NRCS & SCD Updates:**

**District Conservationist Report:**

Katy McBride, NRCS

Katy McBride reported that staff completed 7 field visits from the Beckley office and 13 from the Princeton office during the reporting period. She stated that both offices are currently working on FY26 applications for AMA, EQIP, and CSP programs. Completed practices totaled \$16,450.68 in the Princeton Field Office and \$26,441.84 in the Beckley Field Office. Current field office priorities include completing field visits, assessments, and rankings for FY26 applications; working with applicants on eligibility updates; coordinating contract management with the Area Office; completing FSI remarkings; and working with engineering staff on design completion. She noted the upcoming February 27 deadline for FY26 EQIP, AMA, and CSP eligibility. She briefly mentioned several upcoming events and special projects, including the

Appalachian Grazing Conference, the WV Grassland Evaluation Contest, the WV Small Farms Conference, and the development of a 2026 workshop schedule.

McBride briefly referenced the **2026 WVSU Workshop Schedule**, noting the following outreach and educational workshop dates:

**April 2 (6–7:30 p.m.)** – Growing Transplants, Shady Springs High School FFA.

**April 24 (6–7 p.m.)** – Community Gardening, Concord University.

**May 7 (6–7 p.m.)** – Irrigation, USDA Office in Beckley.

**May 22 (6–7 p.m.)** – Marketing and Sales, Summers County Memorial Building.

**June 4 (6–7:30 p.m.)** – Fruit, Flower, and Herb Production, Timbuskue Farms.

**June 18 (2–3 p.m.)** – Food Access, Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority Education Center.

**July 16 (6–8 p.m.)** – Summer and Winter Vegetable Production, New Roots Community Farm.

**July 30 (6–7:30 p.m.)** – Introduction to High Tunnels, T&T Organics.

**August 13 (6–7 p.m.)** – Soil Health, USDA Office in Beckley.

She did not go into detail on each session but indicated these workshops are part of the ongoing partnership and outreach efforts through WVSU Extension. A copy of her full report is attached below.

Area Operations Manager Report:

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer opened his report and stated that Conservation Farm Contest district winners are due to the District Operations Manager by June 15. Salyer also reminded the Board that the district personnel plan is due to the State Conservation Committee by March 1. SB631 was noted as having been introduced on January 27 and sent to the Senate Natural Resources Committee, with additional information to be shared as it becomes available. The report highlighted key dates for the 2026 West Virginia Legislative Session, including the House bill introduction deadline of February 17, the Senate bill introduction deadline of February 23, and adjournment at midnight on March 14. It also noted that within the Agricultural Enhancement Program timeline, conservation districts must submit their final practice list to WVCA by June 15. Finally, the report mentioned that Ag Day is scheduled for February 18. A copy of Jeremy Salyer's report is attached below.

Supervisor Reports/Approvals:

Brush Creek Site 12 Planning (Discussion)

Bill reported that the planning team reviewed several rehabilitation scenarios for Brush Creek Site 12. The alternatives included continued operation and maintenance only, breaching the dam and making downstream channel improvements, and full rehabilitation options. He stated that

alternatives involving only maintenance or breaching the dam were not considered viable due to dam safety concerns and overall effectiveness.

He explained that the planning team's preferred option is Alternative 4, which involves removing the existing dam, repairing the underlying bedrock as needed, and constructing a new dam in the same location to meet current standards. This option would also include improvements to the emergency spillway and downstream structures. He noted that earlier estimates for rehabilitation were around \$4 million, but the current total project estimate is approximately \$16.4 million, with about \$6.6 million identified as the local sponsor's responsibility through state or other funding sources.

***Bill Harris made a motion to support Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative for the rehabilitation of Brush Creek Site 12. Steven Johnston seconded the motion; the motion carried.***

#### SCD/GVCD Landjudging & Homesite Evaluation Contest

The board considered an email from Angela Sawyer on behalf of the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District, requesting that Southern Conservation District confirm whether Tuesday, May 5, 2026, would be suitable for the Land Judging and Home Site Evaluation Contest. The email also asked whether the Southern Conservation District would again provide the awards, while Greenbrier Valley would handle lunch and refreshments. It was noted that this arrangement has been used in prior years, with the Southern Conservation District covering the awards and the Greenbrier Valley providing the meal/refreshments.

***Following the discussion, Steven Johnston made a motion to approve participation in the Land Judging and Home Site Evaluation Contest on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, with Southern Conservation District providing the awards and Greenbrier Valley Conservation District providing refreshments. John Farrell seconded the motion. The motion carried.***

#### Sponsor for Raleigh County Fair

The board discussed a request to sponsor the Raleigh County Fair, scheduled for July 3–5 at the convention center. It was reported that the event will include livestock shows, a rodeo, vendors, and other activities, and that several local entities and sponsors are contributing to the effort. The request was for a \$2,000 sponsorship from the Southern Conservation District to help offset event expenses, particularly labor costs. Discussion followed regarding sponsorship recognition and potential district participation, such as a booth at the event. It was also noted that NRCS may be able to contribute up to \$1,000, pending further confirmation.

***Following the discussion, Ed Hendrick made a motion to approve a \$2,000.00 sponsorship for the Raleigh County Fair, to be paid from the CDO account. Bill Harris seconded the motion. The motion carried.***

SCD Truck Bid Opening

The board opened one sealed bid for the 2008 GMC truck, which had previously been approved for bidding. The bid received was from Carl Gower for \$5,901. It was noted that a minimum bid of \$5,800 had been established. The discussion included references to estimated values and confirmation that the bid met the minimum requirement.

*Following the discussion, Ed Hendrick made a motion to accept the \$5,901 bid for the 2008 GMC truck. Steven Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

Century Farms Applications (Updates/Discussion)

The board revisited the Century Farms applications that had previously been tabled to allow time to gather all required documentation. It was reported that the applications had been received and reviewed, and that a total of four applications were now on file. Jesus Nandi Roman indicated that, based on the materials provided, the applications appeared complete and ready to move forward.

*Following the discussion, Steven Johnston made a motion to approve the Centric Farms applications. Ron Testerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

**Meeting Adjournment:**

*Upon the completion of all agenda items, Randall Patton made a motion to adjourn the Southern Conservation District's February 19, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Randy Prince seconded the motion. The Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM EST.*

Dates To Remember:

SCD Committee Meeting: February 24, 2026, at 10:00 AM @ 463 Ragland Rd, WV, 25801.

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Respectfully Submitted: Jesus Nandi Roman, West Virginia Conservation Agency,  
Administrative Specialist

**Randall Patton, Chairman**

X 

**Edgar Hendrick, SCD Secretary**

X 

BH/EH/AS

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**Motions Summary**  
Regular Board Meeting – February 19, 2026

**Page 2**

A motion was made by Curtis Murphy to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by John Farrell and carried.

A motion was made by Ed Hendrick to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2026, Special Board/Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by Curtis Murphy and carried.

A motion was made by Bill Harris to approve the district financial reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Randy Prince and carried.

A motion was made by Curtis Murphy to approve the aging summary/accounts receivable report as presented. The motion was seconded by Bill Harris and carried.

A motion was made by Bill Harris to approve the co-administered WVCA financial reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Steven Johnston and carried.

**Page 3**

A motion was made by Steven Johnston to appoint Bill Harris and Ron Testerman as the designated board representatives for GLCI budget approvals. The motion was seconded by Ed Hendrick and carried.

**Page 5**

A motion was made by Bill Harris to support Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative for the rehabilitation of Brush Creek Site 12. The motion was seconded by Steven Johnston and carried.

