

**Monongahela Conservation District**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 1, 2024**  
**Division of Forestry Office – Division 1**  
**Farmington, WV 26571**  
**9:30 am**

Attendance:

**District Supervisors:** Mark Teets (chairman), Chuck Cienawski, HR Scott, Bob Spaid, Art Mouser (Associate), Brandon Linton, Mark Myers, Jean Conley (Associate)

**USDA-NRCS-** Christopher Toothman

**WVDOF-** Rudy Williams, Shaun Kuhn

**WVCA-** Levi Cyphers, Bill Armstrong, Adrienne Hoalcraft

**WVU Extension-** Carrie See

Chairman Teets called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

The “Pledge of Allegiance” was led by Art Mouser.

Prayer was given by Art Mouser.

July 11, 2024 Minutes

**Myers moved to approve the July meeting minutes (7/11/24). Spaid seconded. Motion carried.**

Cooperating Agencies Reports

- USDA-NRCS: DC Toothman provided a written report. He spoke on the upcoming spotted lanternfly meeting and the chief and staff field visit at Mountain Harvest Farm.
- WVDOF: Williams thanked the district for hosting the meeting there and all the support given over the years of his career. He reported they had sent 2 people to Colorado as part of a 20 man fire crew.
- WVU Extension: Carrie See reported Monongalia County will be getting an extension agent. Extension has been assisting with the drought and stressing feed sample testing. Teets inquired about educational grants. See will work with the district and Vanta Coda III to apply for educational grants (needs submitted by October 1<sup>st</sup>).

WVCA Reports

- Watershed Projects Division:
  - Cyphers explained the O&M yearly allotment process. 1 million dollar amount is competitive across the state. Potomac Valley dams had a higher need this fiscal year. The basic O&M allotment is decided yearly by top watershed agency employees.
  - Cienawski stressed the importance of the Mannington Channel and its place in the community. Cyphers discussed all statewide channels being neglected until recently. He explained that for now 1-2 sections could be completed but next year may be different. Cienawski reported on flooding concerns of the Mannington

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mayor. Designating a flood control area was discussed. NRCS DC Toothman will look into the process further.

- Myers commented on everything increasing in price. Federal money in coadmin accounts was discussed. This money must be kept for project contingencies.
- Teets would like to see more consistent information be shared from agency officials
- Cienawski inquired about asking for more funds for the Mannington Channel. Cyphers encouraged supervisors to reach out now to managers and legislatures for increased funding for FY26.
- The sections of the channel being worked on were discussed. The lower section has a lot more growth in it. Armstrong reminded everyone the job showing for the Manning Channel is scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup> and the bid opening is scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Cyphers reported the 2<sup>nd</sup> dye test of Upper Buffalo 39 showed no connection. There will be one more round of testing but it is like there is no immediate threat to the dam. Cyphers spoke about the design/construction process and the need for the district to request funds for the project. **Myers moved to request \$200,000 funding from the state for Upper Buffalo 39. Cienawski seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Cyphers reported Upper Deckers 2 & 4 look good from the camera view. NRCS's camera still will not work on Upper Deckers 5. The Preston County dive team is still working on scheduling a second dive. If the dive does not reveal the issue pumping down or opening the drain gate may be required.
- Cyphers report Upper Deckers mowing is done and Anderson did a good job. Upper Buffalo mowing is done with Vincents doing a good job. A gate post was damaged and will be replaced.
- Stephen Starcher is working on no trespassing signs for the dams.
- Conservation Services-Scott reported CS Jones is working on rankings and just received the funding allotment amount. If everything is approved at max cost share, we would double the \$71,000 allotment.
  - **Myers moved to approve the conservation agreement for Chad Nicholson. Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- AS Hoalcraft provided a written report.
- District Operations Manager Kokoska sent a written report in his absence.
  - The follow awards were voted on:
    - **Cienawski nominated Clyde Bailey for the Carroll Greene Award. Bob Spaid seconded. Nomination carried.**
    - **Myers nominated Rudy Williams for the Member at Large Award. Cienawski seconded. Nomination carried.**

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- **Myers nominated Art Mouser for the Honorary Member Award. Spaid seconded. Nomination carried.**

