

The **Tygarts Valley Conservation District** Board of Supervisors held a Regular Board Meeting on *January 25, 2016* commencing at 9:03 a.m. at the district's office in Philippi, WV. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman John Sencindiver.

Supervisors Present: Rex Reeder, Jim Nester, John Sencindiver, Joe Gumm, and Sigrid Teets – TVCD/WesMonTy RC&D.

Others Present: Hillary Woofter – WVCA, Joyce Frey – TVCD, Corey Lambert – TVCD, Matt Oliver – NRCS, Dave Hamrick- Huttonsville PSD, Andy Deichert – NRCS, Jared Nestor – NRCS, Brian Farkas – WVCA, Suzy Funka-Petery – NRCS, Louis Aspey – NRCS, James Walker – WVDNR, Aaron Yeager – WVDNR, and Brian Young - WVDof.

Nester led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction and/or Recognition of Visitors: Due to the large number of guests attending the meeting, Sencindiver introduced the guests to the board. He then asked that the district employees and board members introduce themselves. Sencindiver turned the meeting over to Louis Aspey with the NRCS. Aspey opened with having received notification in September about the DNR's proposal for fishery access at Elkwater, he requested this meeting with the dam partners be organized to discuss further. Jim Walker with the WV DNR said that since the dam had been impounded, the DNR assumed there would be public access for fishing. He reviewed his desired plans for having vehicle traffic access the left face of the dam, placing a boat ramp in at the top, and needing to move the safety buoy. He reported that the DNR had exhausted every possibility for access from the south of the lake, noting the access points on a property map. (Copy attached) The DoH won't improve the access road any further and needs constant maintenance. The bank to the right side of the dam is too steep, but the left side would require only a small amount of dirt would need to be moved to install a boat ramp. There is already ample parking space at the top by the gauging station, but the gate up the access road would need to be open at all times. Farkas commented that the dam was not built for public access, and the land had been acquired through eminent domain. The WVCA and NRCS were very opposed to traffic going up the left side of the dam due to its being unstable and the WVCA is not willing to do anything to compromise the structure of the dam. Andy Deichert raised concerns over the safety buoy having anchors on both sides of the dam. Aspey asked if the DNR had maintenance plans in place for people picking up trash along the access road. Aaron Yeager replied that no plan was in place yet, and that they would be concerned in maintaining the ramp but not the road. Farkas discussed at length the original design of the dam. Dave Hamrick stated that the best place for access would be from the southern end and that a man made dock was already in place there per the NRCS. Aspey raised concerns over the increased traffic that close to the dam structure and how it might be compromised. Farkas said that per the opinion of NRCS' national engineering office, the left side of the dam is unsuitable for modification. Deichert raised further concerns over issues of settlements and suspension molecules in the pools after heavy rains and disturbances. Stressed that the purpose of the dam is to supply water. Gumm recommend that the DNR attempt to have the southern access road be repaired. Aspey supported looking at the southern access point but not along the banks of the dam. Sencindiver asked the DNR representatives if it was suitable for them to look at the southern access road and Walker agreed. Walker confirmed that the lake had already been stocked with catfish, small mouth bass, and

bluegill. Sencindiver thanked the Elkwater partners for having attended the meeting. *Walker, Yeager, and Hamrick excused themselves from the meeting.*

Reading/Approval of the Agenda/Minutes:

January 25, 2016 Board Meeting Agenda: **Reeder moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.**

January 13, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes: **Reeder moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**

Treasurer Report: Frey reviewed her handout (copy attached) and noted the shortage of money in the district general account for the upcoming bill/pay period. She added that some SPRP money for TVCD would be coming in within the next week, in addition to some work done for WFCD. **Nester moved to approve the report as presented and file for audit, adding that Frey was authorized to pay the bills as she had received; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**

District Report: Lambert reported that snow removal around the building had been done as needed with the recent storm. The equipment trailer was still being repaired and the work crew was still on low-earnings. Dave had been working to remove snow around the City of Philippi. Lastly, Lambert reviewed his most current job list. (Copy attached)

District Manager Report: Woofter reported that she had been busy processing payments for SPRP, AgEP, and other co-administered funds. She had been helping Caleb Smith with the spring 2016 AgEP paperwork and that he had contacted most applicants to schedule site visits in February. They hope to have everything completed and ready for the board to review by the February 29th board meeting. She had also been writing press releases and announcements for upcoming events within the district. Lastly, she added that she attended the recent WV Grazing Steering meeting in Weston to take the minutes.

