



GREENBRIER VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

USDA Service Center
179 Northridge Drive
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901
Phone (304) 645-6173

Serving Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas Counties

Minutes of the GVCD Regular Board Meeting January 28, 2016

The Greenbrier Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, January 28, 2016 in the conference room of the Lewisburg USDA Service Center. Those attending were:

Supervisors:

Avery Atkins
Jerry Clifton
Carolyn Miller
Gary Sawyers
Gary Truex
Timothy VanReenen

Others:

Lynn Hutchison, GVCD
Jack O'Connell, NRCS
Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Guests:

Coleman England, USFS
Rick Patterson, USFS
Brian Wickline, Monroe County Extension
Dave Pontius, Monroe County Teacher
Mary Surbaugh, Rainelle Medical Center
Dr. Patricia Lally, Rainelle Medical Center
Gary Johnson
Sharon Johnson

Call to Order

Chairman Timothy VanReenen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Gary Sawyers and seconded by Jerry Clifton to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2015 Regular Board Meeting and the January 13, 2016 Special Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Guests

Rick Patterson and Coleman England from the USFS presented information on a project proposed by the Forest Service at the Anthony Boat Launch and Anthony Creek Trail trailhead near the Greenbrier River in Anthony, WV. They stated that the project would improve watershed conditions and enhance recreational opportunities by restoring the streambank, improving river access, and addressing safety concerns. They provided a handout with photos to describe the existing problems and the proposed improvements. They requested a letter of support to help them secure a \$30k grant for which they have applied, but stated they were not seeking monetary support from the GVCD. Other cooperating agencies they noted were WV DNR Parks and Recreation, WV DNR, Greenbrier River Watershed

Association, and Greenbrier River Trail Association. Jack O'Connell from NRCS spoke in favor of this as a worthy project as well. After some questions and answers, it was the opinion of the Board that the project was in line with the goals of the GVCD. **Gary Truex moved to send the letter of support. Carolyn Miller seconded. Motion passed.**

Mary Surbaugh, Dr. Patricia Lally, and Gary Johnson spoke on behalf of the Rainelle Medical Center and the Rainelle School Garden Project, a collaborative effort from area schools, groups, businesses, and individuals, to bring high tunnel(s) to several Western Greenbrier County Schools. They discussed the rate of childhood obesity and the lack of access to fresh, healthy foods for children in their area. They hope to teach children how to grow food, develop their taste for fresh fruits and vegetables, and to sell their high tunnel-grown produce to the BOE for use in school meals, as well as to local grocers and at local markets. Mr. Johnson, an experienced farmer who has agreed to be in charge of mentorship, shared his vision of the project as also training "future farmers." They provided a handout outlining their plans and a list of participants who have given verbal commitments, as well as statistical information on childhood obesity and health. They also noted that Rainelle Medical Center had pledged \$500.00 toward their efforts and they have applied for additional federal grant funding, which they hope to receive in May, 2016. They requested maximum funding under the NRCS/WVACD Community Gardens project. Gary Truex asked for a more specific financial plan/budget and Mary Surbaugh said that she would submit that information.

Dave Pontius, a teacher from Monroe County, and Brian Wickline, from Monroe County Extension, spoke on behalf of efforts to complete the 30' x 72' high tunnel, already underway, at Mountain View Middle School. They have already received \$8,500.00 in grant funds and have partially erected the high tunnel. Their plan includes using 25% of the high tunnel space for chairs and a white board to provide a formal classroom setting. They also envision using the space for other activities for parent and community involvement. They provided a budget of \$6,350.00 to complete the project. Mr. Pontius, a 4th and 5th grade science teacher, spoke of the multiple educational opportunities provided by a high tunnel and stated that curriculums have been developed using them for science, math, agriculture, and English lessons. Their plan is to utilize the fresh vegetables raised by students in the school kitchen, to give students a better understanding of where and how their food is produced, as well as, to provide nutritional food for school meals. They requested any amount of funding under the NRCS/WVACD Community Gardens Project.

