

Southern Conservation District

Special Board/Committee Meeting

August 25, 2026

10:00 AM

Approved Minutes

The Southern Conservations District Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 10:00am in the upstairs conference room of the district office located in Beckley, WV.

Those in Attendance:

Supervisors

Chairman, Steven Johnston

Vice Chair, Bill Harris

Randall Patton

Martin West

Mark Harris

Curtis Murphy

Ron Testerman

Bill Cook (Virtual)

John Farrell (Virtual)

Supervisors Absent

Randy Prince

Rachel Prince

Fred Halsey

Others

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Angela Feamster-Sawyers, WVCA

Open & Welcome

Chairman Steven Johnston called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Pledge & Prayer

Mark led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Randall offered the prayer.

WVACD Award Nomination Forms / Supporting Documentation:

The Board reviewed the previously approved nominations, required forms, and accompanying write-ups. Bill Harris asked Angela whether, once the details were provided, if she could prepare the information in the required format. Angela stated that she could do so if the information was provided promptly by email, as she was covering two offices and could not guarantee where she would be each day. Mark Harris noted a discrepancy regarding the due dates listed on the forms. Heather Duncan later confirmed that the Supervisor of the Year and Rookie Supervisor nominations were due September 1, and that the Honorary Member and Member-at-large nominations were due September 15.

With no further business Randall Patton moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting. Ron Testerman seconded; motion carried.

Southern Conservation District Committee Meeting

Committee Updates:

Chair – Randall Patton, Equipment:

Randall reported that he had been communicating with Dave regarding a demolition project expected to be scheduled in September at Dave's convenience. The Committee discussed watershed dam mowing, easements, maintenance responsibility, agency communication, and potential legal options. Discussion included the proposed second mowing of dams, estimated at \$24,970 excluding Brush Creek 15; placing the matter on the September meeting agenda and inviting Mr. Wooten to attend if available.

Chair – Bill Harris, Building:

Bill Harris reported that no further information had been received from the city regarding the parking lot, and he indicated he would follow up. He reported that the prior year's NRCS shed rental had not been paid, in the amount of approximately \$924, and noted that this was separate from the building rent; the rental agreement for the upcoming year had been renewed and increased to \$1,300 while the district continued working to recover the prior year amount. The Committee also discussed the need for parking lot striping, possible crack repair or sealing before restriping, marking no-parking areas near gates, doors, cages, and access areas, and the recent replacement of several building lights with LEDs.

Chair – Randall Patton, Finance

Nothing to report.

Chair – Ron Testerman, Ag Enhancement

Ron reported FY26 Ag Enhancement statewide activity. Applications received totaled 1,313, with payments made on 734 applications for a total cost of \$868,262.01. Lime was the largest category, followed by heavy use areas, water systems, pasture division fencing, and nutrient management. The exigency program paid 308 applications for a total of \$102,777.68.

Chair – Mark Harris, Education & Marketing

Mark Harris reported that the State Fair was very busy and thanked the volunteers. He also reported on education efforts, including workshop coordination with Beth, follow-up with Extension after the State Fair, and a snakes-in-West-Virginia class at Little Beaver. The Committee discussed expanding hands-on, farm-based education; surveying AgEP contacts and stakeholders to identify educational needs; and developing a communication plan using tools such as Facebook, email outreach, SurveyMonkey, Constant Contact, and electronic newsletters.

Dates to Remember:

SCD Regular Board Meeting – September 10, 2026 @ 10:00 AM.

Angela Feamster-Sawyers noted that September 7, 2026, was a holiday, so agenda items should be provided in time for posting by the preceding Friday.

There being no further business, Randall Patton moved to adjourn the committee meeting, Ron Testerman seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:59am.

Respectfully Submitted,

x 

Steve Johnston, SCD Chairman

SJ/as