Attendance:

Mark Myers, Andrew Price, H.R. Scott, Katie Fitzsimmons, J.L. Tennant, Mark Teets, Jean Conley, Art Mouser, Ed Utterback, Kaitlyn Jones, Chuck Cienawski, Devon Kokoska, Rudy Williams, Candice Stone, Anna Riggleman, Gene Saurborn, Jill Hauser, Jeremy Salyer (virtual), and Cindy Shreve (virtual).

***Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.***

The “Pledge of Allegiance” was led by Scott.

A prayer was led by Mouser.

October Board Meeting Minutes: ***Teets moved to approve the meeting minutes from 10/5/23. Utterback seconded. Motion passed.***

Cooperating Agency/Organization Reports:

* USDA-NRCS- Fitzsimmons reported on new training, newly open programs, and shared a summary of the written Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist. She encouraged the board to reach out to her if they would like her assistance with upcoming educational/workshop events.
* USDA-FSA- Tennant introduced himself at his first MCD Board Meeting. He reported on new programs, farm loan interest rates in addition to other types of loans.
* WV Division of Forestry-Williams reported on his new hire in the Marion/Taylor counties. He also reported on an open position for the Assistant District Regional Forester and other WVDOF activities in the area.
* WVU Extension- no report
* WVACD- Jones reported on behalf of Shreve, there is an open position in the Potomac Valley District for a Conservation Specialist. She also reported of grants received in the area.
* WVDA- Hauser reported she is now working in the area as a Nutrient Management Specialist. She encouraged the board to reach out to her if they would need her assistance with anything.

Program and Project Reports:

* Watershed Projects Report- Kokoska reported on behalf of Don Whetzel, there are no current projects, a few gates and fence posts need taken care of, invoices will need to be paid, and Watershed and City of Mannington are in an agreement for the Mannington City cleanup.
* Conservation Agreements- Jones provided a written report and gave an update on new applications she has received, returned receipts, and potential new practices cooperators would like to see. ***Scott made a motion to approve AgEP payments for a total of $13,553. Cienawski seconded. Motion passed. Teets was excluded from voting because he is a conflict of interest.***

Solid Waste Authority Reports: Scott reported on the recycling tonnage report received from September. Conley reported Marion County is also having a paper shredding event on 11/4 from 8-12 pm.

Invoices:

* ***Teets moved to approve the invoice for the Upper Decker’s Creek 2 ASW Regrade. Cienawski seconded. Motion passed.***
* ***Cienawski moved to approve the invoice for the CTL Upper Buffalo 39 Seepage Exploration. Teets seconded. Motion passed.***
* ***Utterback moved to approve the invoice for the remaining balance for Upper Buffalo 4. Teets seconded. Motion passed.***

Letters of Request: none to report on

Unfinished Business: The board broke out in an executive session following the end of the regular board meeting to discuss the past meeting with Mills Group.

New Business:

* ***Cienawski made a motion to give out 3 scholarships per county in addition to 1 at large for a total of 10 Appalachian Grazing Scholarships. Utterback seconded. Motion passed.***
* ***Because Monongalia County’s population reached over 100,000, Scott made a motion to add a 7th supervisor to the MCD Board. Cienawski seconded. Motion passed.*** 
  + ***Utterback made a motion to appoint Andrew Price as the 3rd supervisor until the election results from the Spring are announced. Teets seconded. Motion passed.***
  + ***Cienawski made a motion to contact the County Clerk to place an additional seat on the ballot per the approval of the State Committee. Utterback seconded. Motion passed.***

Correspondence & Newsletters:

* September 2023 NASS Report was received.
* Fall 2023 Friends of the Cheat Newsletter was received.

Funding Request: none to report on

WVCA Reports:

* Watershed Projects Division- Nothing further to report on.
* Conservation Services- Nothing further to report on.
* Administrative Specialist- Nothing to report on.
* District Operations Manager- Kokoska reported on the newly hired A.S. has a tentative start date of November 20th. Each district will do an administrative review that will be submitted in January. The quarterly meeting was a success. He remined the district to review their manual and update it if possible.

Committee Reports:

* Finance- There was nothing further to report on.
* Ag Enhancement- Jones reported on the visits she had been on in the past few weeks for the Heavy Use Area practice.
* Legislation- Saurborn reported there will be more updates in the future about Ag Days and says if you are able to participate you should.
* Safety/Building/Grounds/Equipment- Scott reported there have been an estimate for an outside drain leak. They are scheduled to fix it next Thursday.
* Upper Decker’s Creek Watershed- Teets reported the regrade has been completed.
* Upper Buffalo Creek Watershed- Cienawski reported the trash at Huey Run has not been cleaned up yet in addition, several gates are down.
* Education/Marketing/Soil- no report
* Grasslands- Myers reported the Grasslands competition for the kids will be on Friday, April 12.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

* November 10, 2023- Veteran’s Day- State Holiday- OFFICE CLOSED
* November 23-24, 2023- Thanksgiving Break- State Holiday- OFFICE CLOSED
* December 7, 2023- MCD Board Meeting- 9:30 AM
* December 25, 2023- Christmas Day- State Holiday- OFFICE CLOSED
* January 4, 2024- MCD Board Meeting- 9:30 AM

District Supervisor and Associate Supervisor Reports: Each supervisor gave their own personal report about different activities they have been doing the past month. Myers reported The Appalachian Grazing Conference is scheduled for March 7-9, 2024, in Morgantown, the Beef Expo will also be April 12 at Jackson’s Mill, and Envirothon will be April 17-19, 2024. The next Eastern Area meeting will be Tuesday January 2, 2024, at TCVD.

Teets led the group in a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 PM.