A group discussion ensued among Guests and Supervisors regarding the aforementioned proposals and the NRCS/WVACD Community Gardens project. Jack O'Connell stated that NRCS can offer expertise on site selection and during construction, if needed. Timothy VanReenen explained that the \$5,000.00 allotment of federal funds the District has to award can be divided up or awarded as a lump sum.

Timothy VanReenen thanked the Guests for coming and for their proposals. He noted that the Board will consider their requests and they will be notified when/if funding is awarded. He invited them to stay for the rest of the meeting, but they all opted to leave at that point.

District Manager Report

Lynn Hutchison referred to her written report, which is attached. She drew attention to the Conservation Photo Contest and Poster Contest and asked the Board if it was their pleasure to participate this year. There was some discussion and it was decided that Lynn can go forward with those projects, within the established guidelines.

Also, Lynn noted that the District Call List needs to be updated, or else a waiver be submitted. There was some discussion as to who was currently on the list and it was questioned why L.D. Hanna was not on the current list. **Avery Atkins moved to contact Hanna regarding the list. Gary Truex seconded. Motion passed.**

A copy of the written District Manager's Report, with additional information, is attached.

Financial Report

General and CDO Funds Report – Gary Truex moved to accept the General and CDO Funds Report and file for audit. Seconded by Avery Atkins. Motion carried.

WVCA Restricted Funds Report – Gary Sawyers moved to accept the WVCA Restricted Funds Report and file for audit. Seconded by Carolyn Miller. Motion carried.

Payment of all General Funds bills—Gary Truex moved to pay all General Funds bills, per payables list, as presented. Seconded by Jerry Clifton. Motion carried. List is attached.

Funding Requests

West Virginia Watershed Network (WVWN) – Annual Watershed Celebration Day - \$100.00

Timothy VanReenen read the letter from Brian Farkas requesting the District's continued sponsorship of the Annual Watershed Celebration Day in the amount of \$100.00. **Jerry Clifton moved to sponsor in that amount. Gary Sawyers seconded. Motion passed.**

WVU Extension – Monroe County – Winter Educational Dinner Meetings – amount not specified

Timothy VanReenen read the letter from Brian Wickline of WVU Extension – Monroe County, requesting the District's continued sponsorship of the Winter Dinner Meetings. During discussion it was noted that Greenbrier County will not be holding their own meetings this year and that a sponsorship request from Pocahontas County is forthcoming. **Jerry Clifton moved that Monroe County's and Pocahontas County's Winter Dinner Meetings each be sponsored in the amount of \$100.00. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.**

NRCS/WVACD Community Gardens Project Proposals – (see "GUESTS" section for description of funding requests from Rainelle School Gardens Project and Mountain View Middle School)

The Board discussed the proposals presented earlier in the evening. There were some opinions offered on the merits of each proposal. There was concern that while Monroe County and Greenbrier County had both been represented, Pocahontas County had not. Supervisors decided that Pocahontas County should be invited to participate in the proposal process as well. Jerry Clifton stated that he would make contacts to do this. It was the pleasure of the Board to postpone a decision until it was determined if there was interest in Pocahontas County and to wait for a budget from the Rainelle group.

Cooperating Agency Reports

NRCS – Jack O'Connell

Mr. O'Connell shared the exciting news that he had recently become a grandfather again and was congratulated. He reported that a venue has been secured for the first Local Work Group Meeting and that it will be held on February 16, 2016 at 9:00am at the State Fairgrounds' meeting room in the Administration Building. NRCS' PR person is preparing an announcement. They will also prepare an agenda to guide the meeting. A written report was provided which addressed the responsibilities and goals of the Local Working Group, as well as a Focused Conservation Approach Timeline and other news. A copy of his written report is attached.

WV Division of Forestry – not present

FSA – not present

WVCA – Monthly Report – Jeremy Salyer

Mr. Salyer referred to his written report. He reported that Ag Day at the Legislature was a success and that the Legislative Breakfast seemed to be well attended and well received. He said that he has been asked to poll the Districts regarding any changes or improvements that could be made and if Supervisors had any suggestions to let him know at

the next meeting. He went over the AgEP Timeline and noted that the date for the Legislative Rules Subcommittee to review comments and revise forms is February 3, 2016. He reminded the Board that District Personnel Plans are due to SCC by March 1st and that it is also time to review our District Policy Manual, CD Employee Manual, and CD Plan of Work. A copy of his written report with additional information is attached.

