

Monongahela Conservation District  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
September 5, 2019

**I. Call to order**

**Chairman Jim McDonald** called to order the regular meeting of the **Monongahela Conservation District** at **9:34 a.m.** on, **September 5, 2019**, at the WV Division of Forestry Office in Farmington, WV. **Jean Conley** led in the pledge of allegiance.

**II. Roll call**

**Vice-Chairman Rick Abel** introduced those present and passed around a sign-in sheet. The following persons were present: Supervisors: Jim McDonald, Mark Myers, Rick Abel, Jean Conley, and Ed Utterback. Others present were: H.R. Scott (Extension), Bill Shockey (Extension), Amy Cosco (DM), Jeremy Salyer (WVCA), Caleb Smith (WVCA), Gene Saurborn (WVCA), Tim Darrah (CTL), Rudy Williams (DoF), Chris Evans (DoF), Dustin Adkins (NRCS) and Patricia Bunner (cooperator in the MCD) **Excused:** Art Mouser

**III. Approval of August Meeting Minutes**

*Mark Myers moved to approve the August 1, 2019 board meeting minutes. Seconded by Rick Abel. Motion carried.*

**IV. Approval of financial statements**

a) **Credit Card Receipts and Statements-** *Rick Abel moved to approve the August 2019 credit card statement and receipts. Seconded by Mark Myers. Motion carried.*

b) **General/CDO financial statements-** *Jean Conley moved to approve the General/CDO financial statements for the months of July and August of 2019. Seconded by Rick Abel. Motion carried.*

c) **Co-Administered Funds Financial Statements-** *Jean Conley moved to approve the July and August 2019 Co-Administered Funds Financial Statements. Seconded by Rick Abel. Motion carried.*

**V. Visitors Comments** – Ms. Bunner has spoke to others about the Reducitarians and their efforts. Joe Gumm is going to bring it up at the Annual Meeting in October.

**Cooperating Agencies**

**WV Division of Forestry-** Rudy reported he attended the World Boy Scout Jamboree. Chris reported Fire Season is coming up. He has spoke with Tom Wilsoncroft and they are working together on a Forestry Field Day September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Watershed Division-**

Trash Rack and Toe Drain O&M Work- Jim McDonald reported the District needs to have a plan for the work and repairs that need done on the dams. The dams need to be mowed earlier in the season. O&M is close to being done in both watersheds. Brian would like to try for a statewide mowing contract to get some cost savings. Gene reported there are 14 trash racks that need to be rebuilt. The trash racks currently stored at the district were constructed for sites and they came in \$20,000.00 under budget by doing a statewide contract. The Toe Drains are a sort of specialty work due to the complexity. A statewide contract to install and/or repair would be beneficial. This work would be paid through the additional line item for O&M work.

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Metal Work Painting- Gene reported all the metal work needs painted. Most Districts have voted to let the Agency take care of contracting and the work.

Ed Utterback made the motion to allow the WVCA to bid and award a statewide contract for the Trash Racks and Toe Drains and Metal Work Painting, with a proviso the work is done by an in-state contractor. Seconded by Rick Abel. Motion carried.

The WVCA and Morgan County went together to purchase a ventrac mower. There were stipulations, they had to mow the dams twice a year, they had to handle all the maintenance on the mower, and it could be used for the county parks and other locations. There is interest in other Districts, West Fork CD and Elk CD.

Gene reported they are going to have another Watershed State Committee meeting and he would like to have a couple members of the board to attend.

**Upper Buffalo Watershed-** TVCD Invoices-2818- \$8,150.00, 2819- \$4,050.00, 2823-\$5,400.00

Upper Buffalo Site #4 Proposal- Gene reported Tim Darrah from CTL has submitted the proposal and it's been reviewed. The seep is very large and it's a complicated site. He feels the District is out front on the situation. Tim reported NRCS provided them with all the information on the site construction. They have some good theories on what is causing the seep. Tim discussed the proposal with the board.

Jean Conley moved to give Jim McDonald the authority to sign the LOR for the funds needed for the work Site 4. Seconded by Rick Abel. Motion carried.

Jean Conley moved to pay TVCD invoices 2818- \$8,150.00, 2819-\$4,050.00, and 2823- \$5,400.00. Seconded by Rick Abel. Motion carried.

**Upper Deckers Watershed- TVCD Invoice 2807- \$2,850.00, Upper Deckers 1 Rehab Contract and Project- Upper Deckers Creek Site 1**

Upstream Grubbing Contract- Gene reported part of the project is the elevation up to water level be cleared of trees. He said it would be a district contract and its part of the project.

Jean Conley moved to allow Gene to proceed with contract development and items necessary for bidding with Art Mouser as his contact. Seconded by Rick Abel. Motion carried.

Jean Conley moved to pay TVCD Invoice 2807- \$2,850.00. Seconded by Rick Abel. Motion carried.

Audit Proposals- Amy provided the one proposal received from Perry & Associates. The RFQ was sent to three firms, one declined and another didn't respond.

Rick moved to accept the proposal from Perry & Associates in the amount of \$8,400.00. Seconded by Ed Utterback. Motion carried.

Gene reported he and Art have spent a lot of time on the site. They have not started the RCC yet. There has been work on the spill way and the water line out of the dam. They did receive a new schedule that  
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puts the construction through December, but the current contract has it through October. The other issue is the PSD has been attending meetings and has some concerns, when they ran the camera through the dam it was ran from downstream up and they found a clog, but it's the first joint (20 feet) that is clogged up. The clog is 14 feet of the 20-foot pipe. They met and tasked the PSD with a plan to remedy the clog. Mark expressed is displeasure with the PSD because they still haven't submitted their portion of the funds for the project. Gene is hopeful for a conditional permit soon. Mark would like Hilary to send the PSD a letter stating there was an agreement for the PSD to have their funds committed and mitigation plan in order. Mark feels they've drug their feet for too long. Discussion was held. Gene suggested the District tread lightly with the letter, provide the new potential schedule, and ask for an update on where they are with their mitigation plan. Rick suggested have Gene review the letter before it goes out. Gene would also like something to be done with the WVU portion as well because he's tied a bit when it comes to that situation.

