

**Monongahela Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
November 6th, 2025-DRAFT
Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center
Morgantown, WV
9:30 am**

Attendance:

Supervisors: Mark Teets (Chairman), Brandon Linton, Chuck Cienawski, HR Scott, Mark Myers, Jean Conley (associate), Andy Price
WVU Extension: Carrie See, Josh Malencia
WVACD: Vanta Coda (virtual)
Marion DHSEM: Chris McIntire, Dennis Knotts
MCPARC: Tina Mascaro
WVCA: Judith Lyons (virtual), Stephen Starcher (virtual), Devon Kokoska, Don Whetzel (virtual), Davin White, Kaitlyn Jones, Adrienne Hoalcraft, Bill Armstrong

Chairman Teets called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.

Linton led the Pledge of Allegiance and delivered the prayer.

West Fork River Blockage

Chairman Teets elected to address the blockage on the West Fork river first. Cienawski reported he had looked at the blockage site. Chris McIntire reported the blockage had been there for several years but was made worse by recent flooding and was washing out the rail trail. McIntire had tried to work with FEMA but wasn't having much luck due to the preexisting issue. The governor has been made aware of the issue which is complicated by the amount of debris and the difficulty to get to the blockage. Kokoska reported the WVCA would be willing to help with funding and offer technical assistance but the agency could not pay the full amount and would not maintain it after the blockage was cleared.

Starcher stated WVCA could contribute financially but would like contracting to be handled by the Marion County Commission. The MCC would need to enter into a 713U agreement first and a sub agreement for the specific project.

Lyons spoke on needing multiple agencies to work together to gather resources to address the issue. Lyons reported WVCA technicians have been to the blockage site, and she (Lyons) has been in contact with the governor's office. She reiterated that WVCA could provide some funding but could not fund the entire project. She recommended talking to

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the Marion County Commission about a 713U agreement as the first step. She explained the 713U is a master agreement stating that the MCC commission wants to work together and a sub agreement after would cover the specifics of this blockage removal.

The difficulties related to the project were discussed. McIntire agreed the first step was to speak to the Marion County Commission about entering into an agreement. Lyons will provide the 713U agreement to MCPARC, Chris McIntire, and the district.

**Myers moved to approve the meeting minutes for 10/2/25, seconded by Cienawski.
Motion carried.**

Cooperating Agencies

- WVU Extension's Malencia spoke about the upcoming mushroom workshop. 33 people have signed up. Cienawski inquired about working with extension to host a spring drone spraying. Price suggested March or April as a possible time frame. Spraying actual chemicals as opposed to just a water demonstration was discussed. See can look into the cost of chemicals and the types of chemicals used. Price and Linton's farms were discussed as options. Cienawski also spoke about wood tick issues. Tying in the tick issue with a drone spraying event was discussed.
- Malencia spoke about several projects that are wrapping up including organic ornamental corn project and a farm to school conference. Pesticide training will take place November 21st at the Mylan Park extension office.
- See spoke on an upcoming estate planning workshop on November 12th. A virtual follow up will take place on January 9th. See is also working on a drone sprayed liquid lime testing project.
- WVACD's Coda asked about MCD's interest in participating in the State Fair in the future. He asked for meeting topic ideas for the next quarterly meeting. Coda spoke on maple producers in the area. Myers and Cienawski discussed getting organized for Farm of the Year sooner. Myers reported districts would be sharing tables this year at Ag day.

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WVCA

- White asked the board for highlights from their previous year. Several were discussed including spending all the AgEP funding, Linton being named WVACD Rookie of the Year, Mouser receiving an RC&D award, a very successful annual banquet, a farm safety day, a pollinator event, a mushroom workshop, tree removal from the Mannington Channel, and a successful chestnut tree project. White reported grazing calendars would be coming soon.
- Kokoska gave an update on the siphon for Upper Deckers 5. He reported any price right now would be a very rough estimate as there are so many variables. An estimate for mobilization and a time frame to get the water down were discussed. **Myers moved to enter into a contract with WVCA to dewater Upper Deckers 5, seconded by Price. Motion carried.**
- Kokoska reported the siphons and pumps would be monitored 24/7. Starcher discussed giving someone designated signing authority. **Myers moved to get MCD Chairman and Upper Deckers Watershed Committee Chair Mark Teets signing authority on contracts for Upper Deckers 5, seconded by Linton. Motion carried.**
- **Myers moved to give Mark Teets signing authority for the Upper Deckers 5 Notice to Proceed, seconded by Cienawski. Motion carried.**
- **Myers moved to approve the Monitoring and Emergency Action Plan for Upper Buffalo 37a and have Chairman Teets sign it, seconded by Price. Motion carried.**
- **Myers moved to approve cooperator agreements for Bryan Cheslock, Elvin Forman, and Delford Hoover, seconded by Price. Motion carried.**
- Jones report District Operations Manager Whetzel approved Water Hauling and Temporary Fence applications for Marion County supervisor Chuck Cienawski.
- **Linton moved to approve FY26 exigency applications for David Clarkson (WS), David Clarkson (Temp Fence), David Clarkson (Irrigation), David Clarkson (Revegetation), Crystal Kelly (WS), Crystal Kelly (Temp Fence), Hayward Luckey (WS), David See (WS), and Jeffrey Taylor (Temp Fence), seconded by Price. Motion carried with Myers and Cienawski abstaining.**
- **Myers moved to approve the following exigency payments:**
 - **Chuck Cienawski-Water Hauling-\$500**
 - **Chuck Cienawski-Temporary Fence-\$245**

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- **Crystal Kelly-Water Hauling-\$333.91**
- **Crystal Kelly-Temporary Fence-\$500**
- **Hayward Luckey-Water Hauling-\$500**
- **David See-Water Hauling-\$119**

Seconded by Price. Motion carried with Cienawski abstaining.