WVCA O, M & R Report – Judith Lyons

Judith Lyons was not present, but had emailed a report stating no CCRs were received, all inspections and EAPs are current, and the South Fork of the Cherry River is not active due to being shut down for the winter season. Her report also noted that Karen Stickley has scheduled meetings for the local sponsors of the Howards Creek channel and dam. They are February 8, 2016 at 7pm with the City of White Sulphur Springs and February 9, 2016 at 10:00am at the Greenbrier County Commission. Jeremy Salyer provided a draft of the report she will give at those meetings for review.

Timothy VanReenen asked if the Board should send representation to those meetings. Mr. Salyer said he would encourage it if Supervisors are available but that it is ultimately up to the Board whether or not to attend.

LOR for O, M, & R Cost Share – Greenbrier County Commission - \$2,000.00 – Howard Creek Structure. Gary Sawyers moved to send the Letter of Request for State matching funds. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion Passed.

Unfinished Business

Follow-up on Expression of Interest – Engineering Firms – The need to select an engineering firm was re-visited, after being postponed due to staff transitions. The rankings of the top three firms expressing interest were reviewed again. It was noted that upcoming projects will require strong civil engineering and dam experience and that should weigh heavily in the decision. It was remembered that some time ago it was decided that the firms should be interviewed. Jeremy Salyer will talk to Gene Saurborn to schedule dates for such interviews.

Follow-up on Copier Lease / Purchase Options – The need for a new copier was re-visited. Lynn Hutchison presented information she had obtained from other Districts, WVCA IT, and research. Based on the information she found, Lynn stated that it was her opinion that a lease would be better than buying, because maintenance cost is included and it also spreads the cost over an extended period, rather than requiring a large outlay of funds. She had obtained information and pricing about a Sharp product, as well as information and pricing about a Konica-Minolta product, to add to the information Anita Crance had previously obtained about a pre-owned Sharp product. The Konica-Minolta product is leased by the vendor who holds the State contract. The pricing for a 48-month lease on the Konica-Minolta was approximately \$182.00 per month for the base machine rental, plus \$.007 per black & white copy and \$.04 per color copy. Two separate bills are generated, with one being a fixed amount and one being variable. Based on our past average copy count, the total cost was estimated to be approximately \$226.00 per month on average. It was noted that the copy cost would vary depending on the season and type of projects taking place at a given time. The Sharp was from another vendor and cost approximately \$275.00 per month plus additional charges if a maximum copy count was exceeded, with maintenance included. The pre-owned Sharp was from a third vendor. It was an older model, not color capable, and was a purchase, rather than a lease. It would require the additional purchase of a maintenance agreement or else pay-as-you-go for parts and repairs. With the unit already being pre-owned, this was not considered desirable. **Avery Atkins moved to lease the Konica-Minolta copier discussed. Seconded by Jerry Clifton. Motion passed.**

Supervisor Travel and Per Diem Issues

Timothy VanReenen noted that there is still an issue with handling of Supervisor Travel and Per Diem when it comes to expense reports and withholdings. No action was taken, but the item will remain on the Agenda for next month.

Housing of Ag Employees

Timothy VanReenen reported that he had been told the two employees, for whom space was previously requested, would require enough space for two desks and a refrigerator for samples. The Dept. of Ag would provide their furniture

and phones, etc. There was discussion regarding available space and the effect on office dynamics and the operations of the District. It was noted that if the room being used for storage could be rearranged, and some items moved to the storage building at the equipment lot, they could be accommodated there. This would also provide some physical separation to avoid confusion for people walking in and provide a separate entrance for them. It was noted, however, that some of that space is shared with NRCS and some records/documents cannot be stored elsewhere, so we would have to retain part of the area for storage. **Jerry Clifton moved to offer to make space available in that area with the condition that we retain a portion of it for storage. Carolyn Miller seconded. Motion passed.**

Committee Reports

Agricultural Enhancement Program:

Cancellations (M):

Lime:

Brett House	295.50
Brady Weikle	<u>\$ 60.00</u>

Total Cancellations \$ 355.50

Gary Sawyers moved to approve the cancellations totaling \$355.50. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.

