

Southern Conservation District

August 13, 2026
Regular Board Meeting, 10:00 AM
Approved Minutes

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 10:00am in the Curtis R. Murphy conference room of the Southern Conservation District office.

Those in attendance:

Supervisors:

Steven Johnston, Chairman
Bill Harris, Vice Chair
Randall Patton
Randy Prince (Virtual)
Rachel Prince (Virtual)
John Farrell
Mark Harris
Bill Cook (Virtual)
Martin West

Supervisors Absent

Ron Testerman
Fred Halsey

Others:

Marty Walker-Owen
Dave Parkulo, SCD
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA
Jacob Lavender, WVCA
Brian Fry, WVCA
Morgan Dial, WVCA
Angela Feamster-Sawyers, WVCA

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

Curtis Murphy led in the Pledge of Allegiance & Bill Harris led the group in Prayer.

Southern Conservation District Operations & Business

Curtis Murphy moved to Approve the minutes of the July 09, 2026, regular board meeting. Mark Harris seconded; motion carried.

Randall Patton moved to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2026, committee meeting. Curtis Murphy seconded; motion carried.

Administrative Specialist Report/Updates

The Board discussed WVCA's request to return unused EWP quick response funds for statewide flood response needs. It was noted that EWP work is now generally handled through state procurement and that funds would remain available for eligible work in the district if needed.

Following discussion, *Randall Patton moved to return the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funds of \$53,199.15, plus any accrued interest, to the West Virginia Conservation Agency. Bill Harris seconded. All were in favor except Mark Harris. Motion carried.*

LORS

Bill Harris moved to approve the following LOR:

LOR ID: 16573

Purpose: FY27 Allocation for Mountain RC&D

Amount: \$17,575.00

AGR: 1479-00

Curtis Murphy seconded; Randall Patton did not vote, stating that he serves as the district's representative for Mountain RC&D, all others were in favor; motion carried.

Review/Approval of July District Financial Reports

District Operating Account

District Building Account

Supervisor Travel & Per Diem Account

CDO Account

District Reserve Account

Randall Patton moved to approve the district financial reports as presented. Bill Harris seconded. The Board discussed the CDO Account balance and the prior \$6,000 transfer from the Building Account, noting that reimbursement to the Building Account should be placed on the October board meeting agenda. Following discussion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Review/Approval of Accounts Receivable/Aging Summary

Following review, Randall Patton moved to approve the Aging Summary as presented. John Farrell seconded; motion carried.

Review/Approval July Co-administered Financial reports

During review of the Co-Administered financial reports, Bill Harris noted that a balance was still being reported under the recently closed OM&R CD accounts. Angela Sawyers explained that the missing account summaries had been received and that the balances should be corrected once all interest is recorded and the accounts are brought up to date. Bill Harris also asked about a negative amount shown for Brush Creek State OM&R, and Angela stated that she would look into it. The Board also discussed whether WVCA would reimburse the district for a second mowing of the dams, and it was requested that the question be asked.

Randall Patton moved to approve the Co-Administered financial reports. John Farrell seconded; Motion carried.

Conservation Technician Supervisor Report

Dave Parkulo reported that the district crew remained active with pond cleanouts, fencing, and lime buggy rentals, with upcoming NRCS fencing, Farm Service fencing, and pond cleanout work.

Conservation Specialist Report

AgEP

Brian Fry reported that the FY27 AgEP state allocation was \$60,100.00. He also reviewed drought exigency cost-share payments approved by Ron Testerman under delegated authority between meetings. It was noted that the drought exigency had ended the previous Thursday and that the approved payments were ready for processing.

Reported action between board meetings:***Ron Testerman approved the following AgEP Exigency Cost-Share Payments:***

- Derek Johnson – Temporary Fence- \$750.00 (7/10/26)
- Billy Johnson – Temporary Fence - \$750.00. (7/10/26)
- John Farrell - Temporary Fence- \$290.31. (7/10/26)
- Richard Breton – Water Hauling Tank/Portable Tank -\$94.49 (7/10/26)
- Charles Oxley Sr. - Temporary Fence - \$506.05 (7/14/26)
- Stuart Oxley - Temporary Fence - \$488.86 (7/14/26)
- Paul Craghead- WS- \$611.48; Temp Fence- \$504.97 & CC \$614.86 (07/21/2026)
- William Lambert – Cover Crop - \$115.00 (8/6/26)
- William Lambert – Revegetation of Feeding Areas - \$507.50 (8/6/26)

LORS***Randall Patton moved to approve the following LOR:***

LOR ID: 16565

Purpose: FY27 AgEP Allotment

Amount: \$60,100.00

AGR: 1542-00

Bill Harris seconded; motion carried.

