State Conservation Committee
Summer 2026 Quarterly Meeting – July 14, 2026
West Virginia Conservation Agency
255 Gus R. Douglass Lane, Charleston, WV 25312
MINUTES

MEMBERS

Kent Leonhardt	Chairman-Commissioner of Agriculture
Scott Settle - Designee	WV Dept. of Environmental Protection
Jeremy Jones – Absent	WV Division of Forestry
John Pitsenbarger	WV Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Jorge Atiles - Absent	WVU Extension and Land Grant
Jason Hubbart - Absent	WVU Ag & Forestry Experiment Station
Rocky Peck	Appointed
Doug Cyphers	Appointed
Jerry Ours*	Appointed
Timothy VanReenen	Appointed
Jon Bourdon - Absent	NRCS
Keith Richmond*	FSA

OTHERS PRESENT

Judith Lyons	WVCA
Charles Copeland – Designee	WV Division of Forestry
Andy Deichert, State Engineer - Designee	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ronnie Helmondollar - Designee	WVU Div. of Land Grant Engagement
Jay Crump	WVCA
Andrew Roberts	WVCA
Gene Saurborn	WVCA
Mark Myers	MCD
Mark Harris	SCD
Steve Cronin	WFCD
Heather Duncan	WV Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Clay Lester	WVDA
Isaac Tincher, General Council	WV Dept. of Environmental Protection
Robert Shusko, Engineer*	D'Appolonia
Jim Turner*	ACNR
Paul McGee*	ACNR
Jason Bostic*	WV Coal Association
Lois Carr*	PVCD
Cindy Shreve*	WVCA
Natalie Salmon*	CCD
Diane Lumadue*	CCD
Dawn Lemle*	USDA/NRCS
Steven Starcher*	WVCA
Chris Ellis*	WVCA
Jennifer Skaggs*	WVCA

Don Whetzel*	WVCA
Davin White*	WVCA
Kimberly D'Arco	WVCA

*Attended via Microsoft Teams

Chairman Kent Leonhardt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on July 14, 2026.

Lyons announced meeting notices have been posted with the Secretary of State's Office.

Lyons reported the following designee assignments: Jon Bourdon, Natural Resources Conservation Service, provided written designation for Andy Deichert. Jorge Atiles, WVU Div. of Land Grant Engagement and WVU Extension, provided written designation for Ronnie Helmondollar. Harold Ward, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection, provided written designation for Scott Settle. Jeremy Jones, State Forester, WV Division of Forestry, provided written designation for Charles Copeland.

REVIEW of APRIL 14, 2026, SCC MEETING MINUTES
Peck moved to approve the April 14, 2026, SCC meeting minutes. Seconded by Cyphers. Motion carried.

REVIEW of JULY 9, 2026, SCC SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Peck moved to approved the July 9, 2026, SCC Special meeting minutes. Seconded by Cyphers. Motion carried.

SCC STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES INFORMATION UPDATES (handout)

Lyons presented the July 10, 2026, SCC Draft Programs Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTIONS
Lyons presented several correspondences:

- WVACD regarding upcoming agreement modification concerning flood control structures in NPCD and the other concerning H.B. 5364.
- NPCD regarding changes in the transfer of dams through H.B. 5364.
- Letter on behalf of SCD from attorney John Wooten.
- NPCD reminder letter concerning work previously done by another district regarding repairs that were required to be done and is in litigation.
- WCD concerning H.B. 5364 transfer of the control of the dams.
- SCD concerning H.B. 5364 transfer of ownership to WVCA.
- WVACD concerning H.B. 5364 transfer of ownership and responsibilities of watershed dams.
- Memo sent out by Lyons – Transfer of O&M funds.

DISTRICT DELEGATION
None

SUPERVISOR RESIGNATIONS
Timothy Cunningham – TVCD
Valerie Thaxton – CCD
David Parker – PVCD
Virgil Caldwell – SCD

Peck moved to accept resignations presented. Seconded by Cyphers. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENTS
Cordel Bostic – CCD
Ballard Gould – ECD
Nelson Jacobsen – EPCD
James W. See III – PCVD
Marsha Waybright – TVCD
Sarah Cunningham – TVCD
Martin B. West – SCD
Curtis R. Murphy – SCD

Peck moved to accept appointments presented. Seconded by Pitsenbarger. Motion carried.