Approvals* (M):

Confirmed

John Crane	\$1,147.50
Mike McCormick	\$1,522.50
Don Dransfield	\$1,266.15
James T. Allen	\$ 229.65
Gerald Erskine	\$ 762.00
Calvin Elmore	<u>\$1,667.25</u>

Total Approvals \$6,595.05 (*based on DEC cancelations of 6,975.45)

Jerry Clifton moved to approve the approvals totaling \$6,595.05. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.

Payments (M):

Lime:

Joe Lusk	\$1,068.00
Fredrick Scott Kiddle	<u>\$ 292.05</u>
Subtotal	\$1,360.05

Watering System:

Garry Taylor	\$1,278.30
Mary S. Wylie	<u>\$ 572.60</u>
Subtotal	\$1,850.90

Total Payments \$2,918.90

Gary Sawyers moved to approve the Payments totaling \$2,918.90. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.

Finance Committee:

No Report.

Grassland Committee:

Gary Truex reported that Barry Level will have a tentative date for Field Day at the next committee meeting.

Building/Equipment Committee:

There has been no action since committee meetings on the building. Specifications discussed at the committee meeting were reviewed briefly and Lynn noted that they were recorded in the minutes of the committee meeting for reference. Gary Sawyers will get pricing and check with Dennis Burns about blueprints.

It was noted that there is currently no accessible water on the equipment lot. Eugene Wickline has had to take molds home to make concrete lids. **After some discussion, Avery Atkins moved to contact the City of Lewisburg for new service there. Gary Truex seconded. Motion passed.** Avery Atkins will contact them.

Watershed Reports

Statements of Review for Howard Creek and Marlin Run were sent by Kimberly Neal for approval and signatures. **Jerry Clifton moved to approve and sign the statements. Gary Sawyers seconded. Motion passed.**

319 Committee:

319 Program

Payments (M)

Grant				Billed From:	Participant	Amount
20509	GV	NPS	1293 Kitchen Creek	Analabs	Monitoring	\$150.00
20025	GV	NPS	Knapps Creek	The Outhouse	Patrick Gibson	\$245.76
20025	GV	NPS	Knapps Creek	CJ Richardson etc.	Alice Irvine	\$3,435.75
20027	GV	NPS	1405 Milligan II	Jay Bennett Fencing	Ted Knight	\$9,127.50
20505	GV	NPS	1413 St Milligan	Waters Lab	Ronnie Lemmons	\$2.38
20502	GV	NPS	1454 St Knapps	The Outhouse	Outreach	\$133.88
20025	GV	NPS	1454 Knapps Creek	The Outhouse	Wayne Pollard	\$245.76
Total Invoices						\$13,341.03

Gary Sawyers moved to approve 319 payments totaling \$13,341.03. Seconded by Avery Atkins. Motion carried.

NEW CONTRACTS (These contracts are not to exceed the estimated figure posted here)

Grant				Participant	Amount (not to exceed)
20027	GV	NPS	Milligan Creek II	Doug Goodwin*	\$50,000.00
20028	GV	NPS	Second Creek	Tom Gentry*	\$13,000.00
20027	GV	NPS	Milligan Creek II	Ross Tuckwiller	\$3,000.00

*Timothy VanReenen reported that Doug Goodwin and Tom Gentry Contracts were pulled from the Agenda due to not being ready. **Gary Sawyers moved that the New Contract for Ross Tuckwiller, totaling \$3,000.00, be approved per committee recommendation. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.**

The following Actions Between Board Meetings were noted:

Gary Truex Signed on 1/5/16:

Knapps Creek Septic Contract for Lester Waugh for pumping \$300.00

Gary Truex Signed on 1/11/16:

Knapps Creek septic contracts for Kenneth Slagel for replacement & pumping \$5,300.00

LORs (M)

