

**Monongahela Conservation District**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center**  
**Morgantown, WV**  
**9:30 am**

**Attendance:**

**Supervisors:** Mark Teets (chairman), Andy Price, Jean Conley (associate), Chuck Cienawski, Brandon Linton, HR Scott (virtual), Mark Myers, Art Mouser (virtual)

**WVACD:** Heather Duncan, Vanta Coda (virtual)

**WVCA:** Don Whetzel (virtual), Kaitlyn Jones, Adrienne Hoalcraft, Davin White

**NRCS:** Christopher Toothman, Alyssa Moorhead

**DOF:** Rudy Williams

**WVU Extension:** Carrie See (virtual)

Chairman Teets called the meeting to order at 9:39 am.

Cienawski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prayer was given by Andy Price.

**Price moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on 10/3/24, the finance committee meeting on 10/31/24, and the watershed committee meeting on 10/31/24. Linton seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Cooperating Agency Reports:**

**NRCS:** Toothman provided a written report. He spoke on the vacancies in White Hall and reported Tim Scott had accepted a promotion in Pennsylvania. Moorhead reported on many positions are working on their onboarding for new employees. She reported on a recent, successful training in Flatwoods for new hires. Cienawski highlighted the vacancies in White Hall, Moorhead will work on finding a move out date for NRCS.

**DOF:** Williams reported on a burn ban being issued across the state. He expects it to continue throughout November. He reported on many calls to intense fires lately.

**WVU Extension:** See reported interviews have been held for the Monongalia Extension Agent and they hope to have an agent hired by the first of the year. She spoke about the grazing school and CS Jone's attendance. She is looking into ways to increase attendance in the future and may try to add more counties. She reported the pesticide recertification was almost complete.

**WVACD:** Duncan reminded the board the next quarterly meeting will be held on January 6<sup>th</sup> at West Virginia State University. The Capital Ag and Conservation Day will take place February 20<sup>th</sup>. All districts are expected to have a table at Ag day. Duncan recommended sending 2-3 supervisors to work the table. She reported on a Community Development grant that is due NO LATER than December 31<sup>st</sup>. Vanta reported he is happy to help with the grant and other upcoming projects.

**WVCA Reports:**

- Watershed: Whetzel announced the job showing for Upper Deckers 5 will take place November 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am. The bid opening will take place on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

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**Conservation Services:**

- **Myers moved to approve the conservation agreements for Andrew Wolfe and Andrew J. Wolfe. Linton seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Jones reported on a temporary fence exigency application from Chris White. The supervisors felt the fencing did not qualify under the purpose of the exigency program. They encouraged him to apply under the Ag Enhancement program.
- **Myers moved to approve the exigency applications listed less Chris White's application. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
  - **Charles Bell-WS**
  - **Charles Cline-WS**
  - **Todd Rankin-Temp. Fence**
  - **David See-WS**
  - **Timothy Tennant-Temp Fence**
  - **William Warnick-WS**
- **Myers moved to approve payment for the following exigency applications:**
  - **Todd Rankin-\$150**
  - **David See-\$99.95**
  - **Timothy Tennant-\$387.13**
  - **William Warnick-\$300****Linton seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Myers moved to approve JR Wolfe's PDF payment of \$7,200. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Jones reported on a map discrepancy that could have resulted in an error on Jack Hershman's contract. Jones will work with FSA to get more information and adjust the contract amount if necessary. **Myers moved to adjust the contract amount if needed. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

AS Hoalcraft provided a written report. The success of the dam monitor training events was discussed. The board expressed interest in holding the dinners every 2 years, especially in election years. Holding the event annually was also considered. Price inquired about what watershed the Monongalia County Commission could be asked to help with. The Upper Deckers Channel was discussed.

WVCA's Davin White spoke about the grazing calendar. He hopes to get them delivered earlier this year. He requested district highlights for his annual report. Some highlights discussed were dam monitor training, farm safety events, receiving a grant, Jones's trip to Minnesota, and the local work group.

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**Solid Waste Authority:** A written report was provided for the Preston County Solid Waste Authority. Scott announced a pesticide collection happening Saturday for the Monongalia Solid Waste Authority, Conley gave a report on Marrion County Solid Waste including them working on building a new building.

