

The **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors held a Regular Board Meeting on *October 14, 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, Joe Gumm, Rex Reeder, Sheldon Findley, Jim Nester, John Sencindiver, Joe Shaffer, and Sigrid Teets – TVCD/WesMonTy RC&D.

Others Present: Hillary Woofter – WVCA, Joyce Frey – TVCD, Corey Lambert – TVCD, Ben Collier- NRCS, and Rob Tallman – WV DNR.

Reeder led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:

October 14, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda & September 28, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes:

Reeder moved to approve the agenda and minutes as presented; seconded by Findley; motion carried.

Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors: Chairman Wolfe then welcome Tallman from the WV DNR, and led an introduction of everyone present. Tallman was given the floor and expressed how the Elkwater Dam is a huge asset to Randolph County, but lacks public access. The WV DNR has stocked the lake with catfish and bass for three years, and due to its proximity to Kumbrabow State Forest and Monongahela National Forest, it has received growing interest by the general public to access it. The WV DNR is proposing that a boat launch be built to the left side of the dam, where there is currently the access road to the monitoring station. The hillside to the right of the dam has been slipping, and has been deemed too narrow to pursue further. Gumm notified Tallman that per the NRCS, no access could be given to access the left side of the dam. Tallman commented that he had spoken to the forester for Myles Lumber Company, and they have expressed an interest in allowing public access from their haul road. Gumm said he had already addressed the quality of Route 15 with state and federal agencies, but no funding has been made available. Tallman said he has spoken to the local DoH, but they don't think much can be done with the road to improve its quality. Tallman added that a plan would need to be developed for monitoring public access due to the remoteness of the site. Gumm expressed interest in working with the DNR on the project, once the legal case with Myles Lumber has been settled. Tallman said that through their Capital Investments Program, some funding for the project could be made available, but he is unclear as to how much money or for how long it'd be available. Findley asked Collier to formally ask the NRCS for their input as to whether or not this project would be feasible. The board expressed general interest in readdressing the possibility of the project in the future. Tallman thanked everyone for listening and having him attend the meeting. *Tallman then excused himself from the meeting.*

Treasurer Report: Frey reviewed the following reports for FY16: profit and loss by class, A/R aging summary, and supervisor travel and per diem expenses. She also reported on the loans currently owed by the district and that the checking account had a balance of roughly \$10,000.00. Frey commented that she had to hold the checks issued to the supervisors for their expenses due to previously not having had enough money available. Gumm commented that at the recent SCC meeting, the future of per diem was discussed and that WVACD President Jim Moore would be forwarding more information to the district managers later in the week.

Discussed at length. Concerns were raised on the number of past due accounts, and whether the

district had been enforcing its policy on charging 3% interest on past due bills. Frey stated that the policy had not been enforced since before she started her employment with TVCD. The board asked that she begin to highlight the interest clause on future bills and start enforcing it on any accounts that weren't for government entities. Wolfe asked that the budget/finance committee arrange a meeting to review the district's rates for labor and materials. *Budget Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st at 9:00 AM.*

District Report: Lambert reported that the office for Beymer had been cleaned out and fixed up for his move in. As for equipment, the only major issue was the clutch going out on the green truck. The district work crew completed the Wirtz job, and are finishing up at Kennedy's. There are a few SPRP jobs in TVCD and WFCD that are scheduled to be started on soon. There is a little OMR left in the surrounding districts that needs to be completed before the end of the season and then Lambert hopes to focus on completing AgEP and EQIP developments. Gumm asked Lambert if there was any type of work the crew could do during the winter. Lambert thinks there's an opportunity for the district to pursue work with the DNR. *Discussed at length.*

District Manager Report: Woofter reported that the fall edition of the district's quarterly newsletter had been completed and distributed. She also completed designing and mailing the invitations for the legislative banquet in November. So far, a dozen people had RSVP'd to attend. She passed around the RSVP list for the supervisors to add themselves and any guests that would be attending. She commented that with Lambert's help, they were able to start submitting AgEP contracts for payment approval by the board. The Myles Lumber settlement is ongoing, and after transferring funds from the CD to the state checking account later that day, she would still be able to deliver the check before the deadline. Woofter went on to add that per a phone conversation with Salyer, the review of the Akers' easement violation has been progressing. The WVCA attorney believes the easement is enforceable as written, and that Martin would hopefully attend the next board meeting to discuss further and how to proceed. Concerns were raised by the board over their lack of inclusion in the conference calls taking place among the WVCA on the Akers' violation.

Dates (District Meetings/Work Sessions) to Remember:

- I. **DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR WVACD AWARDS BANQUET – October 16th**
- II. **Forestry Field Day at Fernow – October 17th 9 AM @ Our Lady of Mercy in Parsons**
- III. **WVU Women in Ag Conference – October 24th @ Canaan Valley Resort**
- IV. **WVACD Quarterly Meeting – October 26th-27th @ Days Inn in Flatwoods**
- V. **TVCD Legislative Dinner – November 5th @ St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, Philippi 6 PM**
- VI. **WVTSA Conference – November 5th – 7th in Flatwoods**
- VII. **TVCD Regular Board Meeting – November 16th 9 AM, District Office**

Report of Officers and Agencies:

WVCA: Woofter reviewed the written report in Salyer's absence. *(Copy attached.)*

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

FSA: None

WesMonTy RC&D: Teets reported that the next meeting would be on October 20th at the Steer steakhouse in Weston. Is nearly complete with disbursing the seeds for the cover crop program.

