

Monongahela Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
January 2nd, 2025
Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center
Morgantown, WV
9:30 am

Attendance:

Supervisors: Mark Teets (Chairman), Andy Price, Mark Myers, Bob Spaid, Chuck Cienawski, HR Scott, Brandon Linton (virtual), Art Mouser (virtual. associate)

DOF: Rudy Williams

NRCS: Christopher Toothman

WVU Extension: Carrie See (virtual), Kate Fotos (virtual)

WVCA: Kaitlyn Jones, Devon Kokoska, Adrienne Hoalcraft, Don Whetzel (virtual), Stephen Starcher (virtual)

WVACD: Heather Duncan (virtual)

Chairman Teets called the meeting to order at 9:37AM.

Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance. Myers delivered the prayer.

Myers moved to approve the regular meeting minutes, AgEP minutes, and Safety minutes from 12/5/24. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NRCS: Toothman provided a written report and highlighted vacancies being filled in the White Hall office.

FSA: A written report was provided.

DOF: Williams reported things were mostly quiet. Marion County had the last fall fire season fire.

Extension: Fotos discussed the GRASS grant program. She highlighted the reporting and education incentives and WVU handling recruitment and technical support. The application period is now open.

WVACD: Myers reminded everyone the January 6th quarterly meeting was virtual only. He discussed future quarterly meetings, and the possibility of some districts leaving the association. Duncan told everyone the Community Development Grant deadline had been extended until the end of January.

The state AgEP meeting and proposed changes to the AgEP allocation formula were discussed. The board was unhappy with the proposed changes and happy they did not pass. Cienawski would have liked the subcommittee to be more diverse.

WVCA Reports:

Kokoska reported WVCA was working on 3 bids for a large siphon for Upper Deckers 5. He and Armstrong are working with Delbert from TVCD for work on Upper Buffalo watershed issues. MCD is still in a D1 for the drought. Cienawski reported 911 and Homeland Security were working on removing the tree from the Mannington Channel on 1/2/25.

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Jones gave an update on AgEP contracts. Charles Cline will not be completing his HUAP and BG contract due to personal hardships. How to handle the funding was discussed.

Cienawski moved to approve Darlene Bolyard's exigency application and \$499.90 payment. Spaid seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Hoalcraft gave a report on the Drought Application progress. The new AS in TVCD is scheduled to start 1/13/25. She received a price for polos for the supervisors. Hoalcraft will get a price for long sleeve button down shirts (with a pocket) and Myers will look into options for screen printed tshirts.

Whetzel reported more on the Drought Assistance Program.

Solid Waste Authority: Scott said Mon Solid Waste Authority had finished their grant report and are working on the schedule for the 2025 programs. They will also work on a new 5 year plan this year.

No report was given from Preston or Marion County Solid Waste Authority. **Cienawski moved to send a letter to the Marion County Solid Waste Authority requesting a representative be present or a written report be provided for the monthly MCD board meetings. Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Hoalcraft will reach out to the Preston County representative about receiving monthly reports.

Myers moved to approve the financial statements and file them for audit. Spaid seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Myers moved to approve the Letter of Request for the Drought Assistance Program funds. Cienawski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Price will provide a new United States flag for the building. Myers will work on getting a new WV state flag for the building.

New Business:

- The Ethics Disclosure Statement was discussed. Hoalcraft provided printed out copies for the supervisors that needed them.
- Two Century Farm Applications were presented to review. **Myers moved to approve the Century Farm applications for Donetta & Michael Sisler and the Sisler Family Farm. Spaid seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Hoalcraft will work on getting a list of past Century Farms.

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- The Dunstant Chestnut Project grant was discussed. Cienawski reported on a meeting with himself, Bob Spaid, Andy Price, and Carrie See. See has developed a draft application. Price and Cienawski are working on gathering information regarding the prices of trees and where best to get them from. Approved applicants will receive additional education, including some from the DOF. The board reviewed the draft application. A few more details on the program may be added to the application. Approved applicants will fill out a contract with much more detail including a feedback report.
- See also reported the Preston County Winter Dinner meeting will take place on January 14th at the Reedsville Farm. The registration deadline is 1/7/25.

Committee Reports:

- Ag Enhancement: The FY2026 administrative agreement was discussed, but will not be completed/approved until after the state committee meeting.
- Legislation: AgEP Day and preparations for it were discussed.
- Safety/Building/Grounds/Equipment: Cienawski reported most of the new ceiling tiles are in and new door seals have been placed. Scott reported lights were fixed in the watershed office. The board will be looking into getting spring box lids for a cheaper price, possibly from Elk Conservation District.
 - The future of the building was discussed. February is a possible move out date for NRCS. The supervisors discussed how to prepare for new potential renters. The board will not continue to rent the garage to NRCS when their current lease is up. Teets expressed displeasure about the lack of response from the WVCA and State Real Estate division's refusal to negotiate on rent and remodeling. The board needs to look into obtaining a representative to negotiate a new lease with WVCA when the current one expires. The board needs to determine what they want to do with the current NRCS space.
- Upper Deckers dam monitor Dan Luzier passed away. Bob Spaid is working with Levi Cyphers to find a new monitor.
- Cienawski is working with Stephen Starcher to obtain funding for the Mannington Channel. A meeting with the County Commission will take place on January 16th.
- Price reported on a lot of prep work happening for pollinators. RC&D providing medication with honeybee nucs was discussed.
- The Appalachian Grazing Community will meet January 16th.

Spaid moved to adjourn the meeting.



Mark Teets, Chairman



Date