Dates (District Meetings/Work Sessions) to Remember:

- **January**
 - **Monday 25th – TVCD Ed. Committee Meeting Following Regular Meeting**
 - **Thursday 28th – WVCA O&M Meeting at ECD 10 am**
 - **Thursday 28th – Appalachian Grazing Committee Meeting**
- **February**
 - **Wednesday 10th – TVCD Regular Board Meeting 9am**
 - **Wednesday 10th – NRCS Local Work Group Meeting 1pm**
 - **Thursday 11th – Eat & Reap Dinner in Beverly 6:30pm “Brush & Weed Control)**
 - **Tuesday 16th – Local Pollinator Workshop 6:30pm TVCD Conference Room**

Report of Officers and Agencies:

WVCA: *Farkas* reported that at the legislative breakfast at WV Ag Day. 82 people attended, 28 of which were legislators. He hopes to continue the breakfast in the future and was thankful for the 35 supervisors who attended. A midyear budget cut of 4% went into effect on January 1st and expects the cut to rollover into the WVCA’s FY17 budget. Senate Bill 158 will be going before the WV House and Senate, which regulates the participation of district supervisors in the agency’s cost share programs. SPRP will cease to exist as it’s currently administered and will

instead become a cost-share program. Blockages will require \$500 of landowner funds, and streambank stabilizations will require up to \$5,000.00. The process won't absolve the landowner and the law will state that the landowner's still have responsibility over the land. The proposal is still pending but the draft will be shared with district offices. Lastly, Farkas stressed the need for strategic AgEP planning in junction with the NRCS LWG meetings.

WVU Extension: None

NRCS: *Aspey* commented that he had been the state conservation for WV for nearly half a year now, and he was hoping to attend more district meetings. He added that he is looking forward to working with us, especially with the NRCS funding changes to a "focused conservation approach." The changes in the program will allow for better efficiency of how money is used as well as the man-power and availability of field staff.

Nestor reviewed a copy of *Collier's* report in his absence. (Copy attached)

FSA: None

DoF: *Young* said the next division meeting is planned for February 3rd and he would have more to report afterwards.

WesMonTy RC&D: *Teets* reported that an RC&D meeting was held the week prior and they discussed the recommendations to take before the state committee on accountability. Second payments on the FY16 grants would be made within the coming weeks, and the deadline to submit FY17 grants is January 30th.

Others: None

Correspondence Received: Brickstreet Authorization for Everson; Thank you card from Barbour County 4-H Leaders for sponsoring land judging team.

Old Business:

Farmland Preservation- Next meeting will be in February.

Approval of funds for SPRP/OM&R- No new projects at this time

Completed SPRP Invoices for Payment Approval & Processing

Gooden, Joe	Tucker Co.	Inv. 2134	\$442.30
Hile, Terry	Tucker Co.	Inv. 2135	\$2336.20

**TOTAL:
\$2778.50**

Nester moved to approve the SPRP invoices for payment as presented; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.

Door Replacement for Spokes- Third estimate still not received; no action taken & tabled.

Committee Reports:

Building/Finance/Budget Committee: No report.

Equipment/Safety Committee: No report.

Education/Publicity/Exhibit Committee: No report.

Legislative Committee: Gumm commented that Farkas had given a good report on Ag Day and that he was pleased with how the event went.

Grassland/AEP Committee: Reeder reported that the next WV Grazing Steering Committee meeting will be hold on Friday, April 15th in Weston.

Conservation Agreements:

- Debra Tenney (Upshur Co., 40 acres)
- Danny Carr (Tucker Co.)

Reeder moved to approve the conservation agreements as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.

AgEP Applications: *Ongoing at this time*

AgEP Cancelations: *None*

AgEP Payments:

Elza, Randy	Randolph	Water & Div. Fence	\$6506.53
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Reeder moved to pay the contract as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.

Water Resource Committee: No report.

WVACD Directors Report: No report.

Personnel Committee: No report.

