

**Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**Board of Directors Monthly Meeting**  
**August 9, 2023**

Preston Wickline called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 7:00 p.m.

**Directors Present:** Preston Wickline, Vice Chair, Botetourt (elected)  
Andrew Keffer, Craig (elected)  
Walter Nelson, Botetourt (appointed)  
Michael Beahm, Treasurer (Associate Director)  
Jeff Munsey (Associate Director)

**Absent:** Jeff Henderson, Chair, Botetourt (elected)  
Jason Williams, Craig (elected)  
Rhonda Ryan, (Associate Director)  
Pat Ryan, (Associate Director)

**Staff Present:** Dan Naff  
Ainsley Simmons (VCAP intern)

**Others Present:** Derek Hancock, NRCS  
Mark Hollerg, DCR

**Minutes:**

July board meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Walter to approve, second by Andrew, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's report was reviewed, which included the balance sheet and profit and loss report. Walter moved to approve the treasurer's report, second by Andrew, motion carried.

**Other Business**

- Andrew moved to request an additional \$50,000 for septic BMP construction from DEQ for the Tinker and Glade Creek Residential Septic grant. Tim is to request the grant modification. Second by Walter, motion carried.
- A draft of the PY23 annual report was reviewed with no suggestions at this time.
- Mark shared the district assessment (see attached). There were no questions from the board.

**319 Contracts**

#45-24-0007; RB-1; 50% CS rate; maximum CS amount = \$200  
#45-24-0008; RB-4; 65% CS rate; maximum CS amount = \$5,200  
#45-24-0009; RB-4; 80% CS rate; maximum CS amount = \$3,948

Walter moved to approve all 319 contracts, second by Andrew, motion carried.

**VACS Contracts**

Andrew moved to approve an increase to \$200/acre for the FR-3 practice in the district's average cost list. Second by Walter, motion carried. Dan is to send the modification to DCR for final approval.

Dan requested approval for the following conservation plans:

- CP-45-24-0002
- CP-45-24-0012

- CP-45-21-0002

Walter moved to approve all the conservation plans, pending approval from DCR. Second by Andrew, motion carried.

Dan requested approval of the following VACS contract:

- #45-24-0003; SL-6W & FR-3; 2024 OCB VACS; max CS amount = \$108,825.05

Motion to approve, pending DCR approval of the new average cost list, by Andrew, second by Walter, motion carried.

**Conservation Technician Report:** see attached

Discussion about Mountain Castles SWCD co-holding a new conservation easement for Wilderness Adventure with the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy. Walter moved to express support for the easement which the district would eventually co-hold. Second by Andrew, motion carried.

**District Coordinator Report:** see attached

**Agency Reports:**

- **DCR - submitted by Mark Hollberg** – see attached
- **VCE** - no report
- **VDOF** – no report
- **NRCS** - no report
- **FSA** - no report

Ainsley Simmons provided updates on her VCAP summer internship with the district.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 by a motion from Walter, second by Andrew.

Submitted by Tim Miller based on notes taken by Derek Hancock