Contractor Training	\$12,000.00
Milligan Creek Relocation of Animal Gathering Facilities	\$150,000.00
Second Creek Karst II	\$100,000.00
Sewell Creek septic	\$20,000.00
Morris Branch Stream Restoration	\$100,000.00
Meadow River Watershed Restoration	\$100,000.00
Hatchery Wetland Phase 3	\$10,000.00
Beaver Creek Septic	\$20,000.00
Sweet Springs Creek	\$25,000.00
Total:	\$537,000.00

After some questions, discussion, and reference to project proposal descriptions, Gary Sawyers moved to send the LORs for 319 as listed. Carolyn Miller seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council regarding membership renewal. The Board said they had not renewed this last year and did not wish to do so this year. There was correspondence in the form of periodicals, newsletters, etc. provided for review. None of it required action. There was correspondence requesting funding, which was addressed earlier on the Agenda.

New Business

The NRCS/WVACD Community Gardens Project was addressed earlier on the Agenda. See Guests and Funding Requests.

Timothy VanReenen noted that a time needed to be set for the Policy Committee to meet. Time was set for February 10, 2016, following regular committee meetings.

Conservation Agreements

A Conservation Agreement with Michael L. McCormick was presented for approval. **Gary Sawyers moved to approve the agreement. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.**

CREP

A CREP payment for \$54.40 to Robert D. Martin for Riparian Buffer was presented for approval. **Gary Truex moved to approve the payment. Carolyn Miller seconded. Motion passed.**

Other Business

Lynn Hutchison reported that the office shredder no longer works. She had done some pricing and found that one adequate for our purposes could be purchased for under \$250.00. **Gary Sawyers moved to approve up to \$250.00 for the purchase of a shredder. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.**

The need to add a disclaimer to the equipment rental contracts was discussed. **Gary Truex moved that the contracts be revised to include a disclaimer that the GVCD will not be responsible for any accidents, with a space for the cooperator to initial their acknowledgement. Avery Atkins seconded. Motion passed.**

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 11:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



**Timothy VanReenen
Chairman**



**Gary L. Truex
Secretary/Treasurer**

TWV/GLT/lh

Recorded by Lynn Hutchison, District Manager

GVCD District Manager Report

December 18, 2015 – January 28, 2016

It's hard to believe I have been here over a month. The time has flown by! I am learning something new every day and I have enjoyed getting to know so many new faces. Anita Crance has been such a help to me and I am grateful that she has been able to come back part-time during the transition. Supervisors and Staff have all been great as well. Thank you all for making me welcome. It feels more like home all the time.

Items Needing Action:

- Approval of the December 17, 2016 Regular Meeting and January 13, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Financial Reports, Accounts Payable – approval of bills
- Funding Requests
- Letter of Request for OM&R Cost Share
- District Supervisor travel and per diem issues
- Expression of Interest for Engineering Firms – Interview and Selection Process
- Housing of Dept of Agriculture employees
- Copy Machine Lease / Purchase
- AgEP cancellation, approval and payment requests per agenda
- Approval of Building & Equipment, Finance and Grassland Committee actions, if any
- Approval of 319 contracts and payments per co-administered payables list and agenda
- Statement of Reviews for Howard Creek and Marlin Run
- Letters of Request for 319
- Approval of Conservation Agreements and Terminations
- WVACD / NRCS Outreach Program
- Set time for Policy Review Committee to meet and make any necessary updates
- Approval of CREP payment
- Shredder purchase
- Equipment building plans
- Tractor purchase plans
- Equipment rental contract language updated
- Conservation Photo Contest / Poster Contest
- Contractor Call List
- News Article for Century Farm
- Grassland Newsletter

Notes:

