

**Monongahela Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2026
Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center
Morgantown, WV
9:30 am**

Attendance:

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

WVU Extension: Carrie See, Sheryl Jarvis (Virtual)

NRCS: Christopher Toothman, Sarah Sions, Mallori Wachter

FSA: April Savage

Division of Forestry: Rudy Williams

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

WVCA: Devon Kokoska, Kaitlyn Jones (virtual), Bill Armstrong, Adrienne Hoalcraft, Gene Saurborn, Sigrid Teets

Visitors: Jennifer Turner (Monongalia County Fair)

Chairman Teets called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance and delivered the prayer.

Jennifer Turner, who works with the Monongalia County Fair introduced herself and gave a presentation on an upcoming Agricultural Education Center. 65 acres have been donated for the center that will teach youth ag and conservation and host an apiary. She highlighted the programs that would be offered and building highlights including a hive observation wall. Cienawski spoke about the possibility of a grant opportunity through Wes Mon Ty.

Spaid moved to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on 12.4.25, seconded by Myers. Motion carried.

Cooperating Agencies:

- NRCS's Toothman provided a written report and spoke about an upcoming ag initiative. Toothman also provided a list of possible conservation farm of the year candidates.
- Wachter reported January 15th is their cut off date for round 1 applications.
- FSA's livestock forage drought program is open until March 1st. Water hauling can be paid for as well.

**Monongahela Conservation District
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- Williams spoke about staffing changes including an upcoming vacancy and the new Office Assistant.
- The Mon Extension dinner winter meeting is scheduled for January 15th and Jarvis needs a head count today.
- Preston Extension's winter dinner meeting is scheduled for February 12th. The topic will be the process of selling farm products directly. See reported having issues with mail and working on getting the heritage apple tree grafting program started again.
- Duncan reported the quarterly meeting will be on February 17th and Ag day at the Capitol will be February 18th. Supervisors will need to set up appointments with representatives. Century Farm applications are due soon. Duncan also spoke about Friends of WVACD membership. Cienawski asked Duncan to supply a summary of a program discussed at the East Area Meeting. Duncan reported the action was not specifically endorsed by the association but was done by Eastern Panhandle supervisor Danny Lutz. Lutz has been working on supporting a bill to help with repairing and installing septic tanks. He is also working on a statewide tree planting program.
- Coda went over his written report

WVCA

- Jones reported all Heavy Use Area contracts were completed and the next deadline was May 4th.
 - **Myers moved to approve the payment for Lucas Sieber for \$959 (Urban Ag), seconded by Price. Motion carried.**
 - **Myers moved to approve the following exigency payments:**
 - **Playford Clark – Revegetation \$454.50**
 - **Playford Clark – Temp Fence \$494.97**
 - **Joseph Bruce Ragione – Cover Crop \$8.50**
 - **Joseph Bruce Ragione – Temp Fence \$185.35**
 - **Timothy Zaharko – Temp Fence \$341.50**
- Seconded by Price. Motion carried.**
- Kokoska gave an update on the Upper Buffalo 39 seepage stating CTL was looking for the source. The Upper Deckers 5 blockage is out. It was plywood reinforced with 2x6 boards. The project finished on December 11th. The dam was dewatered below

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Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2026
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the second stage and then a diver performed the removal. Kokoska clarified Jennings Excavating subcontracted the dive team after a question from Myers.

- Myers reported he was pleased the total cost was less than Jennings initial bid.
- Teets expressed his displeasure stating a dive team could have completed the removal for much less. Kokoska stated the dam would need to be pumped down for any diving team. Teets expressed he felt the district's feedback wasn't properly communicated. Teets believed the job could have been completed for much less money and more efficiently. Possible motives for the blockage were discussed. Spaid inquired about the dam inspections and Armstrong clarified the problem was caught during the inspections. Mouser felt all dams are prone to problems arising.
- The Upper Deckers EAPs were discussed. Spaid and Teets will reach out to Preston County OEM to discuss what contact information they want.
- Hoalcraft provided a written report and also reported Bionic Tire had reached out stating they could now process ag tires under certain conditions.
- Whetzel's written report was provided.

Solid Waste Authority

- No Marion County report
- No Preston County report
- Myers reported Monongalia County has a work session scheduled for the end of this month for their plan of work.

Price moved to approve the financial statements and per diem/travel and file it for audit, seconded by Myers. Motion carried.

Myers moved to approve LOR 16476 OM&R State Supplemental Restricted Funds UDC #5 Dewatering for \$65,722.95, seconded by Spaid. Motion carried.

Myers moved to pay the Jennings Excavating Invoice for \$65,722.95 once the LOR was completed, seconded by Spaid. Motion carried.

Myers moved to pay the Protex invoice for \$539.40, seconded by Spaid. Motion carried.

**Monongahela Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2026
Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center
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Myers requested Ray's Land Services provide an itemized invoice for services rendered. He requested Hoalcraft put it on the agenda for approval/discussion. Snow removal services were discussed.

Old Business

- Hoalcraft reminded the board if they wanted to host an event using the GLCI funding they need to start planning immediately.
- Conservation Farm of the Year candidates were discussed. **Linton moved to nominate Stemple's Valley Farm for nontraditional farm of the year, seconded by Myers. Motion carried.** Working on a video package for them was discussed. Spaid will reach out to Valley Farm about participating.

New Business

- The Century Farm program was discussed. Myers reported the association would not be paying for century farm signs for non association districts.
- **Spaid moved to approve the Century Farm application for "Forman Farm", seconded by Myers. Motion carried.**

Committee Reports

- Linton reported he had spoken to a couple of contractors about the bathroom remodel and possible other work in the office. Real estate lawyer Kupec had suggested dividing the office space up differently to make it more rentable.
- Saurborn reported the agency is not asking for any changes to the building. He reported the agency would be amenable to moving agency employees' offices but could not take any less square footage than the current contract and the rent could not be increased. He also stated he had no control over the real estate division's decisions. Saurborn did not know the specifics for what the real estate division would require but suggested at least a plan with updated drawings. Saurborn reiterated he was amenable to the possibility, but the agency was not requesting any changes.
- Myers reported the grazing committee meeting is January 23rd.
- Price spoke about upcoming pollinator and RC&D events.

**Monongahela Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2026
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- Cienawski inquired about fences needing repair on some Upper Buffalo dams. Kokoska will reach out to DNR about the issues.
- Cienawski reported on the state AgEP committee meeting. The portable solar exigency option and separating nucs from habitat plots will go to the state conservation committee. Unfunded applications will be reported to Judith (WVCA Executive Director).
- Issues with the First United bank account were discussed. Teets reported Clear Mountain Bank has been highly recommended as an option.
- The board looked at the available rental space and discussed ways to make it more appealing.


Spaid moved to move the General Funds (GF) and Conservation District Operations (CDO) accounts to Clear Mountain Bank, seconded by Cienawski. Motion carried.

Spaid moved to put positive pay onto the current First United accounts, seconded by Price. Motion carried.

Spaid adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.



Mark Teets, Chairman



Date

