

Monongahela Conservation District
Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2020

I. Call to order

Chairman Rick Abel called to order the regular meeting of the **Monongahela Conservation District** at **9:35 a.m.** on, **December 3, 2020**, at the Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center in Morgantown, WV via teleconference.

II. Roll call

Chairman Rick Abel introduced those present and passed around a sign-in sheet. The following persons were present: Supervisors: Rick Abel, Ed Utterback, Mark Myers, Jim McDonald, Chuck Cienawski, and Art Mouser. Others present were: Jeremy Salyer (WVCA), Amy Cosco (WVCA), Sigrid Teets (WVCA), Rudy Williams (DOF), H.R. Scott (WVU Extension), Bill Shockey (WVU Extension), and Dustin Atkins (NRCS).

III. Approval of November Meeting Minutes

Myers moved to approve the November 5, 2020 minutes. Utterback Seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of financial statements

- a) Credit Card Receipts and Statements- *Utterback moved to approve the credit card receipts and statement for November 2020. Seconded by Cienawski. Motion carried.*
- b) General/CDO financial statements- *Cienawski moved to approve General/CDO financial statements for November 2020. Seconded by Utterback. Motion carried.*
- c) Co-Administered Funds Financial Statements- *Cienawski moved to approve Co-Administered Funds financial statements for November 2020. Seconded by Utterback. Motion carried.*

V. Visitors Comments –

Cooperating Agencies

WV Division of Forestry-

Watershed Division- Mowing and OM&R for 2021

Upper Buffalo Watershed- Cosco reported there were invoices from TVCD to be paid.

TVCD Invoice 1312 \$4,000.00

TVCD Invoice 1313 \$3,250.00

TVCD Invoice 1314 \$2,550.00

TVCD Invoice 1326 \$1,900.00

TVCD Invoice 1327 \$2,350.00

TVCD Invoice 1328 \$2,600.00

Cienawski moved to pay the above listed invoices. Seconded by Mouser. Motion carried.

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Upper Deckers Watershed- Upper Deckers 1 Rehab Contract and Project

Cosco reported there are two invoices from TVCD to paid.

TVCD Invoice 1274 \$5,700.00

TVCD Invoice 1275 \$1,800.00

Cienawski moved to pay the above listed invoices. Seconded by Myers. Motion carried.

EWP and SSRP- no report.

Conservation Technician- Teets provided her report.

AgEP – Teets reported on the State AgEP Committee that she and Myers participated in via teleconference. She would like to talk in January about a possible meeting for any questions or comments on the upcoming year.

Cooperator Agreements-

William Lyons Monongalia County

Myers moved to approve the above listed Cooperator Agreements. Seconded by Cienawski. Motion carried.

WVU Extension

Bill Shockey- report provided.

H.R. Scott- he hopes to have more information on the winter dinner meetings and what is being planned. Right now it looks like they might have some kind of virtual courses.

NRCS- Adkins provided a report.

FSA- no report.

Solid Waste Authority-

Monongalia County SWA- No report.

Marion County SWA- No report.

Preston County SWA- No report.

District Manager Update- Cosco reported the Federal Audit came back good and that she will be off for Christmas.

WVCA Area Director- report provided.

VI. Invoices

Bookwise Business Service November 2020 - \$300.00

Myers moved to approve the invoice for Bookwise Business Service 's accounting services in the amount of \$300.00. Seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.

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VII. Approval of Supervisor Travel and Per Diem Claims

Art Mouser-\$554.24	Chuck Cienawski- \$230.82	Richard Abel- \$198.36	
Ed Utterback-\$322.13	Jim McDonald- \$661.24	Mark Myers- \$	Jean Conley-\$

Myers moved to approve Supervisor payments as listed above. Seconded by Utterback. Motion carried.

VIII. New Business

Purchase of Equipment- discussion was held on the benefits of a 5-ton compared to a 4-ton lime spreader. Cosco will send letters to dealerships requesting quotes for a lime spreader.

District Banquet- at this time there will be no banquet in 2020. The board hopes to maybe have something in the spring but will have to see how things are with the virus.

Appoint Associate Supervisor Monongalia County- Abel reported that Andrew Price is willing to come on board as an associate for Monongalia County. Discussion was held.