- Draft Minutes for the December 2015 Regular Board Meeting and the January 13, 2016 Special Board Meeting have been sent to Managers and Supervisors and are awaiting approval at tonight's meeting.
- Approved minutes for the November 2015 Meeting have been posted on the website.
- Minutes of all January 13, 2016 Committee meetings were emailed to Supervisors.
- Draft Minutes of tonight's and future meetings will be emailed to Supervisors, as discussed at the January 13, 2016 Special Board Meeting. A hard copy will be provided at the next meeting for reference. Agendas will also be emailed.
- In the interest of saving time and money, all emailed correspondence, newsletters, etc., not requiring action, will also be forwarded to Supervisors' email addresses, as discussed at the special Board meeting January 13, 2016.
- Supervisors: Please remember to check your email at least weekly and especially a few days prior to scheduled Board Meetings. If anyone needs help with this, I'd be happy to assist. I think once it becomes a habit, it will make us all more efficient and save a lot of money for supplies and postage as well. Of course, in urgent matters, phone contact will still be made. Also, there is now a "Supervisors' Station" in my office. Each Supervisor has an individual file and there is one file labeled "Any Supervisor." I will put routine items needing signatures in the "Any Supervisor" file. When you stop by the

office, please check to see if there is anything specifically for you or anything that needs signed. (Checks and personal/confidential information will not be left in these folders, as they need to be in a locked cabinet.)

- A Winter Quarterly Report was submitted.
- I attended AgDay at the Legislature January 20, 2016. It was nice to meet people from other Districts and see how they do things. I was able to ask a lot of questions and make new contacts. Everyone was very helpful.
- I followed up on the Brickstreet policy as requested and corrected the officer listing.
- I have obtained information from Chris Ellison at WVCA IT about their copier provider. I also obtained information from two other districts, one who leases from the same contractor as the WVCA and one who leases from another company. I have copies of brochures, specifications, and pricing on both. I have also done some research for leasing vs. buying.
- I have done some pricing of shredders on-line and asked BJW for a quote as well.
- I have done an internet search for tractors and provided a few findings, to get an idea of what is available for what price, given the specs discussed in committee. This is for information only.
- Edward Cox is scheduled to visit the District on March 1, 2016 to review our contract files.
- I have included Envirothon Volunteer Registration forms in Supervisor files for anyone who plans to attend/assist, per email from John Sencindiver.
- I have included information regarding a \$500 scholarship that is available to undergraduate students through the WV Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. If you know of any undergraduate student who is interested in a career in soil and water conservation, please share. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2016.
- RC & D Board positions
- Sherry Ferrell has prepared W2s and 1099s for 2015.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

AgEP Timeline

January 31	Deadline for CDs to submit comments about ranking and overall program
Early February	Legislative Rules Subcommittee to review comments and revise forms
Mid/Late February	Program revisions sent to CDs/staff for review
Mid-March	CDs submit recommendations for FY 17 practices
Week of March 28	State AgEP committee to meet and review proposed changes for FY 17 *final opportunity to make comment for FY 17 program
April 12	Presentation to SCC
June 15	CDs submit final practice list to WVCA
July 1	Start of FY 17 program
July 31	CDs submit annual progress report (per legislative rule)

Sponsorship Meetings

February 8	City of White Sulphur Springs, 7pm, Regarding Howard Creek Channel
February 9	Greenbrier County Commission, 10am, Regarding Howard Creek Structure

Other

January 30	Filing Deadline for Re-election
February 10	Committee Meetings
February 16	Local Working Group Meeting, (Time and Location TBA)
February 18	Regular Board Meeting
March 1	Field Day Plan Target Date
March 1	District Personnel Plan Due to WVCA
March 21	State Fair Meeting, Flatwoods
June 1 / May 1	Deadline for Century Farm Applications
June / July	Deadlines for Photo Contest and Poster Contest

Respectfully Submitted,



Lynn Hutchison, GVCD District Manager

11:16 AM

01/28/16

Greenbrier Valley Conservation District
A/P Aging Summary
 As of January 28, 2016

	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	> 90	TOTAL
ACF Environmental	875.00 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	875.00
Barrett L. Level	137.46 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	137.46
BJW Printing & Office Supplies	68.70 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.70
Bobby Davis	50.00 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Boone Tractor & Implement, Inc.	13.03 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.03
Brad Butcher	600.77 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.77
First Citizens Bank	829.43 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	829.43
Greenbrier County Farm Service Agency	520.00 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	520.00
Pamela J. Burns	106.71 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	106.71
S. J. Neathawk Lumber, Inc.	42.93 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.93
Sherry W. Ferrell	375.00 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	375.00
Suddenlink	255.93 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	255.93
Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.	582.44 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	582.44
Watson Mfg.	913.59 ✓	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	913.59
TOTAL	5,370.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,370.99



