

Monongahela Conservation District  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2021

**I. Call to order**

**Chairman Rick Abel** called to order the regular meeting of the **Monongahela Conservation District** at **9:33 a.m.** on, **January 7, 2021**, 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, Art Mouser, and Jean Conley. Others present were Jeremy Salyer (WVCA), Amy Cosco (WVCA), Sigrid Teets (WVCA), Gene Saurborn (WVCA), and Dustin Atkins (NRCS).

**III. Approval of December Meeting Minutes**

*Utterback moved to approve the December 3, 2020 minutes. Seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.*

**IV. Approval of financial statements**

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

**V. Visitors Comments –**

**Cooperating Agencies**

**WV Division of Forestry-** no report.

**Watershed Division-** Mowing and OM&R for 2021

Saurborn has reported Martin and his crew will be putting together the work orders for the OM&R. They will be presenting them to the board soon.

Abel stated the board does want to go to bid this year and Saurborn said his group is working on it and they will present in April or May.

**Upper Buffalo Watershed-** Saurborn reported he's working on getting a design put together for the seep repair on Upper Buffalo 4. He hopes to start that project later this year.

Monongahela Conservation District  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2021

**Upper Deckers Watershed- Upper Deckers 1 Rehab Contract and Project- LOR \$800,000.00**

Saurborn has tried to contact Bright to set up a meeting but he hasn't heard from her yet.

Cosco reported that Farkas called her and requested the LOR be placed on the agenda.

*Mouser moved to approve the LOR in the amount of \$800,000.00 for the UDC1 Rehab Project. Seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.*

**EWP and SSRP-** no report.

**Conservation Technician-** Teets provided her report.

**AgEP** – Teets reported she has got a bit of a slow down for AgEP. She reminded the board any comments for the State AgEP Committee need to be turned in to her by/before January 31<sup>st</sup>. There are a few new best management practices that might be added, and they are spring development for high tunnels, American chestnut reestablishment, cost-share on nucs for farmers who have lost bees, and ariel spraying for invasive species. Lime practice ranking form may be changed. The committee will meet on January 26th at 9:30 a.m. Teets reported there are still funds left for the educational programs and there is seed left as well. The committee will discuss how to move forward.

Abel reported the board is interested in adding cost-share on nucs. Discussion was held. Cienawski stated as President of the Marion County Beekeepers Association and Vice-President of the State Beekeepers Association he fully supports adding the cost-share as well. He would like to propose a 50% cost-share up to \$200.00 on a 5-frame nuc with a maximum of 2 nucs. He would like to request the nucs be purchased in-state to help reduce the possibility of disease, queens are different and could be purchased out of state. Abel reported that it is mandatory for hives to be registered with the WVDA. Cienawski feels it's a benefit to everyone because the bees can go up to about 3 miles and help to pollenate that area.

The board would like their support to be carried back to the State AgEP Committee.

*Utterback moved to support the cost-share on the nucs. Seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.*

**AgEP Approvals**

Jerry Carnes Lime 53.14 tons \$1,594.20

*Mouser moved to approve the above listed AgEP application. Seconded*

**Cooperator Agreements-**

Jerry Carnes Marion County

*Mouser moved to approve the above listed Cooperator Agreements. Seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.*

**WVU Extension**

Bill Shockey- No report.

H.R. Scott- No report.

Monongahela Conservation District January 7, 2021 Minutes

Monongahela Conservation District  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2021

**NRCS-** Adkins provided a report.

**FSA-** Report provided. Round three of ELAP will be coming soon.

**Solid Waste Authority-**  
**Monongalia County SWA-** No report.

**Marion County SWA-** McDonald reported they had a meeting and they've been selling some timber. It was sold for \$40,000.00 and they were given \$20,000.00 upfront. They are in the second phase and will get the second half soon. They would like to prevent invasive species from taking over in the future and plan to plant more of the hybrid American Chestnuts. The grant money they received were for a skid steer and bins on wheels. Extra funds were used to purchase spare tires for the trucks. They had a surplus of #1 plastics and sold it. Cardboard is still holding its own. Every quarter they get \$15,000.00 from the Marion County Commission and they are very thankful for it.

