

Clinch Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

131 Highland Drive, Suite B Lebanon, VA 24266

Phone: (276) 883-5987

www.cvswwcd.org

DIRECTORS:

Zac Ketron, Chairman
Kelly Gilmer, Vice-Chairman
Jason Bush, Treasurer
Scott Jessee, VT Coop Extension
Andy Smith

DIRECTOR EMERITUS:

Mika Altizer

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

Gary Breeding
Bill Worrell

We work with the people who work the land.

**Clinch Valley Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2023; Russell County Conference Center, 12:30 pm**

BOARD MEMBERS

Zac Ketron, Chair
Kelly Gilmer, Vice Chair
Jason Bush, Treasurer
Andy Smith, Director-absent
Scott Jessee, VT Coop Ext
Bill Worrell, Assoc Director
Gary Breeding, Assoc Director-absent
Mike Altizer, Emeritus Director

STAFF

Siobhan Nishida, District Manager
Brandon Blevins, Conservation Specialist
Jeff Mutter, Conservation Specialist
Hannah Rexrode, Education Specialist

AGENCY PERSONNEL

None

ATTENDANCE FROM THE PUBLIC

None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Zac Ketron called the November 9, 2023, Clinch Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Directors meeting to order at 12:36 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 10th MEETING MINUTES

The *October 12, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes* were presented for review and approval. A motion was made by Jason Bush to approve *October 12, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes* as presented. The motion was seconded by Kelly Gilmer and the motion carried.

REVIEW, RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER'S REPORTS: *The Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2023*, was presented to the board for review. A motion was made by Scott Jessee to receive and file the *as of September 30, 2023, Treasurer's Report*. The motion was seconded by Jason Bush and the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Fairwell Hannah Rexrode: Siobhan Nishida shared that Hannah Rexrode submitted her resignation notice at the start of November. The staff and BOD expressed gratitude for the creative work that she did for the students in Russell County. Her last expected date of employment was stated to be 11/15/23.

DIRECTORS:

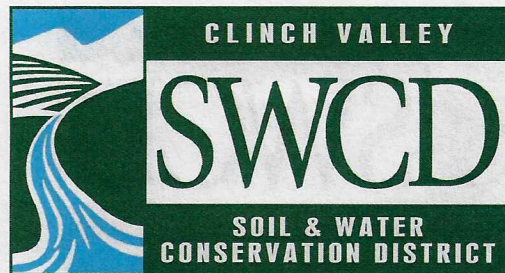
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Election Results for CVSWCD BOD: Staff congratulated Directors and shared that they appreciated everyone running again and serving for the next four years.

Lime Program Approvals: Jeff Mutter presented the 2024 Lime Program Approval Table. Two complete applications were submitted. Jason Bush made a motion to approve Will Monk and AAA Farms for 50% reimbursement on Lime and application for up to \$500. Kelly Gilmer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Due to a potential conflict of interest Jason Bush stepped out of the meeting

Conservation Plan and Conservation Contract Approvals: Brandon Blevins reviewed the October PY23 CEF Ranking sheet with the BOD. It was described that funding was available to fully fund projects in yellow. Some cover crop projects missed the early planting date, so the percentage of some of the approved projects would likely decrease by the next meeting. Scott Jessee made a motion to approve the following Conservation Plans: CP-25-24-0009 with an SL-8B and SL-1, CP-25-24-0011 with a SL-7 and a SL-1, CP-25-24-0010 with a SL-8B, and CP-25-24-0005 with a SL-1. Kelly Gilmer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Scott Jessee made a motion to approve the following : Conservation Contract number 25-24-0016, associated instance number 575406 and in the amount of \$2,580.30; Conservation Contract number 25-24-0008 associated instance number 578902 and in the amount of \$3,247.20 ; Conservation Contract number 25-24-0018 associated instance number 578229 and in the amount of \$23,953.00 ; Conservation Contract number 25-24-0007 associated instance number 538806 and in the amount of \$624.40 ; Conservation Contract number 25-24-0017 associated instance number 577622 and in the amount of \$684.90 ; Conservation Contract number 25-24-0018 associated instance number 578241 and in the amount of \$3,737.50 ; Conservation Contract number 25-24-0016, associated instance number 575407 and in the amount of \$4,887.50 ; Conservation Contract number 25-24-0004, associated instance number 537720 and in the amount of \$7,475.00 ; Conservation Contract number 25-24-0020 associated instance number 581225 and in the amount of \$1,912.50 ; Conservation Contract number 25-24-0015 associated instance number 574494 and in the amount of \$865.40 ; Conservation Contract number 25-24-0010 associated instance number 543737 and in the amount of \$1,200.00 ; Conservation Contract number 25-24-0019 associated instance number 578894 and in the amount of 100.00. Kelly Gilmer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

