

Monongahela Conservation District Board Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2024

Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center

Morgantown, WV

9:30 am

Attendance:

District Supervisors: Mark Myers (Chairman), Mark Teets, Jean Conley (associate), Andrew Price, HR Scott, Chuck Cienawski, and Bob Spaid (associate)

USDA-NRCS: Christopher Toothman

WVCA: Kaitlyn Jones, Devon Kokoska, Adrienne Hoalcraft, and Sigrid Teets

WVACD: Vanta Coda (virtual), Julie Simmons (virtual)

Guest: Lora Michael (Mannington mayor)

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

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was led by Bob Spaid.

AgEP:

- Jones gave a report on the status of FY24 including several fences that were not completed and a list of projects she is working to have completed before the deadline.
- She provided a spreadsheet and reported \$16,899 that was approved but not spent yet
- **Scott moved to approve Casey Hayes FY24 Urban Agriculture application. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.**
- **Cienawski moved to approve payment to Doug Cyphers in the amount of \$1,401.55 for Lime. Scott seconded. Motion carried.**
- Scott granted Kathee Sharp an extension for her fence. June 15th was given as the last day possible, but Jones will determine the best cutoff date.
- **Scott moved to approve Conservation Agreements for Robert Bartholow, Casey Hayes, Keith Larew, Kenneth Stone, Tim Tennant, Daniel Wolfe, and Jeffrey Zinn. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.**

Visitor's Comments:

- Mannington mayor Lora Michael spoke on her appreciation for all the help MCD provides in keeping the Buffalo Creek Channel maintained. Michael stressed the importance of the dams.
- Michael presented chairman Myers with a check for \$5,000 for Buffalo Creek Channel cleaning and maintenance.

April 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

- **Teets moved to approve the April meeting minutes (4/4/24). Price seconded. Motion carried.**

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Cooperating Agency Reports:

- USDA-NRCS: Toothman provided a written statement to the board. He offered 3 suggestions for Conservation District Farm of the Year. NRCS will lead the work group meeting on May 15th with it following the previous year's layout. **Price moved to provide up to \$300 for refreshments for the work group meeting. Teets seconded. Motion carried.**
- WVACD: Coda and Simmons are happy to help with communications and outreach. Hoalcraft will work with them on AgEP promotion.
- TVCD supervisor Donnie Tenney is working on a bulk biochar order. Hoalcraft will work on getting this information to the public.

Solid Waste Authority Reports:

- Scott reported continual work on a contract.
- Tire recycling sites were discussed. Myers reported a lot of public interest in the matter. Spaid will reach out to a new Preston county business for further information

Invoices:

- **Cienawski moved to approve payment of \$600 to RLI Surety for supervisor bonds. Teets seconded. Motion carried.** After a 7th supervisor is added we will increase this amount by \$100.

Funding Request:

- Myers spoke on his experience at Envirothon 2024 and his pride in the Morgantown High School team. He shared their ambition in getting the team started and the cost they incurred to compete.
- **Teets moved to approve \$1,000 payment to reimburse Morgantown High School Envirothon team members for their expenses. Price seconded. Motion carried.** Myers was given authority to work with Hoalcraft on getting the check to the right person to ensure the students receive these funds.

Unfinished Business:

- Kokoska shared an email from watershed manager Don Whetzel regarding contracts for mowing. Supervisors expressed desire for locals to complete the work.
- **Teets moved to do contracts (2 separate) for Upper Deckers Creek mowing and Upper Buffalo Creek mowing. Price seconded. Motion carried.**
- **Scott moved to appoint Teets to have signature authority for the Upper Deckers Creek mowing contract. Price seconded. Motion carried.**
- **Scott moved to appoint Cienawski to have signature authority for the Upper Buffalo Creek mowing. Price seconded. Motion carried.**

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- Spaid and Teets are still working on a Preston County September meeting site.
- **Cienawski moved to change the July MCD board meeting to July 11th because the normally scheduled meeting fell on a holiday (July 4th). Price seconded. Motion carried.**
- Scott provided an update on building improvements. Hoalcraft provided a written report for the meeting with Mills Group. MCD board meetings may need to be held at different locations during construction.

District Operations Manager:

- Kokoska provided a written report. He stressed the timeline for Conservation Farm of the Year. He shared an email from watershed manager Don Whetzel detailing the need for a contract for Mannington Channel Cleanout.
- **Cienawski moved to do a contract for the Mannington Channel clean out. Scott seconded. Motion carried.**

New Business:

- Associate supervisors Jean Conley, Art Mouser, and Jim McDonald will serve on the nomination committee.
- Possible farm options for farm of the year were discussed. Farm visits need scheduled by mid-late May.
- Committee appointments will be handled in June after elections.
- Cienawski expressed the desire to adjust rates for AgEP equipment use due to rising prices. Hoalcraft and S. Teets will work with CS Jones to discuss options.
- **Teets moved to allow the Administrative Specialist (Adrienne Hoalcraft) to have view only access to all district bank accounts. Price seconded. Motion carried.** – No changes to accounts can be made through online banking. This will be read only access for the purpose of having current banking information for supervisors.
- Funding for WVACD was discussed.

Correspondence:

- **Cienawski moved to order 200 calendars from Myron. Price seconded. Teets opposed. Motion carried.**

Watershed Division:

- S. Teets reported on Upper Deckers Creek dams 2,4,5, and 6 issues and the opportunity for rehab on dams 5 and 6. Dam rehab was discussed and will be addressed again at next month's meeting.
- Cienawski voiced concern about dam monitors and requested a dinner with them to update on protocols and future plans

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- Hoalcraft will request a dam monitor update from Gene Sauborn and Don Whetzel.

Hoalcraft provided a written report.

Legislation:

- Myers reported conservation day days will be in February with the quarterly meeting occurring at the same time.

Safety/Building/Equipment:

- No bids were received from other districts for the No-Till Seeder. The No-Till Seeder will be put out to bid for the public.
- We need to get a new WV flag for the building
- New construction supplies need to be ordered

Upper Deckers Creek Watershed:

- Blockage on dam 5 remains.

Education/Marketing/Soil

- Pleasant Valley Elementary provided pictures of students using their high tunnel
- Preston farm safety day was a success

Supervisors provided reports on their current activities and projects.

Price motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:13 PM.

Minutes approved by: _____


Mark Myers, Chairman

6-6-24
Date