Natural Resources Conservation Service
LEWISBURG SERVICE CENTER
179 NORTHRIDGE DRIVE
LEWISBURG, WV 24901
Phone: (304) 645 - 6172 Fax: (304) 645 - 9627

NRCS Report – Greenbrier Valley Conservation District January 28, 2016

Farm Bill Programs

EQIP-Focused Conservation Approach

WV allocations for general EQIP funds for 2017 will be primarily through FCA, but special and National initiatives such as Forestry, High Tunnels, Organic, and WVRV will continue.

Focused Conservation Approach goals are to place emphasis on locally led conservation, increase partnership involvement in addressing resource concerns, clearly define goals with achievable results, enhance conservation planning efforts, continue positive customer relations while increasing the number of outreach efforts, and strategically target funds.

The responsibilities of the Local Working Group are to identify:

1. Local resource concerns
2. Targeted geographic areas
3. Methods of addressing resource needs
4. Proposed solutions
5. Ranking questions
6. Outreach opportunities
7. Partners and partner resources that can be leveraged

The planning process for the Focused Conservation Approach to EQIP delivery will be a lengthy one and should not be delayed. I have secured a venue for the first meeting of the Local Working Group. It will be held on Tuesday February 16th at 9:00AM at the State Fairgrounds Administration Building conference room. Announcements of the meeting will be published in all of the local newspapers. The goal of the first meeting will be to begin development the Long Range Plan, and includes:

- General Information about the District – What are the most common agricultural enterprises, practices historically applied, established partnerships?
- Evaluation of Resource Concerns - identifying resource concerns of greatest concern, where, how much, what will define completion, stages?
- Evaluation of Program Suitability – Can it be addressed using EQIP practices, how, at what cost, what are partnership roles and responsibilities?
- Identification and Prioritization of Projects – What are the priority projects and why were they selected?

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Focused Conservation Approach Timeline

- Now through 4/30/2016 – Identification of priority(s) and development of long range plan with Local Working Group
- 7/29/2016 – Develop project plan to address identified needs with Local Working Group
- 8/26/2016 – Leadership review of project plan(s)
- 9/16/2016 – Plan acceptance
- 10/1/2016 – State Conservationist selection of projects
- 10/30/2016 – Funding pools established and allocations made in contracting software

Other EQIP/AMA

Sign-ups for EQIP/AMA and CSP are accepted year-around, with established ranking periods. Ranking tools and cost list for EQIP are complete. Rankings of High-screened applications for the first round are to be completed by February 12, with obligations following shortly thereafter.

Other News.

- I am now a grandfather of two! Claire Maureen Presley was born to Holly and Jason Presley on 1/6/2016. She arrived a month early, but is healthy and happy.
- Jerry Brackenrich continues to act as South Area Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations as Greg Stone acts as State Resource Conservationist. Julie Stutler is acting as Area Resource Conservationist.
- All staff have been ranking EQIP/AMA applications for the first round of funding.
- Katy McBride has been working with Bob Martin and Farmland Protection Board on nine FRPP applications and attending monthly Envirothon planning meetings.
- Tom Vance has been assisting the Lewisburg office with engineering designs for EQIP/WVRV contracts.



WVCA Conservation District Report
January 2016

West Virginia Legislature – 2016 Legislative Calendar

January 13, 2016 - First day of session
January 20 – Senate Budget Hearing
January 27 – House Finance Budget Presentation
February 1, 2016 - Legislative Rule-Making Review bills due
February 22, 2016 - Last day to introduce bills in the Senate
February 23, 2016 - Last day to introduce bills in the House
February 28, 2016 - Bills due out of committees
March 2, 2016 - Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin
March 12, 2016 - Last day of session

Agricultural Day at the Capitol

Agricultural / Conservation Day will be on January 20, 2016. Please make appointments to see your House and Senate representatives before going to Agricultural Conservation Day. The Legislative Breakfast will start at 7:30 in Building 7 of the Capitol complex.

