

Monongahela Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2024
Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center
Morgantown, WV
@ 9:30 a.m.

Attendance:

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

USDA-NRCS: *Jared Nestor, Malori Wachtor*

WVCA: *Kaitlyn Jones, Don Whetzel, Devon Kokoska, Candice Stone, Cindy Shreve*

WVDOF: *Rudy Williams*

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was led by Jim McDonald.

Prayer was given by Andy Price.

January 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes - *Cienawski moved to approve the January Meeting Minutes (1/4/24). Teets seconded. Motion carried.*

Cooperating Agency Reports

- USDA-NRCS – Nestor reported the job has been posted for the DC and could take a few months to complete. Deadline for this round of funding for rankings is tomorrow. Tim Scott will be returning on Monday.
- WV Division of Forestry – Williams reported the tree farm inspector meeting and recertification will be held on Wednesday February 7. The chainsaw safety class will be in June at Brad Swigers. Wildlife Center at French Creek is shutdown.

Solid Waste:

- McDonald reported they have a dependable crew. The state requires a yearly audit. McDonald said that he doesn't want to be reappointed to the Solid Waste Committee however Ben Smith would like to be.
- Scott reported they just completed 2021 audit and are filing 2022 audit now.

New Business:

- EOI- add to March agenda
- RC&D Representative Marion and Preston Counties- **Teets moved to appoint Cienawski to represent Marion County. Scott seconded. Motion carried.**
- Conservation Day/ Mountain Harvest State Farm Winner/ **Utterback move to pay for state farm winner to attend Conservation Day. Scott seconded. Motion carried.**
- Area Meeting- Contact Rachel Mitchell to reserve a room at the Extension Office at Mylan. Provide lunch.
- Conservation Agreement-**Cienawski moved to approve Richard Chickerall/Marion County. Scott seconded. Motion carried.**

WVCA Reports

- Kokoska gave a written report and said the new AS will hopefully be on board in March. District farm winners are due by June 15th.

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- Whetzel reported Upper Deckers 5 has a dive team coming with a camera to see what is causing the clogged risers. They need to set up a meeting with the Mayor of Mannington regarding the Channel.
- Shreve reported there is a vacancy in Potomac Valley and intern positions will be posted soon.
- Next meeting will be a 9 am due to the Appalachian Grazing Conference.
- Committee Reports
 - Finance
 - **Cienawski moved to file financial reports for audit. Teets seconded. Motion carried.**
 - Safety/Building/Grounds/Equipment
 - Heating issues. They are still waiting for a part. The heating company was called repeatedly before they responded.
 - Education/Marketing/Soil- Preston County needs a copy of the BRIM Insurance, food is being provided by the VoTech center.
 - Ag Enhancement **Teets moved to approve the following as listed. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.**
 - Sign Up Dates: April 15, 2024-May 31, 2024; additional 2nd sign up will be available if needed.
 - FY25 Programs to Offer: Lime, Nutrient Management, Winter Grazing, Fence, Heavy Use Area Protection, Invasive Species, Watering System, Urban and Community Ag, Pollination, Pasture Reseeding, Frost Seeding, Hay Reseeding, Bale Grazing, Warm Season Annual Seeding.
 - Program Changes: Add Frost Seeding 60% cost of seed and labor, 50 acres DNE \$1,000.00; Pasture Reseeding change from DNE \$2,500.00 to DNE \$3,500.00; Urban and Community Ag 50% for UCA, change DNE \$500.00 to DNE \$1,000.00 for UCA practices; Watering Systems change 50% to 75% total cost, well drilling \$3,000.00 to \$4,500.00, Spring Development, Pipeline and Trough change \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00 and DNE \$3,400.00 to \$6,000.00; Invasive Species add "chemical if self-applied (commercial application not eligible)"; Heavy Use Area Protection change 2,500 sq ft to 4,000 sq ft and DNE \$3,375.00 to \$5,000.00; Fence change \$2.00/ft HT and Barbed wire to \$3.00/ft HT and Barbed wire, \$3.50/ft woven to \$4.00 and DNE \$7,000.00 to DNE HT/Barbed \$7,500.00 and woven \$8,000.00; Winter Grazing change DNE \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00; Nutrient Management change \$70/ac P and K to TBD: based on soil recommendations DNE \$3,000.00.
 - Completion Deadlines: December 2, 2024-Heavy Use, Pollination(Habitat Plot), Winter Grazing and Bale Grazing; May 1, 2025-Fence, Hay Reseeding, Pasture Reseeding, Lime, Frost Seeding; June 2, 2025- all other practices and any late approvals.

Minutes approved by:
Myers, Chairman


Date

3-7-24 Mark