

Monongahela Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2023
Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center
Morgantown, WV
@ 9:30 a.m.

Attendance:

District Supervisors: *Jean Conley (Associate), Mark Teets, Mark Myers, Ed Utterback, Andy Price (Associate), H.R. Scott, Chuck Cienawski, and Art Mouser (Associate).*

USDA-NRCS: *Malori Wachter, Dustin Adkins*

WVCA: *Kaitlyn Jones, Don Whetzel, Devon Kokoska, Candice Stone, Davin White, Gene Saurborn, Cindy Shreve (virtual)*

FSA: *Ashlynn Kelly*

WVDOF: *Rudy Williams*

WVACD: *Heather Duncan (Virtual)*

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was led by Don Whetzel.

Prayer was given by Art Mouser.

Myers reported that a letter of resignation was received from White, this will be added to the next agenda for approval. Rigglesman resigned as Administrative Specialist for the WVCA. Stone will be filling in until a new person is hired.

November 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes - ***Scott moved to approve the June Meeting Minutes (11/02/23). Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.***

Cooperating Agency Reports

- USDA-NRCS – Adkins reported they can accept applications for EQIP through the end of December. All applications that have been received and approved will have contracts written by the end of January.
- USDA-FSA – Kelly reported that FSA acreage and policy reports due by the end of January for honey and Maple Sap reporting must be completed by the end of February. If reporting isn't completed cooperators won't be eligible to apply for practices.
- WV Division of Forestry – Williams reported that they are still in fire season. He invited everyone to attend their Christmas party on Monday December 11th.
- WVU Extension – no report
- WVACD - Exec. Dir. – Duncan provided a written report. She reported that March 20, 2024, is the fly in date. NACD national meeting in San Diego is scheduled for February 10-14 and the early bird registration ends on December 22. The next area meeting for the East will be in Tygarts Valley on January 2. The next quarterly meeting will be February 7-8 in Charleston. The 8th will be Conservation Day at the Capitol.

Invoices:

- **Scott moved to approve the Mill Group Invoice \$4,000.00. Utterback seconded. Motion carried.**
- **Utterback moved to approve the Upper Deckers Creek #3 Invoice \$1,959.15. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.**

Unfinished Business:

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- Scott moved to approve insurance adjusters cost estimate and the BRIM deductible for \$2,500.00. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Teets moved to approve the Century Farm application for Feather Farm in Preston County. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.
- White had the board answer questions about the annual report for district information. Also talked to the board about getting a new display banner. This will be added to the January agenda.

WVCA Reports

- Kokoska gave a written report and reminded the board about the upcoming AgEP Review.
- Whetzel reported that all annual inspections are completed. Armstrong has been working in the Northern Panhandle cleaning up debris. They will be doing Channel work during the winter months.
- Saurborn asked the board to appoint a representative for the channels for approvals and other work needing to be done without having to have a full board meeting each time something needs to be approved. This was done with Mouser in the past and it worked well. The Newburg Dam residents don't want it removed but it will cost a lot to rehabilitate the dam. Possible FEMA grant to help with this. Smith property has a right of way to cross the State property and they had a gate with a lock installed. This is agreeable to the WVCA as long as they provide a key to the lock to the State Agency. Need to have Bright Law Firm to draft a letter.

▪ Committee Reports

- Finance
 - Financial Report – Reports and Bank Statements were reviewed, during which no issues were identified. **Cienawski moved to accept this report. Scott seconded. Motion carried.**
- Safety/Building/Grounds/Equipment
 - HVAC System Repair/Estimate \$2,424.48 **Cienawski moved to accept the estimate. Teets seconded. Motion carried.**
 - Mowing and Snow Removal- **Cienawski moved to accept the mowing and snow removal contract as presented; Utterback seconded. Motion carried.**
- Education/Marketing/Soil- March 23rd 9am a Tractor Safety Day at Middletown Tractor in Fairmont. Add to next agenda budgets for Safety Days
- Ag Enhancement

Scott moved to push the Lime Completion date to May 1, 2024 due to issues with finding Lime. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.

Cienawski moved to accept the following FY-23 AgEP payments reported totaling \$25,178.90.

- Lime
 - Tim Spahr \$1,440.66
 - Charles Cline \$355.14

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- David See \$3,975.59
 - Todd Rankin \$438.66
 - Bale Grazing
 - Jack Hershman \$709.10
 - Nutrient Management
 - Charles Cline \$1,650.00
 - David See \$1,136.26
 - Watering System
 - Mark Teets \$2,000.00
 - Heavy Use Protection Area
 - Todd Rankin \$2,343.00
 - Robert Hennen \$2,712.30
 - Kevin Britton \$3,375.00
 - Blanche Stemple \$2,232.75
 - Thomas Bickerstaff \$2,810.44
- Scott seconded. Motion carried. Teets abstained from voting.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 18- State AgEP Committee Meeting
- December 21- Grazing Conference Meeting
- December 25- Office Closed/Christmas Day
- January 1- Office Closed/New Years Day
- January 15 - Office Closed/Martin Luther King Day

Minutes approved by: _____

Mark Myers, Chairman

Date