

The **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors held a Regular Board Meeting on *January 26, 2015* commencing at 8:58 a.m. at the district conference room in Philippi, WV. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Wolfe.

Supervisors Present: Robert Wolfe, John Sencindiver, James B. Nester, Sr., David C. Bonner, Sam Wright, Rex Reeder, Sheldon Findley, Joe Shaffer, Tom Warner, and Joe Gumm.

Others Present: Roger Poling – WVCA, Hillary Woofter – WVCA, Joyce Frey – TVCD, Josh Peplowski – WVU Ext., Sigrid Teets – WesMonTy RC&D, Jeremy Salyer – WVCA (via conference call), Chad Biller – Thrasher Engineering

Reeder led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors: None

Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:

January 26, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda: **Reeder moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**

January 14, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes: **Wright moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Shaffer; motion carried.**

Treasurer Report: Joyce Frey provided an A/R aging summary report, unpaid bills detail list, CDO Account spreadsheet, and a profit & loss by class report.

Tom Warner and Sigrid Teets joined the meeting at 9:06 AM.

Wright moved to accept the reports as presented and file for audit; seconded by Shaffer; motion carried.

District Report:

Frey reported that Dave, Brad, and Tim had been working on several SPRP jobs. Wolfe commented that he would like Kevin Jones with the WVCA to acquire a stream permit for in front of the shop. Nester added that he needs Kevin to call him about a job in Tucker County.

District Manager Report:

Woofter reported that she had a good time at the Capitol for WV Ag Day and that she and Gumm were able to speak with several legislators throughout the district. She commented that she is working on posting more district events to the district website and the district Facebook page. Lastly, she thanked all the committees for their recent help with the recent meetings.

Dates (District Meetings/Work Sessions) to Remember:

- I. January 31, 2015 – Upshur County Hay & Silage Show**
- II. February 2, 2015 - Deadline for supervisor nominations for 2015 Grazing Conference**
- III. February 11, 2015 – District Board Meeting @ 9:00 AM**
- IV. February 12, 2015 – Eat & Reap Dinner “Baleage” 6:30 PM @ Parsons Senior Center**
- V. February 12, 2015 – Pollinator Workshop, 6:30 PM @ TVCD Office**
- VI. February 16, 2015 – AgEP Applications due to TVCD Office @ 4:00 PM**

Report of Officers and Agencies:

WVCA:

Jeremy Salyer reported that the amendment to SB 365 will be going before state legislature. The WVCA is currently facing a 4% budget cut, totaling \$470,000 for fiscal year 2016. WVCA managers are looking into ways to save money. Salyer reminded the supervisors to turn their travel and per diem in as quickly as possible. Dave Ginestra with the WVCA urges that supervisors obtain a receipt from their hotel for overnight travel, even if the reservation was made on a travel website or through a travel company. Jeremy reported that the WV Attorney General gave his official opinion on the matter of using state funding for scholarships, and the result is that conservation district operation (CDO) funds cannot be used. Per Brian Farkas, WVCA Executive Director, Jeremy reminded the supervisors about Farkas' opinion on the Myles Lumber Easement.

Tom Warner stated that he had already spoken to Andy Swecker about the court case, and that they were planning to go view Elkwater Dam together to discuss matters further. In talks, they agreed that they could work on the easement road together, and possibly split the cost, with both parties paying half. Andy also suggested that they could possibly write off the timber.

Frey raised concerns that Tygarts Valley might not get reimbursement from the state if the district crew was used to do construction on the haul road.

Josh Peplowski joined the meeting at 9:26 AM.

Roger Poling had no report.

WVU Extension:

Josh Peplowski reported that the land judging team has been meeting 2 times a week to practice for their upcoming competition. The Eat and Reap dinner in Belington had 25 attendees. Lastly, he is in talks with a local Baptist Church about starting up a community garden.

NRCS:

Ben Collier apologized for not having prepared a written report, but said there hadn't been many updates since he provided the handout at the last district meeting. The district NRCS office is fully staffed now that he's completed his assignment in Morgantown. EQIP rankings and cost estimates are currently underway. They received roughly 100 applications, and of that, 60 are considered high priority.

FSA: None, though Wolfe commented that we should start seeing a representative from them soon.

WesMonTy RC&D:

Sigrid Teets reported that she had received funding from the WVCA. January 31st is the deadline for grants to be submitted for the next fiscal year. For the Conservation Innovation Grant, she wants to purchase a crimper. She intends to rent it for free until the grant period is over, but possibly charge a transport fee. She hopes that it could be stored at the district, and after a year and half, it would become the district's property.

Chad Biller joined the meeting at 9:45 AM.

The supervisors asked that Frey or Woofter contact the district insurance agent to see if it would be covered under the TVCD liability plan. Further discussion slated for next meeting.

