**Big Sandy Soil & Water Conservation District**
**1236 Almarine Drive**
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***Board Meeting Minutes***

***September 16, 2026***

**Big Sandy Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors met Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 10:00 am at Peking Restaurant, Grundy, VA**

Board Members
Josh McGlothlin, Chairman
Ruth Horn, Vice Chair
Brad Mullins, Director
Bobby Looney, Director
James Horn, Director
Virginia Looney, Associate Director

Staff
Jeanne Presley, District Manager

Agency Personnel
Emerson Kirby, NRCS
Wess Stanley, NRCS

Members Absent
Leona Wolford, Associate Director
Samantha Justus, Associate Director
Taylor Burgess, Associate Director

Attendance from Public

**Call to Order**

Josh McGlothlin, Chairman, called the September 16, 2026, meeting to order at 10:24 am. A quorum was met with 5 of 5 board members present.

**Additions to The Agenda**

**Public Comments**

None

**Approval of August 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes and Special Called Meeting September 1, 2026**

The August 26, 2026, board meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Bobby Looney made a motion to approve the August 26, 2026, minutes. Ruth E. Horn seconded the motion. Motion carried. The September 1, 2026, special called meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Ruth E. Horn made a motion to approve the September 1, 2026, special called meeting minutes. Bobby Looney seconded the motion. Motion carried

**Review, Receive and File the Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report as June 30, 2026, was reviewed by Ruth E. Horn in the absence of Samantha Justus, Treasurer. James Horn made a motion to receive and file the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Bobby Looney. Motion carried.

**Reports From Cooperating Agencies**

Jeanne Presley, in the absence of Lorie Stevens, presented her September 2026 DCR-DSWC CDC report. Attachment A.

Wess Stanley, District Conservationist, discussed the September 2026 NRCS report. No written report received.

**Reports from Staff:**

Jeanne Presley, District Manager/Education Specialist, reviewed her report with the board for the month of August 2026. See Attachment B.

Jeanne Presley, District Manager in the absence of Jake Hess, Conservation Technician, reviewed his report with the board for the month of August 2026. Attachment C

Jeanne Presley, District Manager, in the absence of Jon Fuller, Conservation Technician, reviewed his report with the board for the month of August 2026. Attachment D.

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business**

**Local Government Investment Pool Performance**

The board was advised that the district had gained interest during the month of August in the three accounts opened with LGIP as follows:

| FUND | AUGUST INTEREST |
|---|---|
| Building Fund: | $259.71 |
| Special Projects | $59.83 |
| Lime/Fertilizer Funds | $80.81 |

**Agriculture Stewardship Act**

The board was advised that a request was received for Big Sandy Soil & Water Conservation District to assist agencies with the Agriculture Stewardship Act. After discussion, the board determined that due to limited staffing Big Sandy SWCD would not participate in this program this year. Motion was made by James Horn. Seconded by Brad Mullins. Motion Carried

**Appoint Review Committee for Septic Applications**

The board was advised that under the provisions of the 319h Grant, the board needed to appoint a committee to review the applications for approval. After discussion, it was determined that Samantha Justus, Bobby Looney and James Horn would make up the review committee. Brad Mullins made the motion to approve the appointments to the committee as discussed. Ruth E. Horn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Outdoor Classroom Update**

The board was advised that the Outdoor Classroom was moving forward with the excavation being completed by Zach Mondrage.

**Farmer's Market Update**

The board was advised that the Southern Gap Farmer's Market is now officially open. There have been several vendors attending the market, as well as several customers.

**Community Garden Update**

The board was advised that the Community Garden was completed. There are 6 boxes for individuals to plant crops. There was not enough money to fill the additional 5 boxes with soil, but a grant will be sought to purchase soil to fill those boxes prior to spring.

**Ag Day**

The board was advised that Ag Day is on track and multiple agencies and presenters will be in attendance that day. Appalachian College of Pharmacy and Appalachian School of Law will have volunteers to assist that day.

**Spiritfest**

The board was advised that staff attended Spiritfest to advertise Ag Day. Based on response from the public it is believed that Ag Day will be well attended.

**Whitewood Car Show**

The board was advised that Bobby Looney attended the Whitewood Car Show representing Big Sandy SWCD to advertise Ag Day.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance Committee**

Ruth E. Horn, Chair of the Finance Committee, advised the board that the Finance Committee met on September 1, 2026, at 12:30 pm at Grundy Baptist Church to discuss the resignation of Jon Fuller and the need to hire a new employee. After Discussion, Taylor Burgess made the motion to advertise a part-time position for $15.00 per hour from 29-40 hours per week and after 90 days, consider transitioning to full time. Bobby Looney seconded the motion and motion carried.

Ruth E. Horn asked about the Pond at Southern Gap. The committee was advised that Zach Mondrage had worked to complete the excavation. James Horn made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Bobby Looney. Motion carried.

**Personnel Committee Meeting**

Ruth E. Horn, Chair of the Personnel Committee advised that the Personnel Committee met on September 1, 2026, at 12:00 noon. The committee reviewed the resignation letter from Jon Fuller as Conservation Technician effective September 9, 2026. Mr. Fuller proposed to continue to work for the district on a part-time basis administering the Erosion and Sediment Control program one day per week.

After discussion, Virginia Looney made a motion to offer Jon Fuller a part-time job at $22.00 per hour, 10 hours per day, 1 day per week, to follow the the regular pay cycle. Josh McGlothlin seconded the motion.

Josh McGlothlin made the motion to develop a structured pay scale, and that new employees must agree to work for the district 2 years before they would be allowed to attend training. James Horn made a motion to approve the minutes of the Personnel Committee. Seconded by Bobby Looney. Motion Carried

**Announcements:** The next meeting will be held on October 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Peking Restaurant, Grundy VA.

**Adjourn:** James Horn made the motion to adjourn at 11:35 am. Seconded by Bobby Looney. The motion carried.

**The attached minutes were approved by the Board on** 10/21/26

**Signed by** _____
**Josh McGlothlin, Big Sandy SWCD, Chair**

**Prepared by** Jeanne Presley
**Jeanne Presley, Big Sandy SWCD, Secretary**