**Preston County SWA-** No report.

**District Manager Update-** Cosco reported Southern Air has completed all the rezoning work. The Federal Audit went very well once again and will be on the February agenda for payment and approval. She spoke with Candice Stone on how TVCD takes payment for equipment rentals. Stone reported they take checks and cards. The District bought a tablet and pay for Square so cards can be processed. Cosco would like the board to consider this option. Cosco spoke with one of the NRCS employees and he had a good idea for the doors at Cosco's end of the building. Since there are two sets it would be nice if the first set could be unlocked for deliveries and such and then the second set would be locked. Entry could be granted with a FOB through the second set. Cosco would like the board to consider this idea as well.

**WVCA Area Director-** Report provided. Ag Day at the Capitol and the Legislative breakfast have been canceled.

**VI. Invoices**

Bookwise Business Service December 2020 - \$300.00

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

Lowe & Associates, PLLC- \$3,500.00

McDonald moved to approve the invoice to Lowe & Associates, PLLC in the amount of \$3,500.00. Seconded by Utterback. Motion carried.

Monongahela Conservation District  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2021

**VII. Approval of Supervisor Travel and Per Diem Claims**

Art Mouser-\$174.38                  Chuck Cienawski- \$384.42                  Richard Abel- \$359.92  
Ed Utterback-\$                  Jim McDonald- \$                  Mark Myers- \$                  Jean Conley-\$

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

**VIII. New Business**

County Commission visits for OM&R- Cosco reported this is a reminder to start thinking about contacting the county commissions. She spoke with Martin and he said his shop with be providing all the information needed to the commissions and can send it to the board as well. Abel requested the information asap because the commissions are already doing budget research.

Approval of Audit and LOR \$3,500.00

Utterback moved to approve the audit and send the LOR in the amount of \$3,500.00. Seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.

Purchase of Equipment- Mouser reported he did speak with Mr. King. Abel reported RFQs were sent to three different dealerships and only King and Sons provided a quote back to the District. Discussion was held on cooperators overloading the spreaders. Discussion was held on the rates charged for the equipment.

Mouser moved to accept the quote from King and Son for the 5-ton spreader in the amount of \$21,481.00. Seconded by Myers. Motion carried.

Building Expansion-architectural services- Abel reported 10 Architectural Engineering Services submitted packets. Ed is going to review the submissions and there is another set for the rest of the board to review. He would like to give the Building and Grounds Committee the ability to narrow the selections down to three by using a judging criteria sheet. The committee will meet on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

McDonald moved to authorize the Building and Grounds Committee to select the Architectural Engineer. Seconded by Myers. Motion carried.

Extension Virtual Education Support- Discussion was held.

Cienawski moved to support up to the amount of \$1,500.00. Seconded by Myers. Motion carried.

Master Gardener payment \$5,182.70- Cienawski reported the initial approval was for \$5,000.00. He doesn't feel the additional \$182.70 isn't unreasonable. Discussion was held.

Cienawski moved to pay the updated invoice in the amount of \$5,182.70. Seconded by Utterback. Motion carried.

**XVI. Committee Reports:**

Finance- McDonald- reported he and Rick closed out Huntington Bank.

Education- Myers – reported he was unable to attend the call. Cienawski reported the Envirothon is trying to adjust the competition to virtual.

Legislation/Policy- Myers – previously discussed.

Grasslands- Ed Utterback- the meeting has been cancelled.

Safety/Buildings and Grounds-Ed Utterback- previously discussed and meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

Monongahela Conservation District  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2021

Ag Enhancement- previously discussed and meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**Correspondence-** None.

**XVII.Public Comment-** None.

**XVIII.Supervisor Reports**

- **Mark Myers**– reported his son isn’t doing well. He’s been in the hospital since October and he’s waiting on a heart transplant.
- **Ed Utterback** – reported he lost his younger brother before Christmas. Mary is doing well with her cochlear implant. He and Mary both received the first shot for the COVID vaccination. They go later this month to get the second shot.
- **Art Mouser** – reported he’s been disappointed in the communication for the meeting with Hilary and how it’s been going.
- **Jim McDonald**– reported he has 5 new calves. He’s doing well and so is his family.
- **Chuck Cienawski** – reported he is taking care of his animals.
- **Richard Abel** – no report.
- **Jean Conley** – reported she has 4 friends who have contracted COVID. One has passed, one is in the hospital, and two are still dealing with it.

- **Adjournment**

**Mouser moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:41 p.m.**

**The next scheduled meeting is February 4, 2021 – Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center**  
Minutes submitted by Amy Cosco, ASA3/District Manager

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rick Abel, Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date