New Business:

- **Acceptance of Wolfe Resignation-** Gumm moved to accept the resignation as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried. *Discussed at length the lack of a district policy regarding the resignation of the District Chairman and what procedure to follow. Gumm moved for Sencindiver to act as Chairman and Reeder act as Vice-Chairman, retaining his secretarial duties until supervisors elections in July; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.*
- **Engineering EOI-** Farkas commented that a firm with experience in dams was needed. **Nester moved to prepare and submit the EOI; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**
- **Closing TVCD CDs-** Frey reviewed the penalties to close the Premier Bank CD. Recommended that it be left alone and used as an emergency reserve as many of the loans taken out by the district have used the CD balance as collateral. **Gumm moved to follow Frey’s recommendation that the Premier Bank CD be left as is; seconded by Reeder.** Frey then reviewed what information she had been able to locate on the Linwood Young CD. *Discussed at length. Tabled until October before CD renewal is needed.*
- **Change of authorized users on bank accounts, check signing, and debit card-** Gumm moved that Wolfe be removed from all district accounts and Teets be added as an authorized user; seconded by Nester; motion carried. *Discussed at length the district debit card account. Nester moved that Sencindiver be replacement account holder on district debit card; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.*
- **Committee appointments-** Woolfer reviewed the district’s committees as they stood. **Acting Chairman Sencindiver appointed Teets to the TVCD’s personnel committee.**
- **TVCD Meeting Schedule starting March 2016-** Teets moved to hold one regular district board meeting per month on the last Monday, still allowing for committee and special meetings as needed, effective as of March 2016; seconded by Nester; motion carried.

Report of Individual Supervisors:

Nester- The Tucker County FFA harvested cauliflower the first week of January.

Teets- Raised concerns over the “focused conservation approach” being taken by the NRCS. *Discussed at length with Aspey.*

Reeder- Collected forage samples with Lambert for the Upshur County Hay & Silage show.

Gumm- At the grassland conference in Texas, they stressed the importance of healthy soils, cover crops, and no tills. Would like to see those brought back to light in WV. Will be attending the NACD National Conference in Reno later in the week. Would like to see more regional NACD involvement at the quarterly WVACD meetings. Reported that Elkwater Dam is doing well in providing water to the Huttonsville PSD.

Sencindiver- Next Envirothon meeting scheduled for February 3rd and help is still needed for the event. Asked Farkas and Aspey to attend on April 22nd for judging. Attended the Eat & Reap dinner meeting that was held in Belington. Also attended WV Ag Day.

Farkas asked that since the Elkwater Fork legal fees are done that a proposal be submitted to him as to what will be done with the remaining funds. *Added to 2/10 meeting agenda for discussion.*

Public Comment Period: None

There being no further business to attend to, Chairman Wolfe declared the meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

Secretary

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

January 25, 2016 Regular TVCD Board Meeting Minutes Summary of Motions

- 1. Reeder moved to approve the January 25, 2016 Board Meeting Agenda as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.**
- 2. January 13, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes: Reeder moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**
- 3. Nester moved to approve the treasurer’s report as presented and file for audit, adding that Frey was authorized to pay the bills as she had received; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.**
- 4. Nester moved to approve the SPRP invoices for payment as presented; seconded by Gumm; motion carried.**

Gooden, Joe	Tucker Co.	Inv. 2134	\$442.30
Hile, Terry	Tucker Co.	Inv. 2135	\$2336.20

TOTAL: \$2778.50

- 5. Reeder moved to approve the conservation agreements as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.**
 - Debra Tenney (Upshur Co., 40 acres)**
 - Danny Carr (Tucker Co.)**

6. Reeder moved to pay the contract as presented; seconded by Nester; motion carried.

Elza, Randy	Randolph	Water & Div. Fence	\$6506.53
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7. Gumm moved to accept the resignation of Robert Wolfe as presented; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.
8. Gumm moved for Sencindiver to act as Chairman and Reeder act as Vice-Chairman, retaining his secretarial duties until supervisors elections in July; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.
9. Nester moved to prepare and submit the Engineering EOI; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.
10. Gumm moved to follow Frey's recommendation that the Premier Bank CD be left as is; seconded by Reeder.
11. Gumm moved that Wolfe be removed from all district accounts and Teets be added as an authorized user; seconded by Nester; motion carried.
12. Nester moved that Sencindiver be replacement account holder on district debit card; seconded by Reeder; motion carried.
13. Acting Chairman Sencindiver appointed Teets to the TVCD's personnel committee.
14. Teets moved to hold one regular district board meeting per month on the last Monday, still allowing for committee and special meetings as needed, effective as of March 2016; seconded by Nester; motion carried.