

The **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors held a Regular Board Meeting on *July 27, 2015* commencing at 9:02 a.m. at the district conference room in Philippi, WV. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Wolfe.

Supervisors Present: Robert Wolfe, Joe Gumm, Rex Reeder, Jim Nester, Sheldon Findley, Joe Shaffer, and John Sencindiver.

Others Present: Hillary Woofter – WVCA, Joyce Frey – TVCD, Jeremy Salyer – WVCA, Ben Collier- NRCS, Roger Poling – WVCA, Corey Lambert – TVCD, Sigrid Teets –WesMonTy RC&D, and Jennifer Skaggs -WVCA.

Reeder led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:

July 27, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda and June 29, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes: **Reeder moved to approve the agenda and minutes as presented; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**

Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors: Chairman Wolfe recognized Jennifer Skaggs attendance and welcomed her to the meeting.

Treasurer Report: Frey gave a short A/R Aging Summary report, through July 24, 2015 and noted that two accounts had been outstanding for quite some time. The group discussed the history of the accounts, and if further attempts to collect should be made.

Nester moved to write off the overdue accounts for Mike Elza (\$357.40), and Ron Auvil (\$514.39); seconded by Findley; motion carried.

Frey continued on and reported that the district had received the 1st allotments of the FY16 CDO and Supervisor Per Diem. Also, she and Woofter were preparing for the upcoming AUP audit in August, and she would have a full fiscal report to present after closing the 2015 fiscal year.

District Report: Lambert reported that the building maintenance had been going well, and the only major repairs were to a paper towel holder and water fountain over on the NRCS side of the building. Karl had been repairing the c frame of the D5 dozer, and some repairs had been done to Ventrac pulley and tires. They rented some equipment from Sunrise for the North Bend State Park job, and the crew had been busy working on OMR and brush hauling.

District Manager Report: Woofter reviewed her written report (copy attached). Regarding upcoming meeting dates, the TVCD board of supervisors will only meet once in the months of November (Monday the 16th) and December (Wednesday the 9th). Lastly, Woofter asked the supervisors how they would like proceed with the Akers' easement violation on Pecks Run in Upshur County. Woofter was asked to prepare a formal response discussing the WVCA's and NRCS' findings from the 2015 Annual Inspection.

Dates (District Meetings/Work Sessions) to Remember:

- I. 2015 NACD NE Conference – August 2nd - 4th Canaan Valley Resort**
- II. Smith/DNR Trial – August 10th Charleston**

- III. TVCD Regular Board Meeting – August 12th 9:00 a.m. TVCD Office
- IV. District BBQ – August 14th @ Mike & Pam Kwasniewski's
- V. Suttle & Stalnaker FY15 Audit – August 17th – 21st @ TVCD Office
- VI. TVCD Regular Board Meeting – August 31st 9:00 a.m. TVCD Office

Report of Officers and Agencies:

WVCA: Skaggs introduced herself and that she was here since Brian Farkas asked her to visit the conservation district statewide in order to address the changes in AgEP for FY16. Some of the major changes include printing information/contract approvals in local newspapers, and the appeals process for those who are denied a contract. She then reviewed the FY16 AgEP allocations for the districts and how that amount was reached. Concerns were raised by the TVCD supervisors as to how several districts have excessive funding. Lastly, Skaggs commented that the AgEP committee has been asked to investigate the development and need for forestry practices, and that any input or comment be given to Sheldon as he's TVCD's representative.

Salyer reviewed his written report (copy attached) and added that fellow Area Director, Larry Layman, was retiring and he and Kim Fisher would be taking over management of his districts. He went on to review Stickley's report (copy attached).