Brian Fry and Morgan Dial reviewed the FY27 AgEP signup summaries and approval options. Following review, ***Randall Patton moved to approve Option #2 for FY27 AgEP approvals. Bill Harris seconded. Motion carried.***

Option #2 included approvals as reflected in the attached summary. The exclusion-fence tie was resolved by drawing names, and nutrient management approvals were deferred until a later meeting. The Board discussed seeking county commission support for AgEP or related conservation work, noting that any county funds received would need to be tracked separately from state AgEP allocation funds.

Payment Approvals:**GLCI-Farm Field Day*****Randall Patton moved to approve the following payments:***

- Mountain State Tent Rentals: \$778.00 -Down payment for tent/ chairs/tables (50% of the total cost).
- AAA Septic Tank Service, Inc.: \$250.00- Payment for porta potty and washing station

Mark Harris seconded; motion carried.

Randall Patton moved to approve up to \$1,500.00 from CDO funds to cover the cost of food & refreshments for Farm Field Day. Bill Harris seconded; motion carried.

WVCA, NRCS & SCD Updates/Approvals**District Conservationist Report.****Watershed Manager South Report**

Area Operations Manager Report: Jeremy Salyer reviewed the highlights of his report; which is attached.

Supervisor Reports/Approvals

Photo contest awards.

Bill Harris moved that the first-place winners receive a \$25.00 gift card, and that certificates be provided for the remaining places. Mark Harris seconded; motion carried.

Grassland Judging Representative

Randall Patton moved to nominate Ron Testerman to represent the District for the Grassland Judging in Elk District on September 10, 2026. John Farrell seconded; motion carried.

Operating Account Reimbursement

Randall Patton moved to reimburse the Operating Account from the Travel and Per Diem Account for payroll tax and withholding expenses totaling \$33,295.70, with one-half to be transferred this quarter and the remaining one-half next quarter. Bill Harris seconded; motion carried.

WVACD Award Nominations

Randall Patton moved to nominate Ed Hendrick for the Carroll Greene Award. John Farrell seconded; motion carried.

Bill Harris moved to nominate Steven Johnston for the Rookie Award. Randall Patton seconded; motion carried.

Randall Patton moved to nominate Fred Halsey for Member-at-Large. John Farrell seconded; motion carried.

Bill Harris moved to nominate Ron Testerman for Honorary Member. Randy Prince seconded; motion carried.

Public Comments / Closing Remarks

Marty Walker-Owen addressed the Board and thanked the members for their encouragement and thoughts in regard to returning to the administrative specialist position, noting that the majority of the members had been in touch with her and had communicated with her about the position. Marty stated that she wanted to be transparent with the board and advised that she had applied and interviewed for the position; however, after not hearing anything or receiving any response for nearly three weeks, she decided to withdraw her candidacy.

Marty stated that salary had been discussed and that she was agreeable to the salary, even though it had been reduced. However, she stated that no start date was ever mentioned, no forward motion was made, and she received no response to her emails regarding when she would start the job or what salary had been determined. She stated that, given the lack of response, she just took it upon herself to withdraw from the candidacy and wanted the board to know what had happened.

Marty mentioned that she had pitched the idea through Jeremy, and he had taken it up the line for an outreach coordinator/administrative specialist hybrid combo position. Marty noted that state agencies across the nation, including West Virginia, sometimes combine positions when they have a couple openings and the right candidate is interested. She stated that the state agency has combined positions before and that there are employees currently working there

now that are doing those types of jobs. She explained that the pitch was for an outreach education coordinator in combination with an administrative specialist position for the district, at a salary of \$55,000, which was declined.

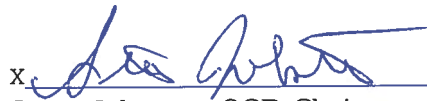
Marty advised that unfortunately she would not be returning to the position and wanted to let the board know all at the same time. The board thanked Marty for calling in, stated that they appreciated her for letting them know, and expressed appreciation for her past work.