Cienawski moved to add Andrew Price as an Associate Supervisor for Monongalia County. Seconded by Utterback. Motion carried.

Building Expansion-architectural services- discussion was held on the future needs of the tenants in the building. NRCS is would like remodel of their space but it's still in the early stages and would be included in the new lease. WVCA has also expressed the need for more room. Cosco will submit an EOI to the county papers with a deadline of January 4th at noon.

Appoint RC&D representative- Abel reported that the newly elected associate supervisor for Monongalia County, Andrew Price, is willing to be the MCD representative.

Cienawski moved to appoint Andrew Price as the MCD representative on the RC&D Board. Seconded by Mouser. Motion carried.

XVI. Committee Reports:

Finance- McDonald- no report.

Education- Myers – reminder that scholarship information needs to be turned in by March 1.

Legislation/Policy- Myers – no report.

Grasslands- Ed Utterback- no report.

Safety/Buildings and Grounds-Ed Utterback- Southern Air has completed a lot of the rezoning and took care of the drain for the hot water tank above the lunchroom.

Ag Enhancement- previously reported.

Correspondence-

XVII. Public Comment- None.

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XVIII. Supervisor Reports

- **Mark Myers**– no report.
- **Ed Utterback** – no report.
- **Art Mouser** –no report.
- **Jim McDonald**– no report.
- **Chuck Cienawski** – no report.
- **Richard Abel** – no report.
- **Jean Conley** – no report.
- **Adjournment**

Mouser moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting is January 7, 2021 – Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center
Minutes submitted by Amy Cosco, ASA3/District Manager

Minutes approved by: Richard E. Abel
Rick Abel, Chairman

1-7-2021
Date

USDA-NRCS, Mon. Work Unit Report to the Monongahela Conservation District Board

Meeting Date: 12/3/2020

- Work on Conservation Stewardship Program contract renewals of 2015 contracts in progressing. There are currently 7 applications being assessed (Marion 2, Monongalia 2, Preston 3). The breakdown of application types is as follows: 6 Ag Land General, 1 Nonindustrial Private Forest. Assessments and rankings will be completed by 12/4/2020 with selection of preapprovals coming on 12/14/2020. Contract development will follow.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Agricultural Management Assistance program application windows for round 1 closed on 11/20/20. As always, interested parties may apply at any time and be considered for later rounds of funding. Information on ranking and contracting timelines will be provided at the January board meeting.
- COVID-19 Status update:
 - White Hall has been moved to Phase 1. Service center doors remain locked, 1-2 employees will be available in the office, customers must make appointments for service.
 - Kingwood has been moved to Phase 0. Service center doors remain locked, 1 employee will likely be available in the office, customers are not permitted in the building.
 - Overall: Encourage anyone you speak with to call either service center to schedule a meeting. Staff may or may not be available on site and entry to the building is discouraged. These protocols will be in place through December.
- Dustin Adkins, Dennis Thorne and Caleb Smith will be attending an online Cultural Resources Training the week of 12/7 – 12/11/2020. James Allen will be available in the Kingwood office during this training.
- Planned field visits with State Conservationist Jon Bourdon scheduled for 12/9/2020 and 12/14/2020 have been cancelled. These visits will be rescheduled in late winter or early spring.
- Feel free to contact me at 304-368-6910 (White Hall) or 304-441-3767 (Kingwood) with any questions or need for further information.

Dustin Adkins,
District Conservationist



Farm
Production
and
Conservation

November 25, 2020

TO Monongahela Conservation District

Farm
Service
Agency

FROM Roger A. Poling
County Executive Director

Preston County
FSA Office
157 Plaza Court,
Ste. 13
Kingwood, WV
26537

SUBJECT **Preston County FSA Report**

Voice: 304-329-1923
Fax: 855-853-2991

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2)

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability Act (CARES Act) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act authorized the funds for the original CFAP. CCC funds will be used for CFAP 2. FSA is accepting applications for CFAP 2 from September 21, 2020, to **December 11, 2020**. CFAP 2 payments will be split into three categories of commodities:

1. Price trigger commodities (***Corn, Soybeans, Broilers, Eggs, Beef Cattle, Hogs, & Lambs***)
2. Flat-rate crops (***Alfalfa, Buckwheat, Hemp, Millet, Oats, & Triticale***)
3. Sales commodities (***Fruits, Vegetables, Nursery crops, Wool, Other livestock***)

For a list of all eligible commodities, visit farmers.gov/cfap.

