

**Monongahela Conservation District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center  
Morgantown, WV  
9:30 am**

**Attendance:**

Supervisors: Mark Teets (chairman), Mark Myers, Andy Price, Bob Spaid, HR Scott, Chuck Cienawski, Art Mouser (associate)  
WVCA: Kaitlyn Jones, Devon Kokoska, Adrienne Hoalcraft  
WVU Extension: Carrie See (virtual)  
WVACD: Heather Duncan (virtual), Vanta Coda (virtual)  
NRCS: Jackie Byars, Christopher Toothman  
DOF: Rudy Williams

Chairman Teets called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

Cienawski led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mouser led the prayer.

**Spaid moved to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2025 meeting, seconded by Price. Motion carried.**

**Cooperating Agencies:**

NRCS: Toothman provided a written report. White Hall is very short-staffed. Funding freezers were discussed. Jackie Byars introduced herself. She is currently filled in for Raphael Mendez.

DOF: Williams spoke on the hunting and fishing show that was held in Morgantown and reported on multiple structure fires.

WVU Extension: See talked about several upcoming events including Backyard Poultry 101 on March 15<sup>th</sup> and Meet the Forester on March 25<sup>th</sup>. She said soil samples were taking around 2 weeks to get results and recommending calling if it's been longer than 3 weeks.

WVACD: Duncan urged the supervisors to continue contacting their legislators about funding, especially for per diem. Duncan has been extended to work through the end of April. The next quarterly meeting will take place on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Lakes. Vanta shared a rough draft of a new rack card. He is still working on getting correct links for some cooperating agencies.

**WVCA:**

Watershed: Kokoska reported he was working on dam orders. Watershed technician Armstrong will be out for 60 days. He reported West Fork 's new field operations technician starts Monday. A seep on Upper Deckers 1 was discussed. Kokoska reported the siphons were still with state purchasing.

Conservation Services: Jones reported just over \$14,000 has been spent so far. She reported due to cancellations there is extra funding that needs allocated. She spoke on the next fence application

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FY25 for each supervisor. **Scott moved to approve the financial statements and file them for audit, seconded Spaid. Motion carried.**

**Unfinished Business**

**Myers moved to untable the recall of funds topic for discussion only, seconded by Cienawski. Motion carried.** Kokoska reported the money right now could not be used for any future projects and no interest could be gained by the district. If recalled, the money would go into a pool to be used by the districts for future needs and to benefit conservation. The supervisors stated Gene Saurborn had told them the money must stay with that specific project and cannot be pulled to be used for something else in the past and wondered why it could be moved now. Kokoska reported the funds were fully state funded dollars, not federal. Cienawski reported wanting Executive Director Judith Lyons to explain the situation to the board. Heather Duncan questioned if the funds would go to a statewide account. She said the details should be worked out first. She felt it was a cart before the horse situation and the agency had more explaining to do before the district should recall the funds. Spaid and Cienawski said they would like to see a contract stating the funds will go back to projects for MCD. The supervisors expressed wanting more information from Gene Saurborn. **Myers moved to table the discussion until next month's meeting, seconded by Spaid. Motion carried.**

Cienawski spoke on the status of the Chestnut Tree grant. Funding is currently frozen but there is hope it will be unfrozen. The grant committee will continue to work on taking applications and meeting as needed so they will be ready to go if/when the funding becomes available. Cienawski thanked Carrie See and the participating supervisors for all their help with the project.

Scott and Hoalcraft reported on a letter the district received stating the district was not in good standing with the WV Tax Division. After numerous phone calls and emails, Hoalcraft is working on obtaining all the tax information from the accountant and submitting it to show that the district is in fact in good standing.

Cienawski reported on a conversation he had with the Monongalia Beekeepers. They are hosting an event on April 6<sup>th</sup> and would like the district to have a table. Explaining differences between RC&D and MCD was discussed. Price and Cienawski will work on the event.

A contract has been signed with the Dept of Agriculture to support treating for Tree of Heaven.

**Committee Reports**