Poling summarized the TVCD AgEP committee meeting that was held on July 15th, noting the practices the committee chose to offer, and asked how the board would like to proceed with allocating the FY2016 state funding of \$65,000.00. The board expressed an interest in devoting a majority of the allocation to lime contracts. Taking that and previous years' completion records, Woofter made a recommendation that the funding be allocated as follows:

Lime \$31,500.00	Exclusion Fence \$8,000.00
Fertilizer \$3,600.00	Pollinator Plantings \$600.00
Water Development \$9,000.00	Total: \$65,700.00
Heavy Use Protection \$5,000.00	
Division Fence \$8,000.00	

Woofter added that the district still had a little over \$2000.00 in the AgEP account from previous years to cover the small overage.

Shaffer moved to use the allocation amounts for the FY16 AgEP as recommended by Woofter; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.

Poling went on to ask the board if they would be offering extensions on AgEP contracts for this fiscal year. He noted that any approved contracts that were later cancelled due to incompleteness, would not rank as high in future years as incomplete contracts are penalized. Woofter commented that it'd be difficult to set a budget for a spring program, such as invasive species, with extensions being granted this fall.

Nester moved to not allow AgEP contract extensions for the FY16 contracts; seconded by Shaffer; motion carried.

WVU Extension: *Peplowski* reported that Barbour County recently held its 4-H Camp and Equestrian Camps. The regional field day at Roger Nestor's went very well. The Barbour County 4-H land judging team was the only one who competed at the state competition this year and will now prepare for nationals. A local helicopter company who is spraying pipeline right of ways is looking into offering an invasive species fly over treatment program, if there is enough interest. The state and Barbour County fairs are quickly approaching. More raised beds have been installed at Mount Vernon Elementary. They are also experiencing some washout around their running track which runs along a creek. Lastly, the Master Gardener's received a grant for raised beds to be installed at Kasson Elementary.

NRCS: *Collier* reviewed his written report (copy attached).

FSA: None

WesMonTy RC&D: *Teets* reported that RCD met last Tuesday and discussed their payment policy, FY16 budget, and how project reports should be submitted. Their next meeting will be the last Tuesday in August, at MCD.

WVDOF: None

Others: None

Correspondence Received: Brickstreet Authorization for Everson; Thank you cards from Jr. Camp; MCD Quarterly Newsletter

Old Business:

Farmland Preservation- Reeder reported that the group met last Thursday and the Upshur County Youth Livestock Show will be Friday July 31st at 6:00 PM behind BUHS.

WVU Ext. Internet Use- Peplowski suggested that the district start billing them for internet service in hopes that the county commission would be proactive in setting up their own service.

Reeder moved to start billing for Barbour County WVU Extensions internet; seconded by Nester; motion carried.

Approval of funds for SPRP/OM&R- No update/no action

Ongoing Myles Lumber Case- Woofter reviewed the correspondence recently received from Jamie O'Brien and that the easement and settlement agreement were ready for signatures and execution if the board approved.

Findley moved to approve and sign the settlement agreement as presented; seconded by Shaffer; motion carried.

Ongoing investigation with Mr. Powers Deputy Director - Commission on Special Investigations- Wolfe had met with Mr. Powers the week prior to review final preparations before going to trial. The trial is scheduled for the week of August 10th.

Forestry Field Day- Woofter reported that she had successfully contacted Thomas Schuler, Lead Scientist, at the Fernow Experimental Forest. Per their discussion, the district would be unable to plan a large field day as the forest lacks the capacity for many vehicles, and no bathroom facilities. Woofter estimated 30-40 people attending would be the maximum allowed. If the

district was still interested in hosting a field day at the forest, Thomas asked that it be scheduled for October 17th.

Findley moved to coordinate the field day with the Fernow Experimental Forest for October 17th; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.

Shavers Fork Train Excursion- No update/no action

2015 District BBQ for Conservation Farmers- Woofter reviewed a price sheet for catering from the 1863 Grill in Elkins. She and Frey had made a proposed guest list, and menu, figuring \$750.00 would cover expenses for catering, additional sides, and cutlery. Concerns were raised over whether the event should be made open to the public, and advertised as such. The group anticipated 40-50 guests in total, with the event beginning at 4:00 PM.