WVDOF: None

Others: None

Correspondence Received: City of Philippi Planning Commission Meeting Notice; Pending Mine Permit Application from WV DEP (Randolph Co. Beech Run of Buckhannon River)

Old Business:

Farmland Preservation- Reeder commented that the next meeting was scheduled for October 15th at the Upshur County Commissioner's Office.

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

Ongoing Myles Lumber Case- (see above under District Manager Report)

Ongoing investigation with Mr. Powers Deputy Director - Commission on Special

Investigations- No update- trial still planned for the week of November 16th in Charleston.

Committee Reports:

Building/Finance/Budget Committee: No report. Frey commented that the breezeway between WVU Ext. and WesMonTy RC&D had been cleaned out.

Equipment/Safety Committee: No report.

Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee: No report. Plans for the forestry field day at Fernow were reviewed. Sencindiver asked Woofter and Frey to have the quarterly report prepared next week for Teets to present at the meeting.

Legislative Committee: Gumm reviewed the plans currently in place for the Legislative Dinner on November 5th. Woofter to create a PowerPoint presentation.

Grassland/AEP Committee: Reeder reported that the WV Grazing Steering Committee held their quarterly meeting on October 9th in Weston, and supervisors from four conservation districts attended.

Conservation Agreements:

- April Sinsel (Barbour) 86 Acres
- Marvin Warner (Randolph) 56 Acres

Gumm moved to accept the agreements as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.

AgEP Applications: None

AgEP Cancelations: None

AgEP Payments:

- Bruce Bennett (Upshur) Fertilizer \$1200.00
- Denise Holbert (Barbour) Lime \$1,070.40
- Wilma McGuire (Barbour) Lime \$625.50
- Allen Moran (Randolph) Lime \$922.50
- Roger Nestor (Barbour) HUAP \$500.00
- Mark Schumacher (Taylor) Lime \$2,250.00
- Mitch Stemler (Barbour) Lime \$882.00
- Shelley Strader (Upshur) Lime \$561.60
- Chris Winslow (Barbour) HUAP \$500.00

Total: \$8,512.00

Reeder moved to pay the contracts as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.

Water Resource Committee: No report. Shaffer commented that WOTUS is currently on hold.

WVACD Directors Report: No report.

Personnel Committee: No report.

New Business:

- **LOR for SCC Approved Employee \$7,500.00-** Reeder moved to approve the LOR as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.
- **Removal of Wright from safety deposit box-** Gumm moved to remove Wright from the deposit box and add Sencindiver to the list of authorized users if he wasn't already approved; seconded by Teets, motion carried.
- **WVDA Hemlock Management Plan-** Nester moved to submit the plan survey as completed by the TVCD board of supervisors; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.

Report of Individual Supervisors:

Gumm – Attended the quarterly SCC meeting. They approved funding for RC&D. Randy Dye shared with him that RC&Ds may have to start finding alternative means to be funded. The NCPP is trying to develop actions teams for the NACD, NASCA, RCD and the employee association. The review of state code that rules the district supervisors has begun, but must still go before a vote by the WVACD Directors. *Discussed at length supervisors per diem and proposed changes in state code.*

Reeder- Attended the WV Farm Bureau meeting in Flatwoods the day prior.

Findley- Felt that a letter of thanks should be sent to John Smith for the tickets on the Shavers Fork train excursion. *Reviewed his draft and gave to Frey to type on district letterhead.*

Commented that it was Farkas' job to secure funding from the state legislature and funding has been an ongoing issue for far too long.

*Teets-*Will be attending the WVU Women in Ag Conference as a speaker, and will be presenting with a farmer from Marion County.

*Shaffer-*Thanked Findley for getting the train tickets for Shavers Fork and Gumm for coordinating the additional seats.

Nester- Thought the Shavers Fork Train Excursion was great. Recognized the Tucker County FFA students for their help at the NE NACD Conference at their elimination dinner.

Sencindiver- Attended the Water Resources Conference of the VAs at Stonewall Jackson. Also attended an Envirothon planning meeting and teacher training day.

Wolfe- Cattle prices are down; nearly \$500/head for him. Helmick has sold a majority of the state's cattle to fund the new potato project. Added that per a recent discussion with Warner, he disapproves of the WVCA's idea to offer a 50/50 cost share to the districts for teleconference equipment. Warner would rather attend meetings in person.

Public Comment Period: None

There being no further business to attend to, Chairman Wolfe declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Secretary

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

October 14, 2015 Regular TVCD Board Meeting Minutes Summary of Motions

- 1. Reeder moved to approve the October 14, 2015 meeting agenda and September 28, 2015 minutes as presented; seconded by Findley; motion carried.**
- 2. Gumm moved to accept the conservation agreements as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**
 - a. April Sinsel (Barbour) 86 Acres
 - b. Marvin Warner (Randolph) 56 Acres
- 3. Reeder moved to pay the AgEP contracts as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**
 1. *Bruce Bennett (Upshur) Fertilizer \$1200.00*
 2. *Denise Holbert (Barbour) Lime \$1,070.40*
 3. *Wilma McGuire (Barbour) Lime \$625.50*
 4. *Allen Moran (Randolph) Lime \$922.50*
 5. *Roger Nestor (Barbour) HUAP \$500.00*
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 9. *Chris Winslow (Barbour) HUAP \$500.00*

Total: \$8,512.00
- 4. Reeder moved to approve the LOR for SCC Approved Employee (\$7,500.00) as presented; seconded by Sencindiver; motion carried.**
- 5. Gumm moved to remove Wright from the deposit box and add Sencindiver to the list of authorized users if he wasn't already approved; seconded by Teets, motion carried.**
- 6. Nester moved to submit the WVDA Hemlock Management Plan survey as completed by the TVCD board of supervisors; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**