A motion was made by Steven Johnston to approve participation in the Land Judging and Home Site Evaluation Contest on May 5, 2026, with Southern Conservation District providing the awards and Greenbrier Valley Conservation District providing refreshments. The motion was seconded by John Farrell and carried.

A motion was made by Ed Hendrick to approve a \$2,000 sponsorship for the Raleigh County Fair, to be paid from the CDO account. The motion was seconded by Bill Harris and carried.

**Page 6**

A motion was made by Ed Hendrick to accept the \$5,901 bid for the 2008 GMC truck. The motion was seconded by Steven Johnston and carried.

A motion was made by Steven Johnston to approve the Centric Farms applications. The motion was seconded by Ron Testerman and carried.

A motion was made by Randall Patton to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Randy Prince and carried.



## **FY27 AgEP Practice List**

- Bale Grazing
- Cover Crop
- Critical Area Planting
- Deer Exclusion Fencing
- Exclusion Fence/Watering System (combined practice)
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Frost Seeding
- Hay or Pasture Establishment
- Hay or Pasture Reseeding
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- High Tunnel Soil Health
- Invasive Species Management
- Lime (liquid lime is ineligible)
- Micro Irrigation
- Nutrient Management
- Pasture Division Fence
- Pasture Division Fence/Watering System (combined practice)
- Pollination
  - Habitat Plot
  - Delayed Mowing
- Pollinators
  - Solitary Bee Nest
  - Honeybee Nucleus Colonies
- Pond Clean Out
- Precision Ag
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Roof Runoff Management
- Small Scale Soil Amendment
  - Lime
  - Nutrient Management
  - Biochar
  - Compost
- Urban & Community Agriculture
  - Blue Bird Boxes
  - Cold Frames and Hot Beds
  - Composters
  - Cover Crop for High Tunnels
  - Irrigation
  - Landscape Fabric
  - Low Tunnel
  - Mulching
  - Polywire Fence
  - Rain Barrel and Rain Barrel Kits
  - Raised Bed Garden
  - Shade Cloth
  - Soil
  - Small Greenhouse
  - Stakes and Trellises
  - Straw Mulch
  - Urban Deer Fence
- Warm Season Annual Seeding
- Water Protection Exclusion Fence
- Watering System
- Winter Grazing
- Woodland Exclusion Fence

## February 2026 WVCA Report

### Conservation Farm Contest

It is time for the districts to begin thinking about the conservation farm families to be awarded this year. District winners are due to the District Operations Manager by June 15.

### Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP) Administrative Review

To comply with the requirements from the program documentation, including the Legislative Rule, the traditional AgEP spot check procedure has been reevaluated and is now referred to as the Administrative Review.

Each District's Administrative Specialist will conduct a review of 10% or a minimum of 3 files with applications that fiscal year and submit the Administrative Review Form to their District Operations Manager. By completing this review halfway through a fiscal year, staff will have time to find possible procedural errors and take steps to prevent them from happening in the future.

The Administrative Review process will allow WVCA to ensure that all proper documentation is physically accessible in the district cooperator file, and that the district's online database records system is in agreement with WVCA financial records system.

### 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 the reviews, please disregard this request. However, please let us know with a written response that you are already reviewing or will be reviewing the documents.

**The district personnel plan is due to SCC by March 1.**

Conservation Districts are asked to begin the **Agreed Procedures Engagement (APE) audit** if you haven't already. Please check your current agreement to make sure it is valid.

### SB631

Introduced 1-27.

A BILL to amend and reenact §19-21A-3, §19-21A-4, §19-21A-7, §19-21A-8, §19-21A-11, §19-21A-12, and §19-21A-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to controlling interests in flood control dams and similar structures; revising definitions; authorizing State Conservation Committee to construct, operate, improve, and maintain flood control dams and similar structures and to contract with other entities to do so; removing authority of conservation districts to employ dam monitors; removing authority of conservation districts to construct, operate, improve, and maintain flood control dams and similar structures and to contract with other entities to do so; mandating conservation districts to transfer interests in flood control dams and similar structures, and any associated property, to the West Virginia Conservation Agency by certain date; and requiring conservation districts to transfer all funds and accounts associated with flood control dams and similar structures to the West Virginia Conservation Agency by certain date.

Currently sent to Senate Natural Resources Committee. Information will be shared as received.

### **West Virginia Legislature's 2026 regular session**

- **House Bill Deadline:** February 17, 2026 (Last day to introduce bills in the House).
- **Senate Bill Deadline:** February 23, 2026 (Last day to introduce bills in the Senate).
- **Adjournment:** March 14, 2026 (Midnight).

### **Ag Enhancement Program Timeline**

May/June/July – CDs to finalize upcoming FY program, update AgEP agreement addendums, take action to approve LORs June 15 – Deadline for CDs submit final practice list to WVCA (CDs can submit final list any time after SCC approval of practice list)

### **Ag Day**

February 18th

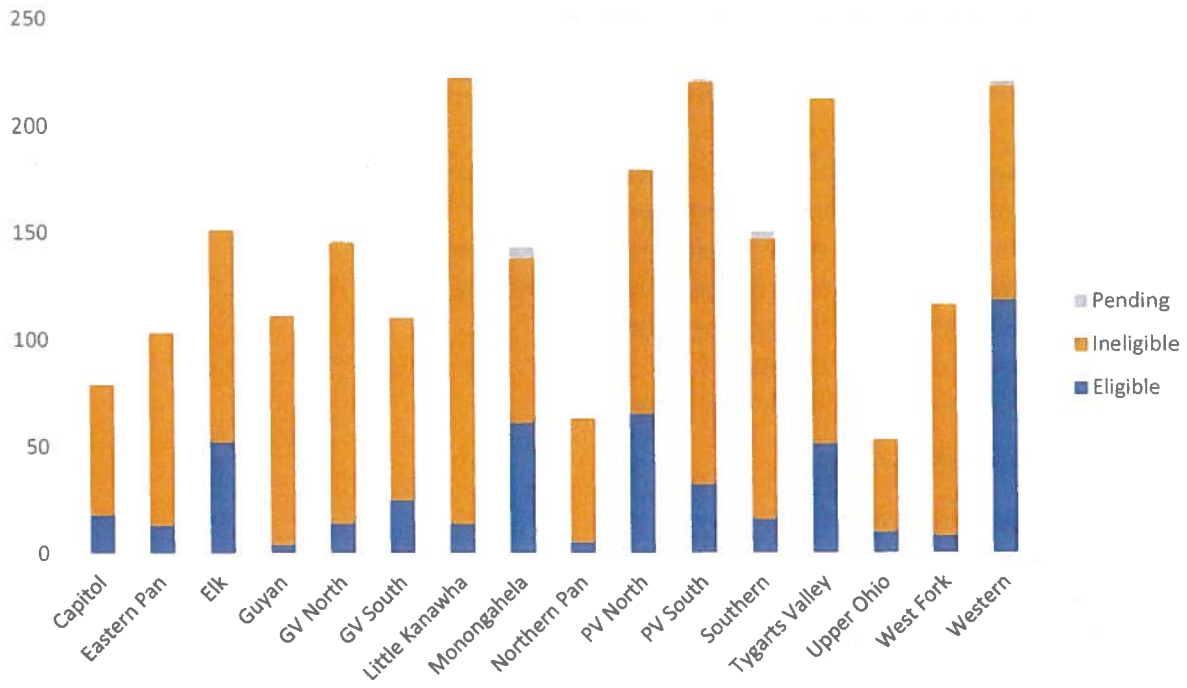
## Southern Conservation District DC Monthly Report