- Parking will be available at Laidley Field starting at 6:30 AM
- Districts are requested to bring their displays
- State vehicles will be available to shuttle persons to the Capitol
- Agency staff members will help with setting up and taking down the displays
- Shuttles will start back to Laidley Field at 2:00 PM

AgEP Timeline:

January 31 - Deadline for CDs to submit comments about ranking and overall program

Early February - Legislative Rules Subcommittee to review comments and revise forms

Mid/Late February - Program revisions sent to CDs/staff for review

Mid-March - CDs submit recommendations for FY 17 practices

Week of March 28 - State AgEP committee to meet and review proposed changes for FY 17

*final opportunity to make comment for FY 17 program

April 12 - Presentation to SCC

June 15 - CDs submit final practice list to WVCA

July 1 - Start of FY 17 program

July 31 - CDs submit annual progress report (per legislative rule)

District Personnel Plans

It's time to review the District Personnel Plans which are due to SCC by March 1.

District Policy Manual Review

The WVCA is encouraging Conservation Districts to review and update your District Policy Manuals. In addition to your policy manual you are encouraged to review your CD Employee Manual (if you have one) and your CD Plan of Work. If you are already doing the reviews please disregard this request.

WVCA Project Section

A summary of all OM&R, SPRP and EWP expenses for calendar year 2015 will be provided to all Districts in January of 2016.

OM&R

- The WVCA Project Section is continuing monthly inspections of flood control dams.
- Work continues with NRCS to develop engineering plans for watershed dams.
- The Project Section is working with WVU Extension on Cranberry Creek and Mannington Channel so far this year on spraying plans. A section of Mannington Channel has been sprayed, results will be used to develop spraying plans statewide. The results on this study will be reported.
- Meetings are progressing with DNR to determine responsible parties on the dams that DNR has interest in.
- Estimates for 2016 work are being established and watershed section staff will be working with Districts to determine the most efficient/cost effective way to complete the work. If Districts have questions, please contact Judy (South) at 304-807-7437, Ed (North) at 304-590-1969 or Gene at 304-541-9813.

Dam Rehab

- WVCA is close to finalizing the hire of engineering firm.
- Upper Deckers Creek 1 – Permit work continues. Construction should begin in 2017.
- Wheeling Creek 25 – NRCS working to complete list of alternatives for sponsors. Public meeting to be held in January.
- Brush Creek 14 – Progress continues for planning.
- NPCD, SCD, MCD and PVCD – Please track hours that District Supervisors attend any rehab meetings.

EWP Update

- March and April Flooding – The Project Section continues working with FEMA for reimbursement for eligible costs for blockage removal sites and NRCS on bank stabilization sites. Bank stabilization includes sites in Guyan, Elk and Greenbrier Valley Conservation Districts.
- July Flooding – Work with FEMA continues for reimbursement for eligible costs on blockage removal sites and NRCS on bank stabilization sites. Bank stabilization includes sites in Little Kanawha, Elk and Guyan Conservation Districts.

Personnel Update

- Working with NRCS, the stream section has filled a cost-share position for an engineer that will be based in Morgantown.
- A Watershed Technician has been hired for the North area.

O&M Sponsorship Meetings

- Karen will be scheduling meetings with local sponsors and will provide a schedule to each District as soon as it develops.

Each area manager will be contacting area directors to provide details of activities in their respective areas. As always, feel free to contact Gene or Penny for further information.

The next WVSCC meeting is January 12, 2016

Holidays

New Year's Day – January 1st

Martin Luther King Day – January 18th

January 2016 Watershed Section Report

CCRs:

- None received

SPRP

- South Fk of the Cherry River is not active due to shutdown for the Winter season.

O&M

- Inspections current –EAPs current

Karen Stickley has scheduled meetings for the local sponsors of the Howards Ck channel and dam. The meetings are held to summarize and provide information to the sponsors for the work that we have completed for the past year. The meetings are being held statewide for the sponsors. She has provided the following dates:

February 8th at 7:00 pm –City of White Sulphur Springs

February 9th at 10:00 am – Greenbrier County Commission