WVDOF: None

Others: *Chad Biller* reported that Sam Wright asked him to come and talk about the status of the Barbour County Water Project. The city of Philippi is currently taking out more water than permitted and has taken over the project. The Little Laurel Run was chosen as the best site and there are plans in place to replace water tanks and build an impoundment. The city of Philippi is working with Thrasher Engineering and Consol Energy, who will be a major finance contributor. They are working with the Army Corp of Engineers to develop a mitigation project, which would double the cost of the impoundment. They are currently seeking additional grants and funding, and must start development soon in order to keep Consol as a contributor. Wright commented that he would like the money originally allocated to the district from the WVCA for the Barbour County Water Assessment and the Philippi Floodwall to go towards the project. Chad promised he would e-mail Woofter with any updates as they became available.

Chad Biller left the meeting at 10:08 AM.

Correspondence Received: WVACD Auxiliary Donation Request
Gumm moved to pay the \$25 donation request; seconded by Nester; motion carried.

Old Business:

Farmland Preservation: Reeder reported that at the recent meeting, they have received increasing interest from young farmers.

AgEP Cancellations: None

WVU Extension Service Internet Use and Lease: Josh Peplowski said he was still waiting to hear back an official comment from their IT department.

Approval of funds for SPRP/OM&R: None

Community service outreach: Wolfe reported that he was no longer interested in pursuing this project after speaking with an attorney.

Committee Reports:

Building/Finance/Budget Committee: No report.

Equipment/Safety Committee: Nester commented that the monthly tank inspection needs to be done.

Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee: Sencindiver commented that they will have an education committee meeting following the district board meeting.

Legislative Committee: Gumm reported that Ag Day went well and that he felt there was a decent turn out.

Grassland/AEP Committee: Reeder reported that they held their quarterly meeting on January 15th in Weston. Poling passed around copies of the AgEP educational requirement, AgEP contract, and AgEP evaluation worksheet that were discussed at the recent committee meeting.

Sencindiver moved to approve the forms as presented for use in the current cost-share program; Nester seconded; motion carried.

Conservation Agreements: None

AgEP Payments: None

AgEP Applications: None

Water Resource Committee: Shaffer met with Kevin and saw where he removed debris from the two stream sites in Taylor County.

WVACD Directors Report: Findley reported that the next WVACD quarterly meeting will be held on April 6th and 7th in Flatwoods.

New Business:

- **WVU Ext. gun safe location and liability management-** Ben Collier will look into the matter further. Will be slated for a future meeting once new/proper notification from the NRCS has been received.
- **Approval of employee evaluations-** Findley moved to accept the recommendations of the personnel committee which included district employee pay raises, the possibility of a quarterly bonus to district employees, and the possibility of a district “employee of the year” bonus; seconded by Shaffer; motion carried.
Findley moved that the recommended pay raises for district employees go in to effect as of January 26, 2015; seconded by Wright; motion carried.
- **Addition of personnel committee as permanent body; chair elect & staff assignment-** Sencindiver suggested that the committee consist of the following: 1 member appointed from each county, the Vice-Chair of TVCD would serve as Chair of the personnel committee, and that Frey, Woofter, and the new conservation technician, Corey Lambert, be allowed to attend these meetings.
Sencindiver moved that the personnel committee be made a permanent body of TVCD and follow the suggested guidelines; seconded by Gumm; motion carried. Chairman Wolfe appointed the follow members to the committee: Tucker County- Nester, Taylor County- Shaffer, Barbour County- Wright, and Randolph County- Warner.
- **Selection/approval of 2016 pocket calendars-** Sencindiver moved to purchase 300, color-block weekly pocket calendars for 2016 from 4imprint.com for \$471.60; seconded by Nester; motion carried.

- **Steptoe & Johnson Bill for December 2014 services \$85.16-** Wright moved to pay the invoice as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.

Report of Individual Supervisors:

Gumm – Reported that he will be leaving for the NACD meeting in New Orleans this weekend.

Reeder – Reminded everyone that the Upshur County Hay & Silage Show is scheduled for Saturday January 31, 2015 at 5:30 PM.

Wright – No report.

Findley – Has been attending development projects in Grafton. They are looking for \$30,000 for projects this year, such as revamping their farmer's market, and several community gardens.

Warner – In regards to his talk with Andy, it was suggested that if an agreement can't be reached, that the matter be forgotten about and go along with the original easement. They have a new dozer that could be used for the roadwork.

Shaffer – No report.

Bonner – Has been talking to different farmers about sponsoring their Appalachian Grazing Conference registration fee, but hasn't had any luck in finding someone to attend.

Nester – No report.

Sencindiver – No report.

Wolfe – No report.

Public Comment Period: Teets added that there will be a public growers association meeting tomorrow night.

There being no further business to attend to, Chairman Wolfe declared the meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Secretary

As prepared by