County Committee Elections

The 2020 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections began on Nov. 2nd when ballots were mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices is Dec. 7, 2020.

Preston County is holding an election in LAA 1. Eligible voters in those local administrative areas who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center. Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2021.

The candidates in this year's election are:

Susan Beerbower: She and her husband Ralph own a farm near Glade Farms where they raise beef cattle and small grains. Susan recently completed her first term on the Preston County Committee and currently serves as the Vice-Chairperson.

Sharon Harsh: She and her husband Dennis own a farm in the Clifton Mills area. She has been actively involved in farming for nearly 30 years. She's felt the ups and downs of farming through beef production, planting, harvesting & marketing grains.

Gregory Moran: His parents began dairy farming in 1956 on the farm he still operates, Pleasant Valley Farms. He now raises beef cattle, hay, and corn. Greg is a member of the Lions Club and has followed a conservation plan for the last 30 years.

Kevin "Luke" Seese: He operates a farm on the Seese Rd. producing cattle, forage and 25-30 ac. corn and small grain. He currently serves on the Preston County Farmland Protection Board and is a member of the WV Farm Bureau. Luke and his wife Brenda attend Shady Grove Church.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2020 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

FSA Offers Loan Servicing Options

There are options for Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about your options.

Dates to Remember:

Dec 7: Last day to return ballots for the COC election

Dec 11: Application Deadline for CFAP 2

Dec 15: Acreage reporting deadline for fall seeded small grains

Jan 2: Acreage reporting deadline honey and maple sap

Jan 15: Acreage reporting deadline apples and peaches

For more information, please contact your local FSA office:

Roger A. Poling, County Executive Director – Preston County FSA
roger.poling@wv.usda.gov (304) 329-1923

Mary F. Jouver, County Executive Director – Valley View FSA (Marion-Taylor-Monongalia)
mary.jouver@wv.usda.gov (304) 363-8861

Karen E. McBee, Farm Loan Manager
karen.mcbee@wv.usda.gov (304) 363-8861



December 2020 WVCA Report

WVCA Operations

The WVCA employees will continue to telecommute until the governor removes his “safer at home” order. It’s anticipated this will last into 2021.

The WVCA is encouraging its employees and supervisors to follow COVID protocols and wear masks and practice social distancing. The WVCA also encourages the use of telecommunication as much as possible.

WV State Conservation Committee

The SCC/WVCA is still waiting on the Attorney General’s office to provide its opinion regarding conservation projects that involve water quality.

The SCC/WVCA will inform the districts when the opinion is issued and potential courses of action.

Legislature 2021

With the election behind us, it’s time to turn our attention to the upcoming 2021 Legislative Session. The opening day is Wednesday, January 13. The Legislature will break until the start of the 60-day session on February 10. The session ends on April 10.

Please make sure you reach out to new elected Delegates and Senators or renew past relationships with those re-elected.

2021 Dates for the WVACD Quarterly Meetings

January 19 & 20	Flatwoods
April 19 & 20	EPCD
July 19 & 20	CCD
October 18 & 19	Flatwoods

AgEP:

- **December 4, 2020** – State AgEP committee mid-year meeting to review allocation formula proposals and new practices. This is a SKYPE meeting only.
- **February 2021**- Comments reviewed and forms revised
- **March 2021**- State AgEP committee meeting to finalize upcoming FY AgEP
- **April 2021**- Presentation of upcoming FY AgEP to SCC
- **May/June/July 2021**– CDs to finalize upcoming FY program, update AgEP agreement addendum, take action to approve LORs

Request to Conservation Districts

The WVCA is encouraging Conservation Districts to review and update their District Policy Manuals. Districts are also encouraged to review their CD Employee Manual (if you have one) and CD Plan of Work.

Agreed Procedures Engagement (Audit) Conservation Districts are asked to begin the Agreed Procedures Engagement (APE) audit if you haven’t already. Please check your current agreement to make sure it is valid.