- **Myers moved to approve the following FY26 AgEP Payments:**
 - **Ronald Brand-Lime-\$589.86**
 - **David Clarkson-Watering System-\$2,874.99**
 - **Lacen Forbes-Heavy Use Area Protection-\$1,956**
 - **Wade Harsh-Invasive Species-\$320**
 - **Troy Hendershot-Lime-\$894.96**
 - **Chris Jennings-Pasture Division Fence-\$5,000**
 - **Gordon Lawson-Lime-\$521.64**
 - **Brandon Linton-HUAP-\$5,000**
 - **Hayward Luckey-Pollination Habitat Plot-\$198.18**
 - **Wayne Mayfield-Lime-\$1,278.51**
 - **Tim Spahr-HUAP-\$2,880.00**
 - **Timothy Zaharko-HUAP-\$5,000**
 - **David Zinn-Lime-\$896.28**

Seconded by Price. Motion carried with Linton abstaining.

- Jones reported Allen Parker's Heavy Use Area could not be approved because he did not use typar fabric despite receiving specifications requiring it. His application will be canceled. **Myers moved to allow Parker to participate in FY27 AgEP program and not penalize him for a mistake, seconded by Cienawski. Motion carried.**
- Cienawski spoke about several conversations he's had regarding the need to add solar options to the exigency program. Whetzel advised the board to submit this request at the state AgEP meeting in December. **Cienawski moved to prepare a letter requesting more solar options be added to the AgEP exigency program, seconded by Price. Motion carried.** The importance of the state AgEP meeting and possible changes to the allocation formula were discussed.
- Jones gave an updated on AgEP contracts. \$20, 878.42 has been returned due to cancellations, cooperators not meeting the max cost share, etc.
- AgEP program requirements were discussed. The need for a firm cut off date for all application requirements including soil tests was discussed.

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- **Cienawski moved to approve the follow AgEP application for FY26:**
 - **Fence**
 - **Peter Wentzel - \$5,000**
 - **Gerald Farkas - \$3,600**
 - **Bruce Ragione - \$1,590**
 - **Lacen Forbes - \$2,792**
 - **Mark Goff - \$5,000**
 - **Frost Seeding**
 - **Jack Hershman - \$1,000**
 - **Pasture Reseeding**
 - **Shawn Sessa - \$3,500**
 - **Watering System**
 - **JR Wolfe - \$5,000**

Seconded by Scott. Motion carried.

- Hoalcraft provided a written report. The tip for the banquet meal was discussed. **Price moved to provide a 20% tip on the meal, seconded by Cienawski. Motion carried.** Providing a thank you letter and fee for the facilities use was discussed. **Cienawski moved to send a thank you letter and \$100 Lowe's gift card to the facility owner, seconded by Linton. Motion carried.**
- Whetzel provided a written report highlighting upcoming key dates.

Solid Waste Authority

- Myers reported Monongalia County SWA is looking at buying property for a new solid waste office. A repair cafe will take place on November 8th and a tire event will take place on November 15th.
- Conley reported Marion County SWA was looking at the best way to put in a pipeline. She spoke about the costs of aluminum, steel, and cardboard.
- No Preston report was provided at this time.

Myers moved to approve the financial statements and file them for audit, seconded by Price. Motion carried.

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New Business

- A potluck for the Dember meeting was discussed.
- Myers inquired about listing the old cameras and extra supplies on Gov bids. **Price moved to list the old cameras and extra supplies on Gov bids, seconded by Linton. Motion carried.**
- The annual BRIM questionnaire was discussed. Chairman Teets recognized the board for their safe driving while conducting district business. **Price moved to amend the district bylaws to add a clause stating harassment can be reported to any member of the board of supervisors, seconded by Myers. Motion carried.**

Committee Reports

- Teets reported Brandon Kupec would be listing the rental space in the next few days. He supported the rates suggested by the board. He has expressed an interest in handling property management for the district in the future.
- Scott reported Mills Group was still waiting on the bathroom drawing. Cienawski spoke on preparing everything for the kitchenette while doing the bathroom remodel.
- Cienawski gave an update on Upper Buffalo watershed. District locks have been added. Cienawski would like to purchase some steel cable for repairs. Cienawski inquired about the status of the road used to reach the Huey Run dam. Kokoska reported the issue would be addressed on the work order in the spring. This timeframe was discussed. Kokoska reported the road was not used during winter months. Driver safety was discussed. Cienawski inquired about purchasing cables to deter hunters. Myers felt it could be added into a future contract. Kokoska expressed he would have to look into the as built to see if the agency would reimburse for the cables. Dam signs with district information were discussed. **Linton moved to allow the district to order and place signs on the dams announcing dam restrictions, seconded by Cienawski. Motion carried.**
- Price reported on MCD promotion he had done and spoke about getting pollinators in schools. Cienawski gave an update on getting a greenhouse through RC&D for a Preston County school.

Meeting adjourned at 12:51 PM.



12/4/25