

**Monongahela Conservation District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 5th, 2024  
Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center  
Morgantown, WV  
9:30 am**

**Attendance:**

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

WVCA: Kaitlyn Jones, Don Whetzel (virtual), Devon Kokoska, Adrienne Hoalcraft, Levi Cyphers

Division of Forestry: Rudy Williams

NRCS: Christopher Toothman

WVACD: Vanta Coda

Guests: LaDeana Teets

Chairman Teets called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

Andy Price delivered the prayer.

The pledge of Allegiance was led by Chuck Cienawski.

**Myers moved to approve the November 7, 2024, meeting minutes. Spaid seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Cooperating Agencies Reports:**

- NRCS-Toothman provided a written report. He spoke on vacancies in the White Hall office.
- DOF: Williams invited the board to attend the annual Christmas Luncheon on December 16<sup>th</sup> in Farmington, WV. He spoke about the deer season in the area. He reported we are still in a drought.
- Extension: Spaid reported there will be a pesticide training at Maple Spring Church on December 13<sup>th</sup>.
- WVACD: Heather Duncan provided a written report. Hoalcraft emphasized the January quarterly meeting would be VIRTUAL ONLY. Vanta discussed the Community Development Grant. It aims to serve underserved communities and is due December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**WVCA Reports**

- Watershed Division: The Upper Deckers 5 obstruction removal bids were 3x more expensive than expected. **Myers moved to reject all Upper Deckers 5 obstruction removal bids. Spaid seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Kokoska and Cyphers spoke on alternative options. WVCA is interested in pursuing the purchase of large-scale siphons. They have investigated local options without much success. Spaid questioned how long obtaining siphons would take. Cyphers explained that the purchase would need to go through state purchasing. Teets questioned if the process would be quicker if the district bought it. Cyphers will look into all options and report back.

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- Jones gave a report on the current AgEP contracts.
  - AgEP Payment Approvals:
    - Douglas Cyphers – HUAP - \$5,000
    - Shawn Sessa – BG - \$1,000
  - **Myers moved to approve the AgEP payments for the cooperators as presented. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
  - AgEP extension: Jones reported that cooperator Charles Cline had requested an extension for his HUAP and BG contracts. A timeline for the extension was discussed. **Myers moved to approve Charles Cline's extension for bale grazing and heavy use area protection until December 20<sup>th</sup>. Spaid seconded the motion. Further discussion happened regarding the timeframe and weather conditions.**
    - **Price moved to amend the motion to approve an extension for Charles Cline for BG and HUAP until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Myers seconded the amendment. Motion carried.**
    - Jones will let Cline know he has until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 to complete his bale grazing and heavy use area protection contracts.

Myers excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

- Hoalcraft provided a written report. The Orkin invoice was discussed. The doors need weather stripping and Orkin needs to treat for ants in the conference room. Hoalcraft spoke briefly on the 2024 Drought Assistance Program. She highlighted that producers would need to fill out applications IN PERSON at the conservation district. They would need a new w9 and to bring a completed report from FSA called the 2024 Livestock Forage Disaster Program Estimated Calculated Payment Report. Hoalcraft also stressed no application approvals or funding information would be known until after the application period ends (January 31<sup>st</sup>.)
- Whetzel spoke more on the drought program. Some additional details included that applicants were NOT required to be district cooperators, and WVCA has no control over the funding or application approvals. The agency and districts are simply acting as payment facilitators.

**Solid Waste Authority**

- No reports were available at this time.

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

**Invoices**

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- **Scott moved to approve payment of the quarterly premium for BRIM. Cienawski seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Hoalcraft received an invoice from Mills Group on 12/4/24. The board has already approved payments under the current contract with Mills Group. Hoalcraft will submit the invoice to Bookwise for payment.

**Spaid moved to sign the agreement between MCD and WVCA for the drought assistance program. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Hoalcraft is waiting to receive more information on shirts. She will report back at the January meeting.

**Committee Reports**

- Cienawski, Price, and Scott all reviewed the financial statements. The banks will need to be notified MCD will no longer be seeking funding for a building remodel.
- Moving the 5-ton spreader back to Morgantown for winter was discussed.
- Scott informed the board that the state real estate group was not interested in a lease adjustment. The district will still need to pay their contract to Mills Group. Scott will inform Mills Group on the decision. **Scott moved to write a letter to the state acknowledging they received their letter and expressing regret that it did not work out. Spaid seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- The board discussed the need for a written agreement for any future projects.
- Cienawski spoke on the need for some building repairs. The supervisors will work on replacing the damaged ceiling tiles. **Spaid moved to replace the damaged ceiling tiles. Linton seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Cienawski spoke on the issues with the Mannington Channel. He has spoken to Delbert Vandevander from TVCD about doing work on the channel. He requested a letter of all work that needs to be done on the channel from WVCA. Kokoska will work on obtaining the list.
- Cienawski spoke on the grant MCD received. Along with Carrie See from extension, he would like to see involvement from a supervisor in each county.
- Vanta spoke on the Community Development Grant. The process is very similar to the Community Outreach Grant. Vanta offered to supply a list of associations for the district to work with. Vanta gave some information on what other districts have been pursuing.

**The supervisors watched the WVA Safe Driver Video for vehicle safety training.**

Cienawski moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:03pm.