Gene reported Triton is working with DNR to pull water from Blue Hole.

Mark Myers moved to have Hilary send letters for the mitigation portion of the project, PSD 1 and WVU, to request updates on movement, including the updated schedule, projected completion date, the items needing completed prior to the pool being filled from PSD 1. Rick Abel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mark Myers moved to allow PSD 1 to pursue with Triton to investigate and potentially fix the pipe issue at their own cost. Seconded by Jean Conley. Motion carried.

**EWP and SSRP-** Gene reported there are some sites on the NRCS DSR list.

**Conservation Technician-** Caleb reported on the field day that is coming up on Saturday, September 7, 2019. He reported on a fence trailer that he has seen with WVU. It will be a smaller scale demonstration but still effective.

**AgEP-Chris Brown-** Amy reported that Chris Brown called and requested to change his AgEP into his wife's name. Discussion was held.

Jean Conley moved to allow Chris Brown to change his approved practices into his wife's name. Seconded by Rick Abel. Motion carried.

**AgEP Payment- Lawrence Hardesty- Lime- \$662.41**

Ed Utterback moved to approve payment to Lawrence Hardesty in the amount of \$662.41. Seconded by Jean Conley. Motion carried.

**WVU Extension**

**-Bill Shockey-** report provided.

**-H.R. Scott-** report provided

**-Samantha Cogle-** no report.

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**NRCS-** Dustin reported they have finished up 3 CSP GCI contracts. Working Effectively with Women Producers will meet on the 11<sup>th</sup> and they will be in Mon County earlier in the day with female producers.

**FSA-** Report provided.

**Solid Waste Authority**

**Monongalia County SWA-** no report.

**Marion County SWA-** Jim reported they met with the Marion County Commission and they have allocated enough money to keep the SWA going to the first of the year. They are still trying to lease some of their ground.

**Preston County SWA-** Amy reported on her contact with Annie Brode.

**District Manager Update-** Amy reported she has sent information to Lowe and Associates so they can put together their list for the audit. She is checking a list sent from DFO in Charleston to prepare for the federal audit. She would like for the Board to consider finding a company to put District files that have to be kept indefinitely into digital files and into digital storage.

*Mark Myers moved to give Rick authority to investigate costs and return information to the full board. Seconded by Jean Conley. Motion carried.*

**WVCA Area Director-** report provided.

**VI. Invoices**

Bookwise Business Service August 2019 - \$300.00

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

The Bright Law Firm- \$390.00

*Mark Myers moved to approve the invoice from The Bright Law Firm in the amount of \$390.00. Seconded by. Motion carried.*

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

Art Mouser-\$1,204.23 Jean Conley- \$233.67 Richard Abel- \$163.16

Ed Utterback-\$413.68 Mark Myers- \$ Jim McDonald- \$144.56

*Mark Myers moved to pay the above listed travel and per diem claims. Seconded by Ed Utterback. Motion carried.*

**VIII. New Business**

CDO Budget

*Mark Myers moved to accept the CDO Budget and send it on to Guthrie. Seconded by Ed Utterback. Motion carried.*

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Frank Glover- Discussion was held.

Rick moved to nominate H.R. Scott. Seconded by Mark Myers. Motion carried.

Pocket Calendars

Rick Abel moved to purchase 125. Seconded by Mark Myers. Motion carried.

Community and Environmental Educator Award

Mark Myers moved to nominate Bill Shockey. Seconded by Rick Abel. Motion carried.

District Banquet

Mark Myers moved to allow Jean Conley and Amy to purchase items needed for the banquet. Seconded by Rick. Motion carried

District Farmer Recognition- Discussion was held.

Preston County- Adam and Casey Hayes

Marion County- Troy Darrah

Monongalia County- Ron Brand

Jean Conley moved to recognize one farmer from each county with Caleb's approval. Seconded by Rick Abel. Motion carried.

Quarterly Meeting- item for any house cleaning options.

**XVI. Committee Reports:**

Finance- no report.

Education- no report.

Legislation/Policy- no report.

Grasslands- no report.

Safety/Buildings and Grounds- altered rates for the seeder.

Ag Enhancement- met for approvals.

**XVII. Correspondence-** None.

**XVIII. Public Comment-** Patricia Bunner reported she has been asked the National Association of Conservation Districts to become more involved on the local level. She would like to do any tasks for the Districts that she can and be of any assistance she can.

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**XIX. Supervisor Reports**

- **Mark Myers** – he hopes to get his cast off today.
- **Ed Utterback** – flew out to Minnesota to perform a marriage ceremony for family. They are into second cutting hay.
- **Art Mouser** – no report.
- **Jim McDonald** – has been brush hogging fields and thankfully hasn't ran into any hornet or wasp nests. He's had a good garden.
- **Jean Conley** – has terminated 7 racoons this year and a few opossums and skunks. Last weekend she had repairs done on a shed roof.
- **Richard Abel** – has been cutting to prepare 2.5 acres for pollinator plantings, 1.5 acres of warm season grasses, and have a few fewer ground hogs than before.

**XX. Adjournment**

**Jean Conley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:44 p.m.**

The next scheduled meeting is October 3, 2019 at the Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center in Morgantown, WV.

Minutes submitted by: Amy Cosco, ASA3/District Manager

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Jim McDonald, Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_  
Date