Sencindiver moved to allow up to \$750.00 in expenditures for catering the event; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Building/Finance/Budget Committee: Frey reported that the new housekeeper had begun working at the district, and so far seems to be doing good work. She added that Cvechko's rental lease is up for renewal and would be raised to a monthly rate of \$500.00

Equipment/Safety Committee: Nester reported that a crew safety meeting was held earlier that morning and they discussed the importance of keeping hydrated.

Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee: No report.

Legislative Committee: Gumm asked everyone to keep in mind that for the upcoming legislative dinner that there may be newly elected officials present.

Grassland/AEP Committee: Reeder shared that their last meeting was held on July 17, 2015.

Conservation Agreements: None

AgEP Applications: None

AgEP Cancelations: None

AgEP Payments: None

Water Resource Committee: Shaffer had no update on the Barbour County Water Project, but had been talking to several local cooperators about their knowledge of the Clean Water Act, and feels the general public is uninformed.

WVACD Directors Report: Sencindiver reviewed his notes from the last quarterly meeting. (Copy attached.)

Personnel Committee: No report, but Wolfe asked that the board consider giving \$100.00 bonuses to all district employees. Concerns were raised over whether or not this had been board approved already. *Tabled until next meeting.*

New Business:

- **FY 16 Supervisor Travel and Per Diem-** Findley moved to follow \$60/day rate of per diem, \$30/day rate for meal expenditures - except in special circumstances (such as WVACD quarterly meetings), \$0.575/mile rate for travel, and actual cost of hotel with all out of state travel requiring pre-approval, for the TVCD board of supervisors; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.
- **LOR FY16 WesMonTy RCD \$17,575.00-** Sencindiver moved to approve and submit the LOR as presented; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.

- **LOR FY16 AgEP-** Reeder moved to approve and submit the LOR as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.
- **MOU with WVCA and TVCD regarding OMR Funding-** Findley moved to accept and execute the MOU as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.
- **Steptoe & Johnson invoice for June 2015 Services \$4,713.50-** Nester moved to pay the invoice as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.
- **WVU Ext. Funding Request for Regional Field Day-** Sencindiver moved to donate \$200.00 to help with expenses for the field day; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.

Report of Individual Supervisors:

Sencindiver- At the last WVACD quarterly meeting, he was elected as 2nd Vice President. He attended the NE NACD planning meeting, and the 2017 Appalachian Grazing Conference meeting and was selected to be the budget chair. He attended the RCD meeting as well as a meeting for the WV Association of Professional Soil Sciences. They went on a field trip to Precision Pipeline and an installation they're doing under I-79 near Roanoke. The group is trying to address the soil series in each conservation district so each can have its own official soil.

Nester- Attended the NE NACD Conference meeting and has been meeting with the Tucker county FFA students to prepare for the "Farm to Table" dinner. Also attended the WesMonTy RCD meeting.

Shaffer – Has been going to rehab with another surgery scheduled in September. Has been busy making hay since the weather has been better.

Findley- Attended the WVACD quarterly meeting. Has been helping assist with the "All Aboard Grafton" beautification project. The Anna Jarvis raised beds are doing well and have been producing beyond expectations, allowing them to sell produce at the local grower's market.

Reeder- Attended supervisor training in Flatwoods and the WV Grazing Steering Committee meeting. Added that he's happy Sigrid Teets was appointed as a district supervisor.

Gumm – Alex Mooney will be at the Gandy Dancer in Elkins on July 29th from 5:30-7:30 PM should anyone be interested. Attended the 2017 Appalachian grazing Conference planning meeting, and their next meeting will be on August 27th. The WVACD history committee meeting is trying to finalize everything for the awards banquet in October. Is now serving as interim president of the WV RCD as Carl Mullens resigned.

Wolfe- Has been checking on the district quite often. Has been busy making hay – 450 bales in the past week.

Public Comment Period: None

There being no further business to attend to, Chairman Wolfe declared the meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM.

Secretary

Minutes recorded and prepared by Hillary Woofter – WVCA District Manager/ASA 3.