February 2026

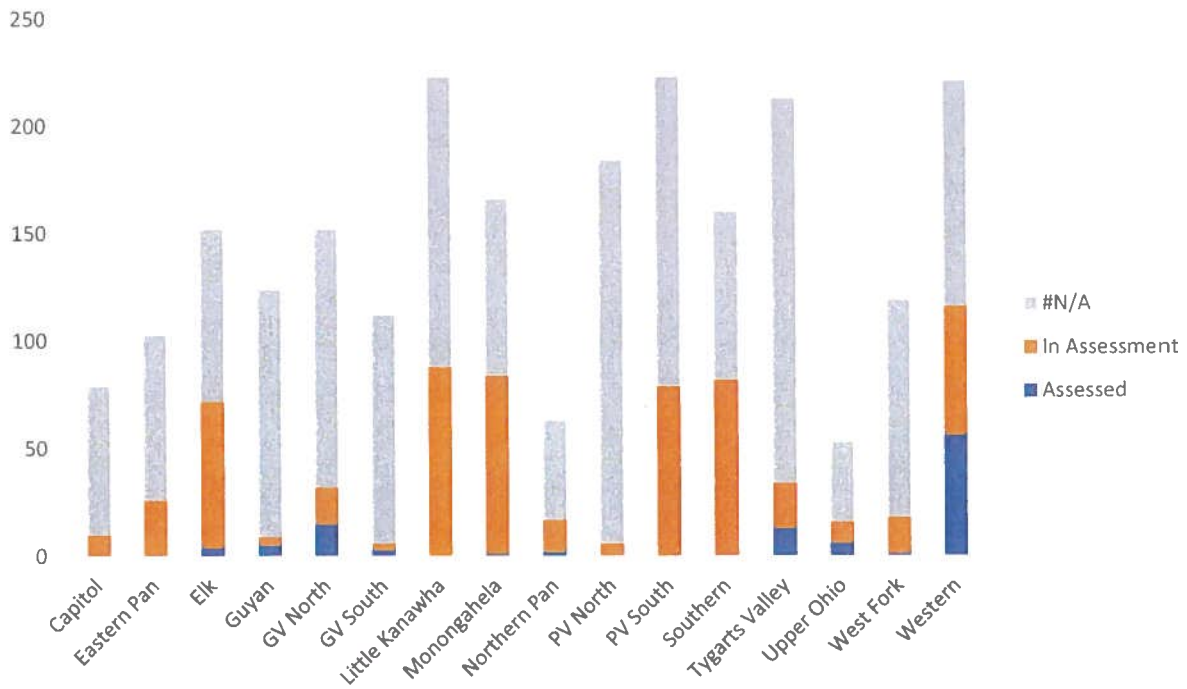
- Field Visits
  - Beckley Field Office: 7
  - Princeton Field Office: 13
- Planning Status
  - Both Beckley and Princeton Field Offices are currently working on FY26 Applications (AMA, EQIP, CSP)
- Completed Practices
  - Princeton Field Office: \$16,450.68 (382,472,649,614,561,516,314,649,528,666,645,647)
  - Beckley Field Office: \$26,441.84 (FY25 CSP, 314,666,420,106,165,516,614,561)
- Field Office Priorities
  - Complete field visits on FY26 applications (AMA, EQIP, and CSP)
  - Complete assessments and rankings on FY26 applications (AMA, EQIP, and CSP)
  - Work with FY26 applicants on eligibility updates (AGI, DD, 902, etc.)
  - Work with Area Office on Contract Management (Modifications, 153s)
  - Complete tree markings for FSI (666) practice
  - Work with AO Engineering Staff on getting designs completed
- Upcoming Deadlines
  - 02/27 - FY26 EQIP, AMA, and CSP Eligibility Deadline
- Upcoming Events
  - 02/20 - Appalachian Grazing Conference Committee Meeting (TEAMS)
  - 03/09 - WVSVU/NRCS Community Educator Check-In
  - 03/16 - LFAC Meeting (2:00 pm - Conference Room)
- Special Projects
  - Working on the Appalachian Grazing Conference (May 1st in Fairlea)
  - Working on the WV Grassland Evaluation Contest (held a committee meeting on Tuesday, March 10th)
    - Will work with the GVCD & SCD on their 2026 Landjuding and Homesite Evaluation Contest (when scheduled)
    - Staff will be attending the WV Small Farms Conference in Charleston (February 26th and 27th)
    - Staff attended RPP (Regenerative Pilot Program) training
    - Beth is working on her Workshop Schedule for 2026
    - Staff attended WVUCES Dinner Meetings (Jan & Feb)
- Staffing Updates
  - No new staffing updates

# ASTC- FO Combined Area report 2/9/2026

## Application Eligibility Summary



## Application Assessment Summary



Ecological Sciences LT Report – February 2026

- Revised WHEG presented at north and south area meetings in December. Based on feedback from the meetings and a survey shared with field staff, the WHEG was revised and released in the January FOTG notice.
- Cultural Programmatic Agreement with WV SHPO amendment has been signed and has been submitted to GAD (Grants and Agreements Division)
- Planning to offer Cultural Resources Part 2 training during summer or early fall of 2026.
- Planning to offer Conservation Planning Part 2 training during summer or early fall of 2026.
- CD-EE will be available for planners to use for FY26.
- Practice Guidance is being revised due to changes in payment schedules. Expect guidance to be released week of February 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Released help guide for planners use to help determine what practices and scenarios may be pertinent to previous enhancements. Guide is not meant to be all inclusive and intended to provide some direction in thought process.
- Released help guide for planner reference with additional criteria for Regenerative Pilot Program practices.
- Completed field trainings during January to discuss Regenerative Pilot Program.
- New CART Questions Tool has been developed and has been released for use.
- Ben has completed Economics of Conservation Planning on Grazing Lands class that was a 10-week online course, taught by the Society for Range Management.
- The following represents the expected changes to the Cultural Resources programmatic agreement. Field staff are to continue as they have been for Cultural Resource Reviews using the current documents on the eFOTG. Once revised programmatic agreement is finalized, Eco Science staff will provide information.

West Virginia Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - 2026 GD Changes				
Practice Number	Practice Name	Ground Disturbing Designation	Proposed Change	Explanation
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	PG	NG	Installation will not exceed the depth and extent of previous cultivation; normal planting of annual crops using farm equipment
336	Soil Carbon Amendment	NG	New	No ground disturbance. Application of carbon-based amendments derived from plant materials or treated animal byproducts.
340	Cover Crop	PG	NG	Installation will not exceed the depth and extent of previous cultivation; normal planting of annual crops using farm equipment
368	Emergency Animal Mortality Management	G	New	A means or method for the management of animal carcasses from catastrophic mortality events. Could include a burial pit or trench, composting, incinerators, open-air burning, storage with refrigeration units, or off site disposal.
376	Field Operations Emissions Reduction	NG	New	No associated ground disturbance. Adjusting field operations and technologies to reduce emissions of particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen from field operations through modification of field equipment and methodologies.
381	Silvopasture	PG	New	Potential disturbance will be primarily confined to above the level of current tillage. Associated practices may include forest stand improvement, tree/shrub establishment, prescribed grazing.
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	PG	New	Potential disturbance will be confined to a surface level. Restoration of native plants to improve degraded wildlife habitat for the target wildlife species or guild. Establish wildlife habitat that resembles the historic, desired, and reference native plant community.
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	G	New	A system that delivers irrigation water by surface means, such as furrows, borders, and contour levees, or by subsurface means through water table control.
576	Livestock Shelter Structure	PG	New	Permanent or temporary framed structure with mesh fabric to shade livestock. Practice is applied where animal wellbeing is affected by heat or where livestock are excluded from natural shading along streambanks or other water bodies.
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers	PG	New	Herbaceous vegetation established in narrow strips within the field to reduce wind speed and wind erosion.
605	Denitrifying Bioreactor	G	New	A structure that uses a carbon source to reduce the concentration of nitrate nitrogen in subsurface agricultural drainage flow through enhanced denitrification.
627	Wastewater Treatment, Milk House	PG	New	The physical, mechanical, and biological treatment of dairy milk house wastewater
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	NG	PG	Provide and manage upland habitats and connectivity within the landscape for wildlife. Typically involves planting desirable plants for wildlife food and shelter sources; appears natural on landscape. May entail the planting of food plots or placement of bush piles for habitat. Varies by site, but generally non-intrusive.
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	NG	PG	Manage plant succession to develop and maintain early successional habitat to benefit desired wildlife and/or natural communities.
649	Structures for Wildlife	G	PG	Commonly additions to existing infrastructure (Ex. Bird box installed on existing fence post or tree). Typically non-ground disturbing
656	Constructed Wetland	G	New	An artificial wetland ecosystem with hydrophytic vegetation for biological treatment of water

