

**Monongahela Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
October 2nd, 2025
Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center
Morgantown, WV
9:30 am**

Attendance:

Supervisors: Mark Teets (Chairman), Brandon Linton, Chuck Cienawski, HR Scott, Mark Myers, Bob Spaid, Andy Price, Jean Conley (associate), and Art Mouser (associate)

WVU Extension: Carrie See, Josh Malencia

WVCA: Don Whetzel, Devon Kokoska, Kaitlyn Jones, Adrienne Hoalcraft, Stephen Starcher (virtual)

Chairman Teets called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.

Cienawski led the Pledge of Allegiance and delivered the prayer.

Myers moved to approve the minutes from 9/4/25, seconded by Spaid. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agencies

- The federal government shutdown was discussed.
- NRCS's Chris Toothman had provided a written report before the shutdown.
- Malencia spoke about a pollinator garden they are working on with the WVU School of Nursing. He reported Mon Extension had recently lost 2 employees. An upcoming shitake mushroom event was discussed. They could host up to 50 participants and provide 1 log for participant (an extra log would be \$30). November 1st or November 8th were discussed as possible dates. A \$250 donation from MCD and MCD hosting the event was discussed.
- See gave a report on the Buckwheat Festival. They had around 304 market animals sold. The Preston County Farm Bureau banquet is October 11th. November 12th is the property heirs education program where lawyers will teach about trusts, LLCs, etc. October 28th there is a daylong pesticide training at Mylan. See reported Reedsville Farm will be under new management soon. There is a wool evaluation on October 11th. Myers reported the Fall Fly In will also take place on October 11th.
- WVACD's Duncan provided a written report for the meeting. Myers said the association auction will take place on October 23rd at 11am prior to the banquet.
- Cienawski questioned why MCD wasn't eligible for Chesapeake Bay money. Myers stated the water quality met standards. Only a small amount of streams are

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impacted. Teets said MCD should talk to the Department of Ag about the chicken litter program.

WVCA Reports

- Kokoska gave a report on the annual inspections. Upper Buffalo needs a few supplies purchased (chains, etc) Kokoska will work with the WVCA engineer to get an update on the Upper Buffalo 39 seepage. The siphon for Upper Deckers 5 is currently being built. Armstrong has accepted a new role as a Civil Engineering Tech and his area will expand. The Upper Buffalo Creek Channel agreement and plan were given to the board and reviewed. Highlighted points included:
 - The Marion County Commission, the City of Mannington, and the Monongahela Soil Conservation District are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the modified channel.
 - The inspection team shall consist of the following members
 - Marion County Commission
 - City of Mannington
 - Monongahela Soil Conservation District
 - SCS District Conservationist
 - SCS Engineer (at designated times)
 - The Monongahela Soil Conservation District shall be the team leader and conduct the inspections, assisted by the inspection team.
 - The project shall be inspected annually and after occurrences that may cause damage to the structure.
 - A narrative report shall be prepared after each inspection, and the Monongahela Soil Conservation District will be responsible for having the report written and distributed within 10 days following the inspection.
- Cienawski question why responsibility is different since the channel is part of NRCS flood control. Kokoska reported the dams and channels were under separate agreements. Kokoska informed the board that an inspection performed with NRCS is the first step. Kokoska reported NRCS is the technical support on the project and WVCA helps to fund the project annually through the o&m allotment.
- Cienawski questioned why the channel allotment had decreased in recent years. Starcher explained the allotment formula was adjusted due to project needs across

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the state. Starcher encouraged MCD to get an estimate from NRCS for the project. Starcher clarified the City of Mannington, or the Marion County Commission could take on a bigger role with the project. Cienawski questioned the contract requirements. Starcher said the contract requirements are pretty standard, but a longer period between the job showing and the bid opening could be arranged.

