

Mountain Castles Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 8, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
USDA Service Center, Bonsack

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order – Declaration of Quorum

-Chairman Jeff Henderson called meeting to order with a quorum present @ 7:20pm

Directors present: Jeff Henderson, Preston Wickline, Walter Nelson, Anne Jones

Directors absent: Andrew Keffer, Jason Williams

Others present: Michael Beahm, Jeff Munsey, Dan Naff, Derek Hancock, Summer Thomas

Approval of December 2024 minutes

-Preston made a motion to approve

-Walter seconded the motion

-Board approved

Treasurer's Report

- Balance sheet and profit/loss report; budgeted vs. actual income/expenses through the second quarter
 - Walter made a motion to approve
 - Anne seconded the motion
 - Board approved

Other Business

- Grazing For Appalachian Sustainability Grant – Summer Thomas explained the G.R.A.S.S. program. She explained the practices, the grant, and asked MCSWCD for help promoting it to see if it can be a new effective way to distribute cost share
 - Preston moved for MCSWCD to opt in
 - Anne seconded the motion
 - Board approved
- District committee assignments – Jeff H. reviewed each committee and discussed assignments, adding Anne to personnel and education/outreach. The other committee assignments remain the same as 2024.
- Approve new IRS mileage rate: \$0.70/mile
 - Walter made a motion to approve
 - Preston seconded the motion
 - Board approved
 - Preston made motion per CDC advice for MSCSWD to update IRS mileage annually
 - Walter seconded the motion
 - Board approved

- Review Strategic Plan (in notebook)
 - Reviewed by the board
- Review Annual Plan of Work (in notebook)
 - Reviewed by the board
- Winter Awards Banquet update – Feb 13, 6pm; Fincastle Volunteer Fire Dept; Mill Creek to cater; Forrest Hobbes (SFOP) has confirmed; invitations mailed and emailed; board meeting immediately following; invite friends and RSVP!
 - Discussed amongst the board members. Staff is moving forward with logistics
- Employee evaluations scheduled for February – move to March?
 - Board discussion and decided to move to March
- Area I Spring Meeting update – March 25; Wilson Warehouse in Buchanan; everything else TBD
 - Discussed amongst the board, planning ongoing
- Craig County 4-H Camp donation request
 - Walter made a motion to make a \$365 donation to Craig County 4-H Camp scholarship fund
 - Preston seconded the motion
 - Board approved
- Select Conservation Educator of the Year
 - Walter made a motion to recognize Joanne Yousten w/ NRCS for the award
 - Anne seconded the motion
 - Board approved

319 Contracts

- #45-25-0040; Instance #648257; RB-3M (system inspection and repair); 50% CS; max CS = \$3,250
 - Preston made a motion to approve
 - Walter seconded the motion
 - Board approved

VACS Program

- **Conservation Plans for Approval**
 - **CP-45-22-0002 (linked w/ contract 45-25-0033)**
 - Anne made a motion to approve
 - Walter seconded the motion
 - Board approved
 - **CP-45-24-0025 (linked w/ contract 45-25-0034)**
 - Preston made a motion to approve
 - Anne seconded the motion
 - Board approved
- **Contracts for Approval**
 - **45-25-0033 Instance #585346 – SL-6W (\$79,990.00 – 2025 CB VACS)**
 - Walter made a motion to approve
 - Preston seconded the motion
 - Board approved

- 45-25-0034, Instance #631978 – SL-6W (\$222,726.25 – 2025 CB VACS)
 - Preston made a motion to approve
 - Walter seconded the motion
 - Board approved
- Tax Credits for Approval
 - 45-25-0010, Instance #586992 – SL-1 (tax credit = \$364.85)
 - Preston made a motion to approve
 - Anne seconded the motion
 - Board approved
- Joint Engineering Services Contract w/ Shenandoah Valley SWCD for Approval
 - Walter made a motion to approve
 - Anne seconded the motion
 - Board approved

Staff Reports

- Dan – Conservation Technician Report- verbally reviewed report with board members
- Tim – District Coordinator Report – Dan reviewed Tim’s report with board members in his absence

Agency Reports

- DCR – Tad Williams – verbally reviewed report with board members
- VCE – Anne Jones – verbally reviewed report with board members
- VDOF – Denny McCarthy – absent, report to follow retroactively
- NRCS – Derek Hancock – verbally reviewed with board members

Adjourn

- Walter made a motion to adjourn the meeting
- Meeting adjourned @ 9:07pm

Approved: _____

Date: 2-13-25

Minutes prepared by Derek Hancock and Tim Miller

