

**Monongahela Conservation District**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 4, 2024**  
**Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center**  
**Morgantown, WV**  
**9:30 am**

Attendance:

**District Supervisors:** Jean Conley (Associate), Mark Teets, Mark Myers, Chuck Cienawski, Andrew Price, Bob Spaid (Associate), HR Scott (virtual), Art Mouser (Associate, virtual)

**USDA-NRCS:** Katie Fitzsimmons, Christopher Toothman

**WVCA:** Kaitlyn Jones, Don Whetzel, Devon Kokoska, Candice Stone, Adrienne Hoalcraft, Gene Saurborn, Cindy Shreve (virtual)

**WVACD:** Heather Duncan (virtual)

**WVDOF:** Rudy Williams, Mike Reese

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

The “Pledge of Allegiance” was led by Jean Conley.

Prayer was given by Bob Spaid.

March 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes – **Cienawski moved to approve the March Meeting Minutes (3/7/24). Teets seconded. Motion carried.**

Cooperating Agency Reports:

- USDA-NRCS- Fitzsimmons provided a written report. She reported on staffing updates, introduced soil conservationist Christopher Toothman, and reminded the supervisors that a local work group meeting needed to be scheduled.
- WV Division of Forestry – Williams reported that the chainsaw safety class during Farm Safety Day (3/23/24) was a success. Fire risk has decreased due to the weather. Cienawski inquired about more extensive chainsaw training. Williams reported that the DOF sees a lot of accidents when people fell trees and discourages it but said the WVU Extension may offer more training.
- WV Association of Conservation Districts- Duncan reported on the Quarterly Meeting scheduled for 4/8/24 and the State Committee Meeting scheduled for 4/9/24. The district will be supplying breakfast and lunch for both meetings. Duncan discussed new employees that would be assisting with outreach. The Annual Plan template is currently being worked on. Duncan encouraged supervisors to reach out if they were interested in being a member of the Agricultural Enhancement Committee. She also reported working on a new supervisor training module.

Solid Waste:

- An electronics grant was approved.
- There is a paper shredding day scheduled for next weekend.

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Invoices:

- TVCD Concrete Spring Tile Lids - \$822.00, S&L Electrical Service Inc \$1,468.87  
Appalachia's Best Cleaning Service, LLC - \$630.00, Republic Services - \$99.23. **Cienawski moved to approve the invoices as presented. Teets seconded. Motion carried.**

Unfinished Business

- Teets reported on the Preston County Farm Safety Day scheduled for 4/6/2024. It will include equipment safety, chainsaw safety proved by the WVDOF and "Stop the Bleed" training provided by Preston Memorial Hospital.

New Business

- Associate Supervisor Appointment – **Cienawski moved to appoint Bob Spaid to the Associate Supervisor position out of Preston County. Price seconded. Motion carried.**
- Cooperator Brad Swiger requested approval to use the MCD name as a sponsor for his farm day. **Cienawski moved to allow Swiger to use the MCD name as a sponsor. Price seconded. The motion carried.**
- The possibility of changes to the OM&R mowing bidding process were discussed. A contract may be given for the whole north region. No decision was made.
- WVU Soils Team requested funding. Conley encouraged giving them support. **Teets moved to give \$1,000 to the WVU Soils Team. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.**
- The annual plan of work is due June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The Annual Work Group was scheduled for May 15 at 5:30 PM at the MCD office. Refreshments will be provided.
- The State Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at Mylan Park in Morgantown. (10AM)
- The August 2024 MCD Board Meeting will be held at the office of Rudy Williams in Marion County. Teets and Spaid will work on a Preston County location for the September meeting.
- Conservation Farm Winners-Winners need approved at next month's meeting. Fitzsimmons of NRCS will help with a list of farms. Kokoska discussed the difference between traditional vs. nontraditional and reported clarifications will be made at the quarterly meeting.
- Spring Box Lids Price – **Scott moved the raise the spring box lids price to \$80. Price seconded. Motion carried.**

Correspondence and Newsletters

- Hoalcraft presented several newsletters and magazines arrive to the office including the USDA Mt State Reporter. These will be brought to each monthly meeting and be available during normal business hours. A thank you card from Sharon Ball was shared. Executive Director Judith Lyons political campaigns memorandum was discussed.

WVCA Reports

- Whetzel reported the dive team found no obstruction at the trash rack on Upper Deckers 5. When the water level goes down NRCS will help use a camera to evaluate further.
- Saurborn discussed the need for state funding for the Agricultural Enhancements program. He stressed the importance of the districts working together and having one consistent voice. Price encouraged being more inclusive of all agriculture including urban farming. The

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issues caused by the difference between the calendar year and the fiscal year were discussed.

- Jones gave updates on the FY24 AgEP plan. **Cienawski moved to approve payment of \$4,526 to Darlene Bolyard. Teets seconded. Motion carried. Cienawski moved to approve payment of \$5,000 to JR Wolfe pending corrections to his verification form. Teets seconded. Motion carried.**
- **Teets moved to approve conservation agreements for Britney Atkinson, Damon Bolden & Janet Sener, Brian Bolyard, Thomas W. Clark, Willaim Estep, Steven Hose, James Keener, Harrison Linkous, Joni Morris, Christopher White, and Bryan Yates. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.**
- Shreve discussed grants including SMART Farms grant and GLCI grant.
- Hoalcraft provided a written report. Getting MCD's name and message more publicity was discussed. Hoalcraft will work on this and provide an update at the next meeting.
- Kokoska gave a written report and said the new AS's in other districts will be starting soon.

Committee Reports

- Finance-**Cienawski moved to file for audit. Price seconded. Motion carried.**
- Ag Enhancement-Scott reported on the hope to use all the funding received.
- Legislation-A committee for the ag enhancement line item was discussed.
- Safety/Building/Grounds/Equipment-Repairs needed to the No Till Seeder were discussed. Teets presented quotes for new seeders. Past seeder rentals were reviewed. **Cienawski moved to take the current seeder out of service and put it up for bid once value has been assessed. A reserve will be placed on it and the board can reject any and all bids. Scott seconded. Motion carried.**
- The Graslands competition and beef expo will take place in Jane Lew on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mouser motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark Myers, Chairman

Date

5-2-24