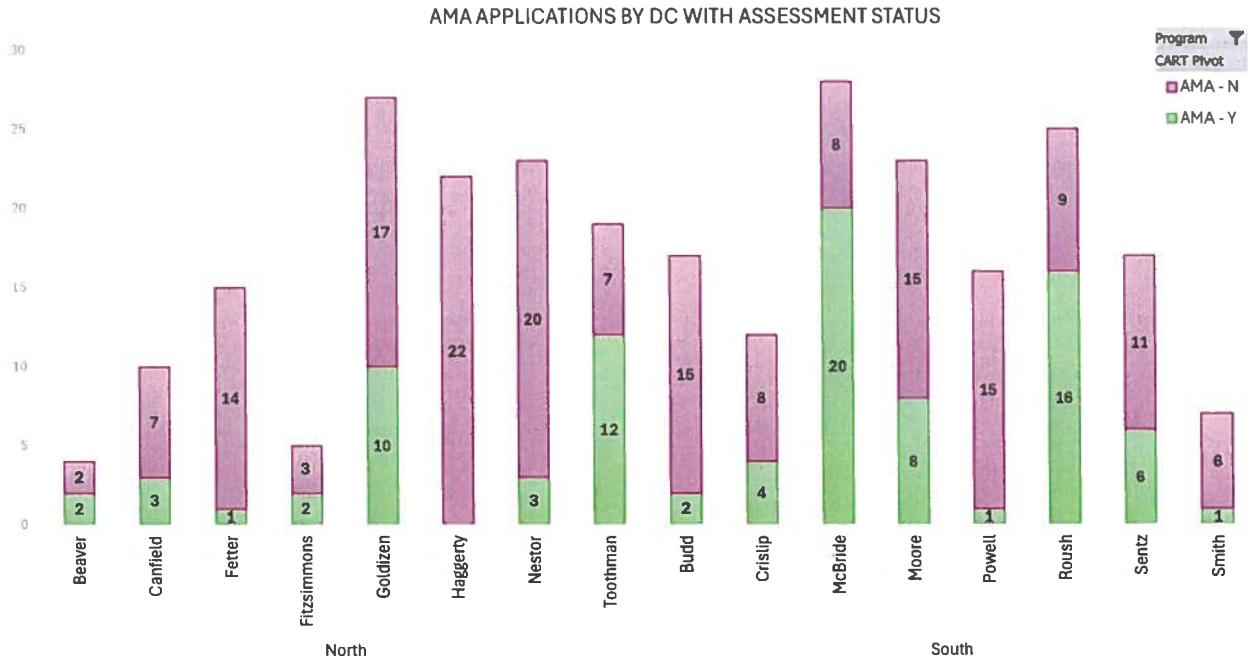
- Letters and notices that are provided to participants or applicants that contain any kind of program policy, violations, or statutory references will be prepared or vetted through the Area or State Program Managers.
  - The office of the Chief has been very clear on consistent messaging to our customers
  - Certified mail should be reserved for adverse actions with appeal rights as required by law, or egregious violations and offenses where it is necessary to track the receipt. Those can also be sent standard post concurrently.
  - For non-statutory certified mail, make sure that certified mail returned as unclaimed is resent standard post or another method has been attempted and documented (in-person, email, phone calls, etc.). The intent of issuing warnings or preliminary determinations is to give someone the opportunity to regain compliance, not to make it more of a challenge to be notified.

### IRA Funded Contracts

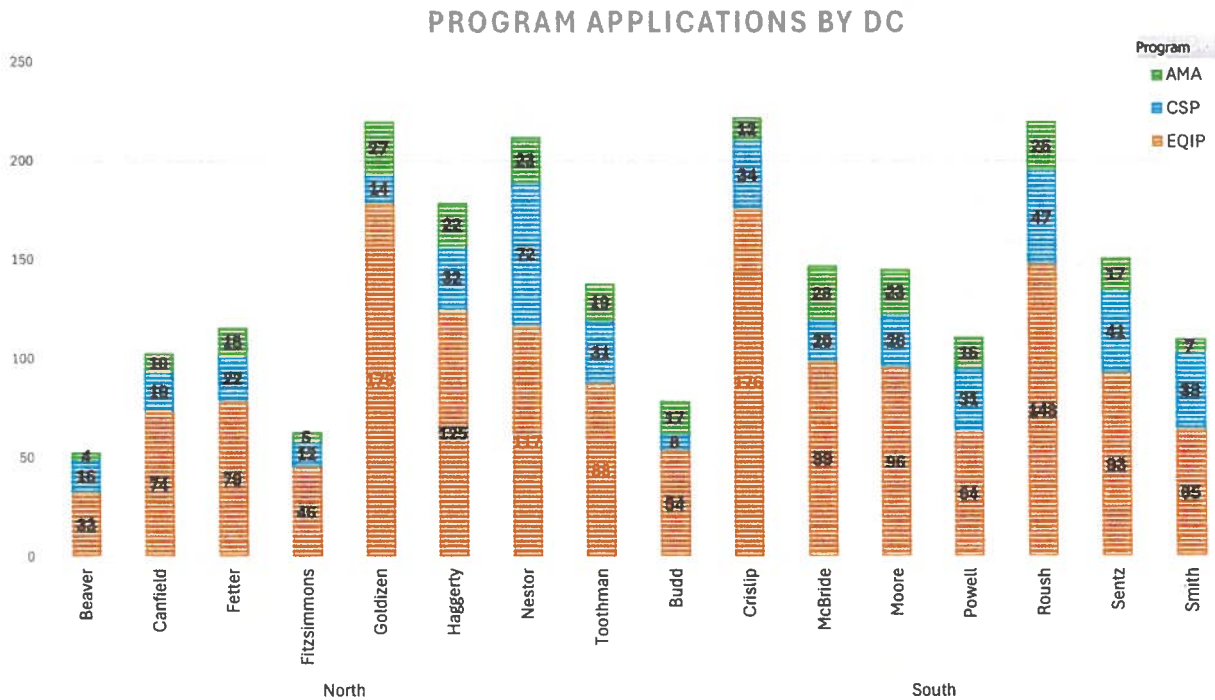
- **The passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) rescinded all authority to obligate Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds.**
- WV currently has 4 contracts with \$2,825 in IRA fund increases since the passage of the OBBBA on 7/4/2025.
  - An email, “IRA Contracts - All Modifications - STOP WORK” notice was issued on 7/10/2025
  - Another recent email, “Clarification on IRA modifications and payments” was issued on 1/28/2026, and stated: “If a state completed a modification on an IRA contract after the July 4th pause of obligations and was waiting for further guidance, those contracts may now proceed with payments and move forward.”
- **Land transfers for IRA funded contracts will never be possible.** Any request to transfer an IRA funded contract will NOT be approved.
  - District Conservationists will need to work with the existing participant on a contract cancellation and reapplication for the program.
  - IRA contracts with deceased participants will not be transferred, if practices are completed and not paid, please contact the Area Office.
- **There are no modifications allowed for IRA funded contracts that obligate funds.** Continue contract management and implementation within the terms of the obligated contract.
  - Contracts that would “normally” require a modification due to design changes or installation changes should contact their ASTC-FO.
  - NHQ received \$3,000,000 from OMB for cost increases nationwide.
- Field offices that have CSP contracts that are IRA funded and have an activity or extent that was not completed as scheduled will need to reach out to Carrie Crislip, State Program Manager.

