

**Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
August 14, 2024 – USDA Bonsack Service Center**

Preston Wickline called the meeting to order at 7:20 without a quorum present. Non-voting matters were discussed until Jeff Henderson arrived at 8:10 at which time a quorum was established.

Directors Present: Jeff Henderson, Chair, Botetourt (elected) – arrived at 8:10
Preston Wickline, Vice Chair, Botetourt (elected)
Andrew Keffer, Craig (elected)
Walter Nelson, Botetourt (appointed)

Directors Absent: Jason Williams, Craig (elected)
Anne Jones, VCE – Botetourt (VCE – appointed)

Staff Present: Tim Miller
Dan Naff

Others Present: Michael Beahm (associate director – Treasurer)
Jeff Munsey (associate director)
Tom Williamson (associate director)
Tasha Snavely (associate director)
Tad Williams, DCR

Minutes

July minutes were approved unanimously by a motion from Jeff Henderson, second by Walter.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report included the profit and loss sheet and the balance sheet. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously after a motion from Walter, second by Andrew.

Other Business

- Tad shared the PY24 District assessments completed by DCR. Mountain Castles “fully satisfied” all grant deliverables for both the cost share grant and the administrative/operational grant.
- A revised PY25 budget was reviewed. Minor changes from the budget approved in June, but the new budget more accurately reflects end-of-year carry-over funds. Jeff Henderson made a motion to approve the budget revision, second by Andrew, the motion passed.
- The board reviewed the three district-owned certificates of deposit and discussed possible uses for them. No final determination was made at this time.
- The 2024 annual report was reviewed and approved, based on a motion by Jeff Henderson and a second by Walter.
- The board discussed the need to have Clean Water Farm Award nominations ready to approve by the September board meeting.

319 Contracts

Andrew moved to approve contract #45-25-0002; instance #589918 [RB-1 (pump out); 50% cost share; max cost share=\$225]. Second by Jeff Henderson, motion carried.

VACS Program

Walter moved to approve the following conservation plans:

- CP-45-5-0002 (linked with contract #45-25-0003)
- CP-45-25-0003 (linked with contract #45-25-0004)

Second by Andrew, motion passed; Jeff Henderson abstained.

The board reviewed the following VACS contracts:

#45-25-0003; Instance #590487; SL6-W; total cost share = \$72,956.25 OCB VACS
After discussion, Jeff Henderson moved to approve, second by Walter, motion carried.

#45-25-0004; Instance #588693; SL-6W; total cost share = \$17,891.75 OCB VACS
After discussion, Andrew moved to approve pending completion of USFWS review, second by Walter, motion passed; Jeff Henderson abstained.

After the vote, Tad Williams reminded the board that when conservation plans and contracts come before the board where a director has a vested interest the board member needs to leave the room for the duration of the discussion and vote on those matters. Although he abstained from voting, Jeff Henderson did not leave the room during the discussion and vote on the conservation plans and contract associated with his farming operation.

#45-25-0007; Instance #578519; SL-6W; total cost share = \$75,119.00 OCB VACS
After discussion, Walter moved to approve, second by Jeff Henderson, motion carried.

The board reviewed the following VACS cover crop contracts:

- #45-25-0005; Instance #592539; SL-8H; total cost share = \$1,465.80 CB VACS
- #45-25-0006; Instance #592563; SL-8B; total cost share = \$40,496.40 CB VACS and OCB VACS

Andrew moved to approve both cover crop contracts, second by Jeff Henderson, motion passed.

Conservation Technician Report: submitted by Dan Naff – see attached

District Coordinator Report: submitted by Tim Miller – see attached


Agency Reports:

- DCR - submitted by Tad Williams – see attached
- VCE - no report
- VDOF – no report
- NRCS - no report

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. by a motion from Walter, second by Andrew.

Approved: 
Jeff Henderson, Chair

Date: 9-11-24

Respectfully submitted/prepared by: 
Tim Miller