SCC STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs – Agreements and Grants
VanReenan presented. The following:

1531-00 – Hampshire County Engineering on South Mill Creek Dams #3 and #4 and Warm Springs Dam #7.
1532-00 – Engineering for Warm Springs # 7 Dam Uppers Creek Dams for Eastern Panhandle and Northern Panhandle.
1533-00 – GFT Salt Lick Dams for planning and design in the Elk.
1535-00 – Engineering for New Creek #1 in the Potomac Valley.
1536-00 – Applications NRCS for funding rehab North South Mill Creek Sites #3 & #4
1537-00 – New Creek Site #1.
1538-00 – Salt Lick Creek Dams.
1540-00 – RC&D
1539-00 – 7-1-3-U Gilmer County.
1534-00 – WVU Research Corp - Grass grant.
1541-00 – Engagement Spilman Thomas & Battle/WVCA

VanReenen made a motion to approve these agreements and grants. Seconded by Peck. Motion carried.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Upper Graves Creek 7, 8, 9 Update/Cooperative Agreement

Lyons reported on the Upper Graves Creek project.
Discussion of the proposed amendments submitted by ACNR mining to the Cooperative Agreement for the Upper Grave 7, 8, and 9 flood control structures.

Peck motioned to table this item until a better agreement between both parties on the engineer firm is received. Seconded by Jerry Ours. Motion carried.

Hardy County PSD

Lyons reported Hardy County PSD is working on backup emergency water source.

SCC/SCD Legal Response

Lyons reported on the Notice of Filing from Southern Conservation District, challenged the WV State Conservation Committee's authority to change per-diem.

Expand Appalachia LLC

Lyons reported on information received from Expand Appalachia LLC given as a handout.

NEW BUSINESS

EQT Freedom to Freeland Pipeline Project

Lyons reported on a request to perform a preliminary survey for a proposed pipeline.

Commissioner made a motion to approve survey but leave no permanent markers that could damage equipment. Seconded by VanReenen. Motion carried.

Conservation Districts Plan of Work

Lyons reported on each Districts Plan of Work.
Themes throughout each district – education, outreach, water quality, erosion, soil protection, forestry protection, cover crops, and civil rights.

Peck moved to approve these plans as presented. Seconded by Cyphers. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Lyons reported on the updates provided for the WVCA Personnel, and CD letters of Request (LORs).

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

Ronnie Hemondollar, WVU
Scott Settle, WVDEP
Charles Copeland, WV Division of Forestry
John Pitsenbarger, WVACD
Rocky Peck, Appointed
Andy Deichert, NRCS

Keith Richmond, FSA
Judith Lyons, WVCA
Kent Leonhardt, Chairman, WVDA
All provide updates of their respective programs.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

Peck moved to adjourn at 12:41 p.m. Seconded by Pitsenbarger. Motion carried.

Kent Leonhardt, Chairman

Judith Lyons, Executive Director

Reference: WVSCC Quarterly Meeting Book – July 14, 2026

Minutes recorded by Kimberly D'Arco, WVCA Executive Assistant

Summary of Motions

1. **Peck moved to approve the April 14, 2026, SCC meeting minutes. Seconded by Cyphers. Motion carried. (Page 2 of 5)**
2. **Peck moved to approve the July 9, 2026, SCC Special meeting minutes. Seconded by Cyphers. Motion carried. (Page 2 of 5)**
3. **Peck moved to accept all the resignations presented. Seconded by Cyphers. Motion carried. (Page 3 of 5)**
4. **Peck moved to accept all the supervisor appointment recommendations. Seconded by Pitsenbarger. Motion carried. (Page 3 of 5)**
5. **VanReenan presented agreements and grants and made motion to approve. Seconded by Peck. (Page 3 of 5)**
6. **Peck motioned to table this item until a better agreement between both parties on the engineer firm is received. Seconded by Jerry Ours. Motion carried. (Page 4 of 5)**
7. **Commissioner made a motion to approve survey but leave no permanent markers that could damage equipment. Seconded by VanReenen. Motion carried. (Page 4 of 5)**
8. **Peck moved to approve these plans as presented. Seconded by Cyphers. Motion carried. (Page 4 of 5)**
9. **Peck moved to adjourn at 12:41 p.m. Seconded by Pitsenbarger. Motion carried. (Page 5 of 5)**

10-2-2026 11:30am