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- The remaining 2025 CSP payments are to be approved by 2/27/2026.
  - 1237 approved (99.1%)
  - 2 certified and eligible for payment (0.2%)
  - 9 planned (0.7%)
- The 2026 CSP allocation is \$10,404,000



• Table 4. EQIP, CSP, and AMA 2026-1 Applications in PT (data as of 2/7/26)



## ACEP

- The FY 2026 bulletin will be published in the coming week; the guidance has already been issued to the partners.
- Five (5) ALE easements need to close NLT 3/31/2026

## General Contract Management

- Vendor issues persist. Approximately 70% of the vendor records submitted for payment review have been handled incorrectly. WV must take steps to mitigate these errors.
  - Each active contract should have only ONE active vendor tied to the same participant TIN
  - Additional vendor records should only exist for assignees
  - Staff MUST use the EDIT feature, not create new vendor records
  - DCs should NOT further delegate the management of vendor records to subordinates
- Areas should monitor their contracts up against the statutory term limits
  - (43) 2019, 8<sup>th</sup> year (5% of the nation)
  - (25) 2018, 9<sup>th</sup> year (6.3% of the nation)
  - **(7) 2017, 10<sup>th</sup> year (4.7% of the nation)**
- Cancellation requests that clearly do not meet policy need to take steps toward termination (i.e. send the 153); this is still an issue.
- Contract Reviews: WV will issue more guidance in accordance with updated national policy. For the moment, it is only imperative that reviews are completed for contracts preceding a management action, or where it is necessary to immediately document loss of control, life changing events that affect the operator/operation, natural disasters, etc.
- Expiring contract data for CY 2026 (from 2/8/2026):
  - 22 AMA
  - 208 CSP (FY22)
  - 181 EQIP (19 of those are 2014 FB contracts)

## Training:

- Training slides from the January sessions are available on the [WV SharePoint](#).
- Weekly Programs Office Hours:
  - Agenda topics include, but are not limited to:
    - CSP Updates
    - Regenerative Ag Pilot
    - FY2026 Payment Schedules
    - FY2026 Ranking & Funding
    - 440-530 Policy Updates
    - General Program Reminders and Concerns
    - General Planning Reminders and Concerns

## Other Items:

- Certain WV forms will be updated to reflect policy changes

## ENG updates for 2/9/26 LT Meeting

1. ENG personnel and agreement updates
  - a. Dave Sweeney-acting SCE in CT, started 2/8/2026 for 120-day detail.
2. ENG Updates
  - a. Conservation Engineering Updates
    - i. Several updated CPS and related documents; adopting NHCP version where appropriate.
    - ii. Proposed updates to EJAA approved by NHQ; SCE to send to RCE in near future for staff updates.
    - iii. FY26 Program Practice Guidance documentation work with EcoSci and Programs.
  - b. Watershed Programs
    - i. EWP-supporting SAO/NAO on DSR and design package development and construction.
    - ii. Dam rehab-POCs on 18 dam rehab sites. Rehab projects include: Wheeling Creek Site 25 in Marshall County; New Creek Sites 1 and 17 in Mineral County; North/South Mill Creek Sites 3 and 4 in Grant County; Blakes Creek Armour Creek Site 7 in Kanawha County; Bonds Creek Site 1 in Ritchie County; Big Ditch Run Site 1 in Webster County; Pocatlico River Site 28 in Jackson County; Brush Creek Sites 9, 12, 14, and 15 in Mercer County; and Saltlick Creek Sites 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 in Braxton County.
      - 1) Award for BC15 construction contract pending.
    - iii. Ops-supporting the projects with ENG reviews and project management.
  - c. Trainings/Conferences/Certifications
    - i. FEMA Dam Safety Training in February 2026, rescheduled for June 2026.
3. Dam OM&R and other
  - a. WVCA working with Conservation District Engineers on OMR on several dams.
  - b. Dave Sweeney leading two dam ENG Investigation reports, NHQ review/concurrence received for Patterson Creek Site 15.
  - c. Leslie Sears leading Howards Creek Weir ENG Investigation report.
  - d. WC18 dam repair design - NDCSMC for backcheck review received, requested NHQ review and concurrence.
  - e. NFHR outlet channel design complete, WVCA will contract the work.
  - f. New WV SB 631 would strip conservation districts of dam authority and responsibility.

2/4/2026

Project	Status	Notes
Grant County, WV		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freese &amp; Nichols awarded contract</li> <li>• Kick-off Project meeting held on December 17, 2025</li> </ul>
<b>Saltlick Creek Sites 4, 6, 7, 8, 9</b> Braxton County, WV	<b>Plan</b> Subsurface investigations scheduled completion for November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IIJA; Locally-led Contract with Gannett Fleming</li> <li>• Funded FY 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Brush Creek Site 9</b> Mercer County, WV	<b>Design</b> complete.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FED Contract with Aterra Schnabel</li> <li>• Funded FY</li> </ul>
<b>Wheeling Creek Site 25</b> Marshall County, WV	<b>Design</b> AE contracted terminated. NRCS WV to complete remaining design tasks in house with ARS assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IIJA; FED Contract (North Wind contract terminated. NRCS Engineering staff completing Design</li> <li>• Funded FY 2018, 2021, 2023 (IIJA), 2024</li> </ul>
<b>New Creek Site 17</b> Mineral County, WV	<b>Design</b> submitted. AE working on design comments for Final Design; design phase modification for construction alternative for ASW executed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DDK is AE firm</li> <li>• Funded FY 2020, 2021, 2023 (IIJA)</li> <li>• Anticipated design completion of 10/2026</li> </ul>
<b>New Creek Site 1</b> Mineral County, WV	<b>Design.</b> Sponsor has signed a contract with AE firm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IIJA; Locally-led Contract</li> <li>• Funded FY 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Brush Creek Sites 14 &amp; 15</b> Mercer County, W	<b>Construction</b> Sponsor awarded construction contract.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IIJA; Locally-led Procurement</li> <li>• Additional funds received. Amendment 5 Solicitation bids due January 14, 2026</li> <li>• Funded FY 2023 (IIJA), 2024</li> </ul>

Potential Projects (WV Rehab)

- Patterson Creek Site 12 (Planning – Submitted FY24)
- Pattersbon Creek Site 13 (Planning – Submitted FY24)
- Patterson Creek 27 (Planning – Submitted FY24)
- Patterson Creek Site 38 (Planning – Submitted FY24)
- South Fork Site 18 (Planning – Submitted FY24)
- South Fork Site 35 (Planning – Submitted FY24)
- Upper Deckers Creek Site 5 (Planning – Submitted FY24)
- Upper Deckers Creek Site 6 (Planning – Submitted FY24)
- Wheeling Creek Site 23 (Planning – Submitted FY24)
- New Creek Site 17 Construction