The Board discussed updates from the WVACD quarterly meeting. It was noted that the Association was going to the Legislature to request funding for a technician/outreach person for each district, additional AgEP funding, and funding for the WVACD executive director position. Mark Harris reported that most of the meeting was spent discussing HB5364 and ways to influence a change in the language. He stated that the primary way to influence change would be through the Legislature, although that would be difficult, and that another possible approach would be through the judicial route because there were vulnerabilities in the way the language was written. He further stated that WVACD may wish to proceed from a legal standpoint to try to reverse that language specifically.

Meeting Reminders: Committee Meetings – August 25, 2026 @ 10:00am

There being no further business, Randall Patton moved to adjourn the meeting, Chairman Johnston adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

x. 

Steve Johnston, SCD Chairman
SJ/as



August 2026 WVCA Report

Items to be thinking about and placed on your agenda in the coming month:

Carroll Greene Nomination – form is due to Kim D Arco by September 1

WVACD Honorary Member At Large

WVACD Lifetime Honorary Member

CDO Budget

CDO budget closeout needs submitted to Guthrie by August 1

Agreed Procedures Engagement (Audit)

Conservation Districts are asked to begin the Agreed Procedures Engagement (APE) (audit) soon after the close of the fiscal year on June 30th. It is important that each district read their audit, and then take steps to correct any findings noted by the auditors. If you have questions, ask Don or Jeremy.

Conservation Farm Tour

Timelines:

Southern area winners

Shadow Mountain Farm SCD Mercer County non traditional

Gene and Stacy Randolph WCD Putnam County traditional

Northern area winners

Non-Traditional: Cobb Farm Lewis County WFCD

Traditional: Meckley Farm Tyler County UOCD

- **August** - Statewide judging.
- **October** – Presentation of Area and State awards at WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference

Ag Enhancement Program Timeline

- August 18th deadline to submit new practice suggestions or Allocation formula suggestions

WV State Fair Sign Ups

The schedule for state fair volunteers is now available. If you would like to schedule a time frame to work at the fair, please contact Heather Duncan

EWP funds recall

With recent flooding a letter has been sent to all CDs recalling EWP funds back to the agency. The reason for the call back is all contracting is being run through procurement not CDs and the agency needs to have quick access to the funding for those contracts.

HB5364 - Transition

- Outside legal counsel to transfer easements and real property for dams, channels, dikes, and levees has been secured.
- Sponsor Letters have been sent. WVCA staff will be meeting with the sponsors to address questions.
- O&M work process has begun in all areas with contracts being ran through procurement

Option 1

If based of Obligation %		Number of Approvals	Notes:
Lime	\$ 16,898.99	13	
Exclusion Fence	\$ 6,594.00	3	3-way tie
PDF	\$ 7,432.00	4	
HUAP	\$ 8,000.00	4	
Water System	\$ 2,000.00	1	
PC	\$ 10,000.00	4	added 1 extra
NM	\$ 7,853.25	6	
Frost Seeding	\$ -	0	
Invasive Sp.	\$ 3,000.00	3	
Winter Grazing	\$ 500.00	1	

\$ 62,278.24 Total

\$ 2,178.24 District Obligation

Option 2

If approve all Lime and PC		Number of Approvals	Notes:
Lime	\$ 29,538.79	21	
Exclusion Fence	\$ 4,248.00	2	3-way tie
PDF	\$ 4,052.00	2	
HUAP	\$ 4,000.00	2	
Water System	\$ 2,000.00	1	
PC	\$ 15,000.00	6	
NM	\$ 6,353.25	5	
Frost Seeding	\$ -	0	
Invasive Sp.	\$ 3,000.00	3	
Winter Grazing	\$ 500.00	1	

\$ 68,692.04 Total

\$ 8,592.04 District Obligation

Option 3

Majority Cut in Half		Number of Approvals	Notes:
Lime	\$ 25,959.99	18	3 left out
Exclusion Fence	\$ 6,594.00	3	3-way tie
PDF	\$ 4,932.00	3	cut in half
HUAP	\$ 8,000.00	4	cut in half
Water System	\$ 2,000.00	1	
PC	\$ 10,000.00	4	2 left out
NM	\$ 6,353.25	5	cut in half
Frost Seeding	\$ -	0	
Invasive Sp.	\$ 5,000.00	5	1 left out
Winter Grazing	\$ 500.00	1	
\$ 69,339.24 Total			
\$ 9,239.24 District Obligation			