**Myers moved to approve the financial statements and file them for audit. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Hoalcraft encouraged the board to work on keeping a record of fixed assets and depreciation for future audits. The MCD building audit was discussed.

WVCA's Whetzel provided a written report. He clarified the upcoming Drought Assistance Program will be separate from the exigency program. The Department of Ag is still working out the details for those funds, but as of now, it looks like most of that money will go towards reseeding.

**Invoices:** Myers moved to pay Lowe & Associates \$7,000 for audits for FY22 and FY23. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Myers moved to pay \$500 for food and the use of the Reedsville Fire Hall for dam monitor training. Cienawski seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Letters of Request:** Myers moved to approve LOR 16233 FY22 APE Audit Reimbursement for \$3,500 and LOR 16234 FY23 APE Audit Reimbursement for \$3,500. Cienawski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:** Shirt options for the supervisors and to hand out at events were discussed. The board would prefer to use a local person for shirts. Scott expressed concerns about using district funds for this. Hoalcraft will investigate the matter. Myers discussed forming a MCD foundation and putting ownership of the building under the foundation for protection.

**New Business:**

- Myers spoke about changes to the travel per diem and meals. Some districts follow GSA rates, some set their own rates. Hoalcraft will look into what MCD does and verify GSA rates.
- Duncan and Jones reported on a climate smart GRASS grant. The full grant can be read online. It is a federal grant with WVU handling the admin work.
- Hoalcraft will work on the BRIM questionnaire.
- Teets spoke on the need for changes to the AgEP program. He urged the supervisors to consider preapproving and ranking applications based on past allotments, then being reimbursed after the funding comes through. This would allow for a better timeline for cooperators. Jones announced West Fork will be hiring a conservation specialist so she will

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be solely working with MCD. This should help with moving the ranking process up. Hoalcraft reminded the board about the state AgEP meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Changes to the AgEP allotment will be discussed then. Cienawski inquired about giving unfunded cooperators a better chance the following year. Changes to the ranking process were discussed. The AgEP committee will meet after the December board meeting to plan for the state meeting. Scott cannot attend the meeting in person. The alternate will attend in his place (Cienawski).

The USDA Annual Report is available for viewing.

**Committee Reports**

- Finance: Possible future lease rates were discussed. Price reported he thinks MCD should ask for \$25 per square foot. Commercial leasing rates for Morgantown can be easily compared. Hoalcraft reported she answered WVCA's questions but is waiting to hear back from Mills Group about ADA accessibility. Cienawski added that a meeting with Mills Group needs scheduled regarding the heating and cooling.
- AgEP: Jones reported on many trainings she has attended lately. She reported on Gary Walls being featured in the Market Bulletin.
- Legislature: Myers reminded the board about January 6<sup>th</sup> being the quarterly meeting and February 20<sup>th</sup> being the Ag day. Nominating Linton to represent at the quarterly meeting in January was discussed.
- Safety/Building/Grounds/Equipment: Cienawski took care of the rain barrels and reported the outside looks good for the winter. He adjusted the timers for DST.
- Watersheds: Deckers: Teets reported the monitor training and watershed committee training were both beneficial. He reminded the board about the job showing and bid opening.
- Buffalo: Cienawski gave a report on the watershed meetings. He talked about the possibility of the district doing small projects and being reimbursed for parts and working with the Tygarts Valley crew on larger projects. He specified the tree blocking the channel as a possible project for the crew. The process for handling smaller projects was discussed. Cienawski discussed the benefits of not having to put a project out for bid.
- Education: Price gave an update on pesticide recertification and preparation for pollinator gardens. Cienawski reported on Mannington getting ready for pollinators from a RC&D grant.
- Grasslands: Myers reported the grassland committee meeting was January 17<sup>th</sup>. Envirothon is meeting December 4<sup>th</sup>. Appalachian grazing is meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisors gave reports on their projects and activities, including charity events they are involved in.

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Linton adjourned the meeting at 12:40pm.

*Mark Teets*

Mark Teets, Chairman

*12/5/24*

Date