2/4/2026

**EWP**

Project	Status	Notes
<p><b>April 2024 (5085)</b> 28 Counties</p>	<p>Agreement Executed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fayette County debris removal – local effort-completed. Completed.</li> <li>Kanawha County Streambank Stabilization Site (Federal Contracting): Under construction. Contract modification needed.</li> <li>Braxton County Streambank Stabilization Site (Federal Contracting): Construction to begin after Kanawha Site complete (same contractor).</li> </ul>
<p><b>January 2025 (5088)</b> Beckley, WV (Raleigh County)</p>	<p>EWP Voluntary Floodplain Buyout – Local sponsor leading acquisition effort.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 10 Residences identified for potential participation. First EWP Buyout approved in WV.</li> <li>Public information meeting held for 7/17/2025 at 5 p.m. at the WVU Tech Administration &amp; Extension Building (410 Neville St, Beckley, WV 25801)</li> <li>Surveyor secured.</li> <li>Sponsor to start securing firm to do Phase I Environmental Assessment Reports.</li> </ul>
<p><b>February 2025 (5087)</b> Cabell, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Logan, Mercer, McDowell, Mingo, Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming Counties</p>	<p>Agreement Executed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Streambank Sites through Federal Contracting (WVCA) Design complete.</li> <li>McDowell County Debris Sites (Locally-led) still not contracted.</li> <li>McDowell County Streambank Sites: Final designs increased costs substantially for streambank sites. sponsor is seeking additional funds for their 10% match.</li> <li>Wyoming County – locally led Debris sites Local sponsor construction contract was awarded. Additional time is requested given weather setbacks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>May 14, 2025 (Mineral County)</b></p>	<p>1 Structural Site Identified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding awarded. Design completed.</li> <li>Agreement will need signed after all Designs are complete for final estimates.</li> <li>Will be a federal contract.</li> </ul>
<p><b>June 15, 2025 (Ohio &amp; Marion Counties)</b></p>	<p>Electronic Disaster Survey Submitted. Funding awarded</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded.</li> <li>Design cost estimates in progress.</li> <li>Agreement will need signed after all Designs are complete for final estimates.</li> <li>Will be a federal contract</li> </ul>
<p><b>June 26, 2025 (Kanawha &amp; Fayette Counties)</b></p>	<p>Electronic Disaster Survey Submitted. Funding awarded</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded.</li> <li>Design cost estimates in progress.</li> <li>Agreement will need signed after all Designs are complete for final estimates.</li> <li>Will be a federal contract</li> </ul>



## 2026 WVSU Workshop Schedule

- **April 2, 6-7:30pm:** Growing Transplants, Shady Springs High School FFA  
Classroom behind the main school building- 300 Hinton Rd, Shady Spring, WV  
25918
- **April 24, 6-7pm:** Community Gardening, Concord University- 1000 Vermillion St,  
Athens, WV 24712
- **May 7, 6-7pm:** Irrigation, USDA Office in Beckley- 456 Ragland Rd, Beckley, WV  
25801
- **May 22, 6-7pm:** Marketing and Sales, Summers Co Memorial Building- 451 1st  
Ave, Hinton, WV 25951
- **June 4, 6-7:30pm:** Fruit, Flower, and Herb Production, Timbuksue Farms- 176  
Camp Rd Cool Ridge, WV 25825
- **June 18, 2-3pm:** Food Access, Raleigh Co Solid Waste Authority Education  
Center- 200 Fernadez Dr, Beckley, WV 25801
- **July 16, 6-8pm:** Summer and Winter Vegetable Production, New Roots  
Community Farm- 167 Wolf Creek Rd, Fayetteville, WV 25840
- **July 30, 6-7:30pm:** Introduction to High Tunnels, T&T Organics- 37 Valerie  
Street, Berwind, WV 24815
- **August 13, 6-7pm:** Soil Health, USDA Office in Beckley- 456 Ragland Rd,  
Beckley, WV 25801

# February 19, 2026 CS Report

## 1. Payment Approvals

- **William Travis Redden** – Frost Seeding Cost Share Payment: **\$387.60**
- 

## 2. Landowner Agreements

- To date, 10 of 34 Landowner Agreements have been received.
- 

## 3. AgEP (Agricultural Enhancement Program)

- Review and discuss proposed changes to the Draft AgEP Agreement.
  - Review the AgEP Practice List.
- 

## 4. GLCI Grant

### A. Budget

- Review the proposed **GLCI Budget**.
- Nominate one board member to receive delegated authority to approve the final budget upon completion.

### B. Equipment Rental Raffle Discussion

Discussion on implementing an equipment rental raffle under the GLCI Grant:

- Determine which equipment should be included and number of days.
- How the raffle will operate:
  - Grant funds would cover rental costs and be deposited into the district account.
  - A tracking system will be needed to monitor fund usage.
  - Establish a timeframe for winners to redeem rentals.

### C. Soil Lab Raffle / Certificate Discussion

- Discuss offering a soil lab raffle or certificate option.
- Winner would bring soil samples to the office for shipment.
- Costs would be billed to the district using designated GLCI funds.
- A tracking process will be needed to monitor fund allocation and usage.

***IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO DO RAFFLES, WE CAN ADD IN MORE HANDOUTS***

### D. Event Location Discussion

- Ron has offered to host at his location.
- Discuss whether there are additional suggested locations and determine next steps.

SCD 2026 GLCI Farm Field Day Budget			
Company	Item	Units	Total Cost
WV Tent Rentals (A2)	Tents/Chairs/Tables	-	\$ 1,426.76
AAA	1 Porta Potty	1	\$ 130.00
AAA	1 Washing Station	1	\$ 120.00
Outreach	Signs (if needed), Newspaper, etc.	-	\$ 200.00
Waters Lab/SCD	\$50 raffle for cooperators	1	\$ 50.00
SCD	Rental Raffle (figure out what)	~	\$ 200.00
Handouts			
Fast Signs	Grazing Sticks	~50	Getting quote
Koehn Marketing (website)	Sorting Sticks (Qty 40- 1/2" x 54" Original Grip)	40	\$ 260.00
Complete Promos (website)	Eco Spiral Notebook W/Sticky Notes and Flags & Pen - Full Color	50	\$ 232.50

**TOTAL \$2,619.26**

# QUOTE : #1150210

Issue Date: 02/18/2026 12:23 PM  
 Due Date: 2026-08-28 MANUAL

Method: Surface: Source:  
**Delivery** **Grass** **Web**

**Event Info:**

**Farm Days**





2438 True Rd, Pipestem, WV 25979, USA  
 Event Start: 09/11/26  
 Event End: 09/14/26

**Billed To:**

**Morgan Dial**

2438 True Rd, Pipestem, WV 25979, USA  
 mdial@wvca.us  
 304 807 5257

## RESERVATIONS

PRODUCTS	SKU	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
 <b>20' x 40' White Pole Tent</b> Surface Type: grass (\$0)	o9rRVVvKX8AC1	2	\$450.00	\$900.00
 <b>8' x 30" White Plastic Folding Table</b>	sCnYKvVrai7g	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
 <b>6' x 30" White Plastic Folding Table</b>	fBKCRoxmO3e	1	\$14.00	\$14.00
 <b>White Plastic Folding Chair</b>	CcGqiwhbJCBt	50	\$3.00	\$150.00
Setup/teardown	--	1	\$150.00	\$150.00
			Delivery Fee:	\$100.00
			<b>Sub Total:</b>	<b>\$1,346.00</b>
			Tax 6%:	\$80.76
			<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$1,426.76</b>

## PAYMENT

PAYMENT DATE	METHOD	AMOUNT
--------------	--------	--------



Description

Reviews (0)



- Splinter proof, 180 degree flexible shaft.
- Vinyl coated fiberglass. Orange tip & grip is standard.
- Now available with NEW Golf Grip Handle
- Specialized colors of green, blue, red or black tips & grips upon request.
- Splinter proof.
- Great promotional gifts for promoting your business or breed.
- **Personalized label with logo is free with minimum orders of 40 stix.**
- Label is under clear vinyl and cannot be scratched off.
- Stix available in 42" and 54" lengths.
- 1/2" or 5/8" diameter available
- Shafts available in black, green, red, blue, orange, & pink upon request for the 1/2" and 5/8" diameters. Specify colored shafts in the comment box.
- 3/8" shafts are available in white only.
- Email your personalization to koehn@iw.net

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed!