- Teets inquired if channels are covered by senate bill 941. Starcher said 941 specifically referenced dams and clarified the channel is not considered a high hazard structure. Startcher reiterated the first step should be an inspection with the full inspection team.
- The drought map and exigency program were discussed.
- **Myers moved to enact the exigency program, seconded by Spaid. Motion carried.**
- **Myers moved to sign amendment 1 to Agreement #1502-00-MCD, seconded by Cienawski. Motion carried.**
- **Spaid moved to offer Exigent Livestock Water Supply and Exigent Temporary Fence, seconded by Linton. Motion carried.**
- The lifespan on exigency projects was discussed. Jones went over what materials were covered under the exigency program.
- **Myers moved to approve retroactive payments as of September 4th, 2025, seconded by Cienawski. Motion carried.**
- **Cienawski moved to accept receipts until 30 days after the district is out of D1 drought status, seconded by Linton. Motion carried.**
- Jones reported all AgEP contracts have been signed and returned with 2 cancellations.
- **Myers moved to approve the cooperator agreement for Matthew Cain, seconded by Linton. Motion carried.**
- Hoalcraft provided a written report and highlighted the outstanding checks on the district's account, the NRCS door repair, and banquet planning.
- Whetzel provided a written report and highlighted upcoming important dates.

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Solid Waste Authority

- Scott reported on an recycling event and paint pick up. Another paint pickup event will take place next week.
- Hayward Helmick will be resigning as the MCD representative on the Mon County Solid Waste Authority board. **Cienawski moved to appoint Mark Myers as the MCD representative on the Monongalia Solid Waste Authority Board once Helmick resigns, seconded by Linton. Motion carried.**
- Conley reported last month's Marion County SWA meeting was cancelled.
- Hoalcraft will provide a written report for the Preston County SWA once it's received.

Myers moved to approve LOR 16453 for \$26,205 for the WVDA AgEP Drought Exigency, seconded by Cienawski. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Banquet planning was discussed, and award presentations were assigned.

Price moved to donate \$250 to Mon County Extension for an upcoming shitake mushroom class and host the event, seconded by Myers. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- Cienawski reported the district was \$2,000 in the hole last month. Options for saving money were discussed. The garbage account will be looked into. Travel and per diem funds were discussed.
- Scott reported MCD currently has contracts out totaling \$113,668.40.
- A possible severance tax was discussed.
- Scott reported the yard is being mowed every 2 weeks now. Cienawski spoke to Bill Ray about spraying the fenced area for weeds. KLM refused to do a 6 month contract to rent the building. The asking price was discussed by the board. The board indicated they did not want to continue working with Randy Neal.
- **Myers moved to give Chairman Teets authority to sign a contract with a realtor to list the space, seconded by Price. Motion carried.**
- Cienawski moved to list the space with Brandon Kupec. Motion died from lack of second.

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- Spaid reported he attended the Upper Deckers annual inspections. Upper Deckers 1 has 2 seeps. WVCA is monitoring the situation. The mowing on Upper Deckers 6 looked good. Upper Deckers 5 is still waiting on a siphon.
- Cienawski reported traffic coming up the face of the dam on Upper Buffalo 22 was causing erosion. Cienawski will purchase supplies (chain, cable) to fix some issues. Cienawski stated the dams still need signs posted so DNR can enforce the rules.
- Teets inquired about the district putting their own locks on the dam gates.
- Cienawski reported Upper Buffalo 2 had an area of high grass in the emergency spillway. Cienawski also started the road going out to Upper Buffalo 2 had deep ruts and potholes. Kokoska suggested adding it to next year's mowing contract. Cienawski stated the issue needed addressed sooner. Possible fixes were discussed.
- Cienawski reported WVCA's Davin White is putting together a drone video of the Upper Buffalo channel. Cienawski reported he would work on an inspection with the inspection team.
- Cienawski verified he could purchase repair materials with the district credit card and get reimbursement for them
- Price reported RC&D will be meeting on October 28th and touring Lucas Sieber's mushroom area.
- The Appalachian Grazing Conference is meeting October 16th. The conference will have 3 different locations.
- Scott is working with Mills Group to get the bathroom remodel started.
- Mouser reported several of his grandkids are showing livestock this week.

Spaid adjourned the meeting at 12:45pm.



Mark Teets, Chairman



Date