2023/24 Drill Fee for J. Bush: Brandon Blevins reported that Jason Bush had over wintered the three No till Drills and allowed staff to use space and tools to work on the drills while tuning them. Mr. Bush had rented the drill this fall, and the total amount owed was \$600.00. Kelly Gilmer made a motion that the District waive the \$600.00 owed Drill rental fee for exchange of Mr. Bush storing the drills again this winter. Scott seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Jason Bush returned to the meeting

Big Poppa NT Drill New Parts Needed: Brandon Blevins reported that all coulters on the Big Poppa Drill needed to be replaced as well as the front axle on the dolly wheel. He shared the prices of the replacement pieces from different vendors and the Shoup vendor came in at the lowest bid. Jason Bush made a motion to proceed with repairs and to give Brandon Blevins the authority to choose the lowest bid for the parts including shipping and to spend up to \$4,000 total. Kelly Gilmer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

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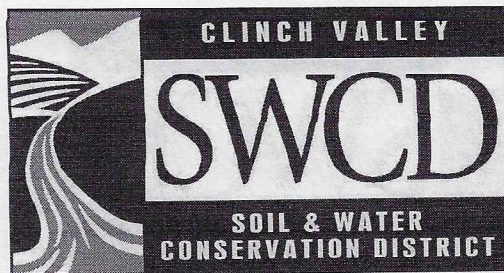
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Delegate Tax Credit Approval: Siobhan Nishida shared that all tax credits should be approved by the December BOD meeting, but DCR suggests that authority is given to some on the BOD in case there is a cancellation of the meeting or an approval request after the meeting but before the end of the year. Jason Bush made a motion to give authority to both Zac Ketron and Kelly Gilmer to approve eligible tax credits under the stated circumstances. Scott Jessee seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Approval of Brandon Blevins to Present at Woods and Wildlife Conference in Feb 2024: Brandon states that he has been invited to represent Soil and Water Conservation Districts in a meeting in February of 2024 and be a part of a discussion panel that will present Best Management Practice to do with forestry. Brandon states that it is on a Saturday and in Wytheville. Scott Jessee made a motion for Brandon to attend the meeting and represent the Districts. Jason Bush seconded the motion and the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES:

DCR

Siobhan Nishida presented acting DCR Conservation District Coordinator Angie Ball's November 2023 DCR- DSWC CDC report to the board and staff. See attachment A.

NRCS

Siobhan Nishida reviewed the November 2023 USDA Lebanon Service Center Report, bringing special attention to the ACT NOW policy which is meant to streamline the application processes as part of the NRCS Equity Action Plan. See attachment B.

Clinch Valley Staff, Siobhan Nishida, Hannah Rexrode, Jeff Mutter and Brandon Blevins

CVSWCD Staff reviewed the November 2023 CVSWCD Staff Report with the Board. See att. C.

VA Coop Extension Service

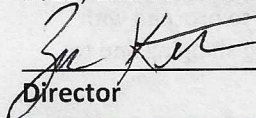
Scott Jessee and Bill Worrell report on some of the programs including livestock sales and maple syrup instructional classes happening this month.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Annual Meeting December 2-6 Norfolk VA
Executive Committee Meeting December 14, 2023, 11 am
Board Meeting December 14, 2023, 12:30 pm

ADJOURN

Zac Ketron declared the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm due to no further business. Kelly Gilmer seconded the motion. Next Board of Directors meeting was scheduled to take place on December 14, 2023, and be held at the CVSWCD Meeting Room.



Director