The golf grip handle option makes stix easier to hold on to!



## Sorting Stix

Product Code: Sorting

Availability: In Stock

\$5.75

### Available Options

#### Stix Package

- (Qty 1) 1/2" x 42" Original Grip (\$9.25)
- (Qty 1) 1/2" x 42" Golf Grip (\$10.50)
- (Qty 1) 1/2" x 54" w/ Golf Grip (\$11.25)
- (Qty 1) 1/2" x 54" Original Grip (\$9.50)
- (Qty 1) 3/8" x 48" Golf Grip (\$11.75)
- (Qty 1) 3/8" x 54" Golf Grip (\$12.25)
- (Qty 1) 5/8" x 42" Original Grip (\$9.50)
- (Qty 1) 5/8" x 54" Original Grip (\$9.75)
- (Qty 10) 3/8" x 48" Golf Grip (\$80.00)
- (Qty 10) 3/8" x 54" Golf Grip (\$82.50)
- (Qty 20) 3/8" x 48" Golf Grip (\$155.00)
- (Qty 20) 3/8" x 54" Golf Grip (\$160.00)
- (Qty 40) 1/2" x 42" Original Grip (\$250.00)
- (Qty 40) 1/2" x 42" Golf Grip (\$290.00)
- (Qty 40) 1/2" x 54" Original Grip (\$260.00)
- (Qty 40) 1/2" x 54" w/ Golf Grip (\$300.00)
- (Qty 40) 3/8" x 48" Golf Grip (\$300.00)
- (Qty 40) 3/8" x 54" Golf Grip (\$310.00)
- (Qty 40) 5/8" x 42" Original Grip (\$260.00)
- (Qty 40) 5/8" x 54" Original Grip (\$270.00)
- (Qty 80) 1/2" x 42" Original Grip (\$480.00)
- (Qty 80) 1/2" x 42" Golf Grip (\$560.00)
- (Qty 80) 1/2" x 54" Original Grip (\$500.00)
- (Qty 80) 1/2" x 54" w/ Golf Grip (\$580.00)
- (Qty 80) 3/8" x 48" Golf Grip (\$580.00)
- (Qty 80) 3/8" x 54" Golf Grip (\$600.00)
- (Qty 80) 5/8" x 42" Original Grip (\$500.00)
- (Qty 80) 5/8" x 54" Original Grip (\$520.00)
- (Qty 160) 1/2" x 42" Golf-Grip (\$1,080.00)
- (Qty 160) 1/2" x 54" Original Grip (\$960.00)
- (Qty 160) 1/2" x 54" w/ Golf Grip (\$1,120.00)
- (Qty 160) 5/8" x 42" Original Grip (\$960.00)
- (Qty 160) 5/8" x 54" Original Grip (\$1,000.00)



## Eco Spiral Notebook W/Sticky Notes and Flags & Pen - Full Color

Item # XQCTR-BVGCT

Union Printed Journal Notebook W/Sticky Notes and Flags This Eco Friendly 5.5 x 7" Notepad with recycled paper cover And pages includes Post It sticky notes and flags.Features black spirals with Elastic String Closure keeps The 70 Lined pages in place. Includes a matching Recycled Pen! Perfectlastic String Closure keeps The 70 Lined pages in place. Includes a matching Recycled Pen! Perfect for note taking and classroom use. Decorated in our Union Shop - Union Bug Available at No Charge! for no

Quantity	Your Price (each)
1	\$4.05
500	\$4.00
1,000	\$3.91
2,500	\$3.77
5,000	\$3.52
10,000	\$3.40

Setup: \$30.00; Repeat Setup: \$20.00. Additional charges may apply.

### Colors

# Agricultural Enhancement Program Administration Agreement



**Southern Conservation District**

**West Virginia Conservation Agency**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Judith Lyons, Executive Director WVCA

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of the Conservation District (CD) Agricultural Enhancement Program Administration Agreement is to provide conservation districts a format in which to document CD policies. Conservation Districts shall take actions per Legislative Rule 63CSR2 *West Virginia Conservation Agency Financial Assistance Program* and follow recommendations outlined in the Agricultural Enhancement Program Guidance Document (include in appendix).

## **2. Program Purpose**

- 2.1. The purpose of the West Virginia Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP) is to assist agricultural landowners of West Virginia with the implementation of best management practices to control erosion, conserve soil, and improve overall land quality, water quality and natural resource sustainability for the general welfare of the people of West Virginia. Publicly owned lands are not eligible to receive financial assistance through AgEP.

## **3. Fiscal**

- 3.1. Funds provided under this agreement are to be used exclusively to meet the purpose and objectives of the West Virginia Agricultural Enhancement Program.
- 3.2. Conservation Districts shall administer funds using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).
- 3.3. Conservation Districts shall issue a 1099 to cooperators receiving more than \$600 in AgEP funds in a calendar year.
- 3.4. Conservation Districts shall deposit all funds received from the State Conservation Committee (SCC) into a fully insured Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) banking institution within 24 hours of receipt.
- 3.5. Conservation Districts shall ensure that AgEP balances in excess of \$250,000 are protected in accordance with WV Code §12-1- 4 & 5.
- 3.6. Conservation Districts shall comply with instructions contained in SCC fund transmittal documents.
- 3.7. The primary source of funding is legislative appropriated funds to the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA). The WVCA, with the SCC's approval, shall provide funding to CDs on an annual basis based on the availability of funding.
- 3.8. Conservation Districts shall provide an approved Letter of Request (LOR) to the WVCA to receive AgEP funds.
- 3.9. Conservation Districts may supplement the AgEP state allocation received from WVCA/SCC with other available funding sources. While outside funding

sources are encouraged, any outside funding will not be considered in the calculations of future state-funded allocations and should be maintained separately from state funds. Administration and tracking of outside funds shall be done by the district's accounting service, effective July 1, 2017.

#### **4. Conservation District Actions (per legislative rule)**

- 4.1. Conservation districts shall annually provide recommendations to the SCC on local resource concerns, needed conservation practices, financial assistance rates and other local priority needs. A program timeline is included in the appendix.
- 4.2. Conservation Districts shall use the SCC's approved practice list to generate and submit a local priority list to the WVCA for approval prior to July 1, the start of the AgEP program year.
- 4.3. Conservation Districts shall administer financial assistance programs in accordance with SCC and district approved policies.
- 4.4. Conservation Districts shall, with the assistance of WVCA employees, update and maintain the WVCA's financial assistance database.
- 4.5. Conservation Districts shall provide annual progress reports to the WVCA/SCC by July 31 detailing how the WVCA's financial assistance programs have benefited the districts' soil and water conservation mission.
- 4.6. Conservation Districts shall advertise the availability of WVCA financial assistance programs and the application periods in their respective districts.
- 4.7. Conservation Districts shall disclose application decisions with fifteen (15) business days of when the district's board has rendered a decision on an application. The 63CSR 2 *WV Conservation Agency Financial Assistance Programs* Legislative Rule details methods for notification and disclosure of approvals.
- 4.8. Conservation Districts shall provide information on how to appeal a financial assistance decision to the State Conservation Committee to unsuccessful qualified applicants.