Solid Waste Authority

- Teets spoke with Annie Brode-Parenti. She provided a written report for the meeting and will continue to do so. Teets reported she was very involved and expressed a desire to continue to represent the board on the Preston County Solid Waste Authority.
- **Myers nominated Annie Brode-Parenti to serve on the Preston County Solid Waste Authority board on behalf of MCD. Spaid seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Conley, who represents the Marion County Commission on the Marion County Solid Waste Authority Board, reported the MCSWA had applied for all available grants. The Marion County Commission is looking to see part of the property and move the office and recycling facility back several hundred feet. This is to be decided. There is a statewide SWA meeting in October. Ben Smith Jr is MCD's representative. Cienawski requested a written report be provided for MCD's board meetings in the future.

Financial Statements

- **Myers moved to approve the Co-Administered Account statement and file it for audit once received. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.**
- Cienawski reported \$10,042 was paid to the Co-Admin account for rent arrear payment. The money has not been moved to the First United account yet.
- **Myers moved to approve the GF and CDO Account statements and file them for audit once received. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.**

Letter of Request

- **Myers moved to approve the following LOR:**  
**LOR       -       16191                       -       FY25AgEP Allotment       -       \$71,000**  
**Spaid seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Funding Request

- Myers spoke about past donations to the Women's Auxiliary and WVACD for scholarships. The Women's Auxiliary is facing some participation struggles. The scholarships will now be open to instate and out-of-state schools.
- **Spaid moved to donate \$1,000 to the WVACD for a scholarship in Anna Mouser's name. Cienawski seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

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Unfinished Business

- Bob Spaid, Brandon Linton, and Andy Price need added to the bank accounts and given signature authority.
- Mark Myers needs to go to the United located at the Waterfront to view the safety deposit box. This account needs closed.
- Feedback was given on the latest logo design. Hoalcraft will get in contact with Vanta and put this on the September agenda.
- A dinner for the dam monitors was discussed. Cienawski is working with the Mannington mayor to choose a location for the Upper Buffalo monitors. The WVCA will provide training for the monitors at the dinner. Cienawski urged the board to get something scheduled now because it has been put off too many times for too long. Possible Preston County locations for the Upper Decker's monitors were discussed. Spaid will reach out to the monitors to find a date that works for them. Cienawski will work on the date and location for Upper Buffalo.
- The banquet will be held at the Winfield Community Building in Marion County on October 17 with Sayboys catering. Cienawski provided the menu with price to the board. Guest lists and awards will continue to be worked on.

New Business

- **Myers moved to enact their AgEP Exigency program for livestock water supply. Linton seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Cienawski abstained due to conflict of interest).**
- Exigent Best Management Practices options were discussed. Myers moved to approve all Exigent Best Management Practices. **Motion died on the floor.**
- **Spaid moved to cover Temporary Fence in relation to the drought under the AgEP Exigency program. Scott seconded. Motion carried. (Cienawski abstained due to conflict of interest).**

The Mountain State Report, Friends of Cheat newsletter, and additional correspondence are available for viewing at the MCD office.

Committee Reports

- Finance-Cienawski will continue to monitor the rent situation.
- Legislation-February 20<sup>th</sup> is the capital Ag date. February 19<sup>th</sup> is being suggested for the quarterly meeting in Charleston.
- Safety/Building/Grounds/Equipment-Scott suggested moving the 5 ton spreader to Preston county. Spaid and Teets have found a location to house it. \$27,000 is the cost for an extra wide new 4 ton spreader with hydraulic spinners. Scott will get different quotes and 3 competitive bids. **Spaid moved to authorize Scott to get more information and bids on a 4 ton spreader. Myers seconded. Motion carried.** Hoalcraft will compile a list going 2-3 years back of spreader rental history and the county they were located in.

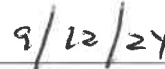
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- NRCS is planning to relocate in December of 2024.
- An interior designer from Mills Group visited the office. The remodel is being worked on.
- Annual watershed inspections will be scheduled soon.
- Myers is working with the grazing conference.

Spaid adjourned the meeting at 12 PM.



Mark Teets, Chairman



Date

