Attendance:

Mark Myers, Chuck Cienawski, H.R. Scott, Mark Teets, Jean Conley, Robert White, Devon Kokoska, Art Mouser, Katie Fitzsimmons, Kaitlyn Jones, Cindy Shreve, Candice Stone, Rudy Williams, Anna Riggleman, Andrew Riffe (virtual), and Christ Casto (virtual).

***Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.***

The “Pledge of Allegiance” was led by Conley.

A prayer was led by Mouser.

Board Meeting Minutes: ***Cienawski moved to approve the meeting minutes from 09/07/23. Teets seconded. Motion carried.***

Cooperating Agency/Organization Reports:

* USDA-NRCS- Staff will be attending the water system training on October 24th in Ohio County.
* USDA-FSA-
* WV Division of Forestry- The Marion County Position has been filled. There will be more sightings of the Spotted Lanternfly. Their main food sources are the Chinese Tree of Heaven, Maple Tree, and Black Walnut Tree. The fire season has started.
* WVU Extension- H.R. acknowledged there were at least 19 job vacancies.
* WVACD- There will be a quarterly association meeting the 16th and 17th of October in Flatwoods, WV. Jean Conley donated a quilt for the auction. Cienawski inquired about the district donating something of value.

Program and Project Reports:

* Watershed Projects Report- Salyer reported that the Upper Decker’s 2 regrade has begun and received a contract modification for $640 for brush hogging the ground before the regrade. ***Cienawski made a motion to allow Mark Teets to sign the contract modification. White seconded. Motion carried.*** The Triton check from the lawsuit was delivered on 9/26. Cienawski reported of heavy ATV use, fence that has been removed, gates that are down, and salt blocks for wildlife are on the dams while conducting inspections at Big Run, Dent’s Run, Flat Run, A Whetstone, Huey Run, Curtsville, and Lou Ellen Rd. Potential sign usage was discussed, but there must be approval from the owner of the channels to post those signs and/or to be under lock. Teets reported Dam 6 has been mowed and will need to be mowed annually. Dam 5 also has heavy ATV use. There was discussion of sign usage.
* Conservation Agreements- ***Teets moved to approve the three conservation agreements, William Beeghly (Preston County), Ronald Brand (Monongalia County), and Douglas Cyphers (Marion County). Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.***
* FY 24 Ag EP- An application from Hershman was approved for Bail Grazing. An application recently came in and will be on next meeting’s agenda.

Solid Waste Authority Report- Scott reported on the annual electronic recycling was finished and will have further information later. A 2024 recycle approval was received to help cover the costs on the project. The pesticide program has been canceled due to 3rd party vendor issues.

Invoices:

* Bright Law Firm- ***White moved to approve $259.55 for their services during the lawsuit. Scott seconded. Motion carried.***
* Phillips Restoration and Cleaning- ***Teets moved to approve $4,000 for their services cleaning the carpet at the MCD office. White seconded. Motion carried.***
* LA D’Amico Locksmith- ***White moved to approve $110 for their services replacing locks at the MCD office. Teets seconded. Motion carried.***

Letters of Request- There were no letters of request.

Unfinished Business:

* Upper Decker’s Creek #1 closeout- The check was delivered, but we are waiting to hear from the bank that it has cleared.
* HVAC Maintenance Contract- Currently there is no contract.
* Fall Awards Banquet- MCD’s fall awards banquet will be held on October 19 at 6 PM. All who received invitations and would like to go must RSVP to the MCD office ahead of time.

New business:

* WVCA Office Space- There will be a modification made to the contract with the WVCA office space to add 400+ square feet to the lease. ***Cienawski made a motion to allow the modification lease to be signed by H.R. Scott. Teets seconded. Motion carried.***
* NRCS Building Lease- NRCS has not reached out the district yet with their decision to renew the building lease or not.
* Upright Fireproof Safe- ***Cienawski made a motion to approve $300 for the purchase of the fireproof safe. White seconded. Scott abstained from voting because he is a conflict of interest. Motion carried.***
* Checks-

Correspondence & Newsletters- Chairman Myers reported the following newsletters/correspondence received since the September board meeting.

* USDA NASS August 2023 Report
* USDA Forest Service August 2023 Reports -2

Funding Request- ***Scott made a motion to donate $500 to the Maple Springs Church (Eglon meeting location) for the meal that was provided and the space that was used for the October board meeting. Cienawski seconded. Teets abstained from voting because he is a conflict of interest. Motion carried.***

WVCA Reports:

* Watershed Projects Division- technician/manager- There was nothing to report on.
* Conservation specialist- specialist/manager- There is still 1 vacancy in PVCD that will be posted soon. The Grass Grant with WVU Extension, The Grazing Lands Conservation, and the National Association of State Departments of Ag Grants are all moving forward. There was a meeting held on September 25th for Ag EP where new practices were proposed, and a subcommittee was formed to work on those practices. The first meeting will be October 18th.
* Administrative specialist- There was nothing to report on.
* District Operations Manager- Kokoska recently joined the WVCA as the third District Operations Manager. The districts he covers include Monongahela, West Fork, Tygarts Valley, Potomac Valley, and Eastern Panhandle. Now is the time to update district employee and policy manuals. Regarding the AgEP timeline, the next deadline to submit any additional program comments on October 31st .

Committee Reports:

* Finance- Audit: need an updated inventory list of all MCD equipment rentals. The name and address on the district’s bank account needs changed to the contact information of the MCD office. All district related mail must go to the district office. All mail relating to the district shall not be sent to anyone’s personal address.
* Ag Enhancement- Everything is up to date and all money has been allocated.
* Legislation- Ed Utterback will not be running next year for position, so we will need someone to fill that position. Any interested persons must register in January to be on the ballot and pay $10.
* Safety/Building/Grounds/Equipment- There was nothing current to report on.
* Upper Deckers Creek Watershed- There was nothing current to report on.
* Upper Buffalo Creek Watershed- There was nothing current to report on.
* Education/Marketing/Soil- There was nothing current to report on.
* Grasslands- There was nothing current to report on.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

* October 17, 2023- WV Conservation Banquet- 12:30 pm Days Inn- Flatwoods, WV
* October 19, 2023- MCD Annual Banquet- Core, WV- 6:00 PM
* November 2, 2023- MCD Board Meeting- 9:30 AM
* November 10, 2023- Veteran’s Day- State Holiday- Office Closed
* November 23-24, 2023- Thanksgiving Break- State Holidays- Office Closed
* December 7, 2023- MCD Board Meeting
* December 25, 2023- Christmas Day- State Holiday- Office Closed

District Supervisor and Associate Supervisor Reports: Art and Anna Mouser were inducted into the Ag Hall of Fame. The second-place winner was also from the Monongahela Conservation District. Mark Teets shared that it was nice to have the September board meeting at Eglon because a lot of people came to visit his farm afterwards. Our district should compile a list of all Century Farm winners to be kept at the office. We should consider planning a day or two for visiting local farms in our district. We should also plan a day for farm safety, specifically a tractor safety day at school, community building, etc. This would probably work best in the winter or spring. “Label Mable” was suggested to be donated to the WV State Fair for farm and field days.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.