#### **5. Conservation District Program Administration**

- 5.1. Conservation Districts shall establish application period(s), ranking period(s), and completion deadline(s) within the July 1 – June 30 program year.
- 5.2. Conservation Districts shall establish financial assistance rates and caps/maximums.
- 5.3. Conservation Districts shall format practice application form(s) and landowner/operator agreement (s) to reflect the decisions of the conservation district.
- 5.4. Conservation Districts shall establish a tie-breaker format for applications that are tied after completing the ranking process.

5.5. Conservations Districts, per WV Code §19-21A-7(e), may delegate authority to individual supervisors or a committee. If actions under this authority are taken a report shall be given at the next regular board meeting.

5.6. Conservation District administrative policies shall be documented in the addendum to this agreement.

## **6. WVCA/SCC Program Administration**

6.1. The State Conservation Committee shall consider the Conservation Districts' recommendations when developing the annual criteria for financial assistance programs.

6.2. The WVCA, with the SCC's approval, may provide funding to Conservation Districts on an annual basis to aid financial assistance programs. Annual allocations shall be based on the availability of funding. Funds will be provided to a CD upon receipt of a letter of request (LOR).

6.3. The WVCA shall provide technical assistance and oversight to the Conservation Districts to ensure proper use of allocated state funds.

6.4. WVCA staff, in cooperation with the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and/or partnering agency staff, shall evaluate and rank each application received by the Conservation District based on SCC-approved criteria.

6.5. The WVCA shall evaluate and approve or reject the AgEP applications from conservation district supervisors per WV Code §19-21A-4(a) and 63CSR 2 *WV Conservation Agency Financial Assistance Programs* Legislative Rule.

6.6. WVCA staff, in cooperation with NRCS and/or partnering agency staff, shall perform technical inspection and certification of practice completion prior to the issuance of payment by the conservation district.

6.7. WVCA staff will update and maintain the financial assistance database.

## **7. Mutual Responsibilities:**

7.1. Parties shall submit unresolved issues in the interpretation or performance of this agreement to the Chairman of the SCC for committee resolution.

7.2. This agreement may be amended in writing upon signature of each signatory.

7.3. Cooperate to facilitate and complete the purpose and objectives.

7.4. All media releases related to this agreement shall be coordinated with the WVCA Public Relations Specialist prior to release to media representatives.

7.5. Maintain records for a 3-year standard period or 1 year from resolution of litigation, whichever is longer.

7.6. In the event of non-compliance, this agreement may be suspended in whole or in part upon written notice sent to each signatory address of record. Notice must describe the non-compliance and request remedy.

7.7. A failure to comply with agreement provisions will result in termination of the agreement. After exhaustion of administrative remedy, 30-day written notice of termination will be sent by certified mail to each signatory address of record.

7.8. Participation in the agreement may be terminated by written notice sent by

certified mail to each signatory address of record at least 30 days in advance of the effective termination date. The reason for termination must be stated within the notice.

## Addendum #1

### Conservation District Program Administration

1. Conservation Districts shall establish:

Application period(s)

May 18, 2026 – May 29, 2026
<i>If sufficient funding remains, a second sign-up period may be held</i>

Ranking period(s)

Ranking will begin at the end of the sign-up period and finish at the end of June
---

Completion deadline(s)

December 11, 2026- Lime, Pond Cleanout, Watering System, Fence
March 12, 2027- Frost seeding
May 21, 2027- Nutrient Management

2. Conservation Districts shall establish financial assistance rates and caps/maximums and cooperator cap:

Maximum Program Payout per Cooperator	\$2,500.00
Maximum Number of Applications per Cooperator	1

Practice	Payment Rate	Cap	Cooperator Cap
Lime	50%	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Pond Cleanout	50%	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Water System	50%	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Exclusion Fence (Water/Woodland)	\$2.00/ft	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Pasture Division Fence	\$2.00/ft	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
HUAP	\$1.00/sqft	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Nutrient Management	50%	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Frost seeding	50%	\$500.00	\$500.00

## Addendum #1 - Conservation District Program Administration

### 3. Conservation Districts shall establish:

#### Tiebreaker

Tiebreaker #1: If one of the cooperator's holding tie is a first-time applicant, that cooperator wins.
Tiebreaker #2: Cooperator with the lowest maximum cost share amount wins.
Tiebreaker #3: Name drawn from hat by SCD board member of all eligible cooperator contract names holding the tie.

### 4. Conservation Districts may delegate authority:

Authority is delegated to:	What authority is delegated:	Date
AgEP Committee Chairman	Payment approvals Unfunded Application Approvals Cancellation approvals	FY27
SCD Board of Supervisors	Application approvals Ranking outcomes Extensions	FY27

### 5. Add any additional decisions of the Conservation District:

- \$25.00 per hour labor rate applies to all practices that involve labor.

Note: Labor costs are not included in the cost-share amount, except for cooperators using the district's contractor for fertilizer, where the spreading fee is included in the amount of applied fertilizer.

- **Soil test requirement:** The cooperator must provide a soil test report from within the last 3 years for practices that require one at the time of application. If the cooperator applied for the same practice or field in the previous fiscal year and received approval, the soil test report must be updated from the previous application date.

• **pH requirement:** For Nutrient Management eligibility, soil pH must be 5.6 or higher. For Frost Seeding eligibility, soil pH must be 5.8 or higher.

• **Cancellation policy:** If a cooperator cancels within one month of approval, no penalty will apply. If a cooperator cancels after one month without good cause, the cooperator will be ineligible to sign up for any Conservation District practices for one (1) year following the cancellation.

**Addendum #2 –**

**AgEP Exigency Program - Conservation District Administration**

1. Conservation Districts shall establish:

Application period. The application period must be held within 30 days of exigency declaration.

Applications may be accepted beginning on the date of the district decision to offer the practice. The application period will be situationally dependent and may be chosen on the date the practices are offered.
Allow for retroactive payments? <b>No</b>
If yes, establish date: <i>A retroactive date may not precede the exigency declaration date.</i>
Allow for purchase of used materials? <b>No</b>

Time limits for completion of exigent best management practices?

<b>30 days from approval date to have all receipts submitted</b>
--

2. SCC established financial assistance rates and practice caps on an annual basis.

Practice	Payment Rate	Cooperator Cap
Exigent Revegetation of Feeding Areas	50%	\$750
Exigent Cover Crop Establishment	50%	\$750
Exigent Irrigation Water Supply	50%	\$750
Exigent Livestock Water Supply	50%	\$750
Exigent Temporary Fence	50%	\$750
Exigent High Tunnel and Greenhouse Repair	50%	\$750

3. Conservation District must provide link(s) to or attach copies of technical standards for practice(s) offered.  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/field-office-technical-guides>

4. Conservation Districts shall establish:

Tiebreaker

Name drawn from hat by SCD board member of all eligible cooperator contract names holding the tie.
--

5. Conservation Districts may delegate authority:

Authority is delegated to:	What authority is delegated:	Date
AgEP Committee Chairman	Contract approvals Payment approvals	FY 27

6. Additional decisions of the Conservation District:

Cooperators must provide a copy of current soil test reports for practices requiring soil test results at the time of the application. Soil test reports are not expected to be kept on file as responsibility of the SCD of WVCA staff to maintain their expiration dates.