

# COUNTY COMMISSION OF LEWIS COUNTY

110 Center Avenue  
Weston WV 26452  
Phone:( 304)269-8200  
FAX: (304)269-2416  
Email:lewiscountycommission@lewiscountywv.org  
Website: lewiscountywv.org



**COMMISSIONERS:**  
Rod Wyman, President  
Patrick Boyle, Commissioner  
Agnes Queen, Commissioner

## LEWIS COUNTY COMMISSION 110 Center Avenue, 2nd Floor Weston, WV 26452 Meeting Agenda Tuesday, September 29, 2020

### SILENT MEDITATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. **10:00 AM**      **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **10:05 AM**      **John Breen, Lewis County Assessor**  
**RE: Exonerations, Consolidations, Apportionments**  
Draft copies will be available for review on Friday, September 25, 2020  
(*action required*)

### APPOINTMENTS

3. **10:15 AM**      **Terri Flint HOPE, Inc.**  
**RE: Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation**  
The Lewis County Commission will be asked to execute a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Lewis County. (*action required*)

### CORRESPONDENCE

4. **Upshur County Commission Meeting Agenda:** The Upshur County Commission Agenda for Thursday, September 24, 2020 is presented for review. (*information only*)
5. **Jane Lew Public Service District Meeting Minutes:** The July 9, 2020 and the August 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Jane Lew Public Service District are presented for review. (*information only*)
6. **Mountaineer Trail Network Update:** The Mountaineer Trail Network has provided an update of activities and information for review. (*information only*)

### BUSINESS

7. **Board(s) and Committee(s) Report(s):** The Lewis County Commission will provide information on any board(s)/committee(s) meeting attended including: Lewis County Park Board; Lewis County Chamber of Commerce open house; Lewis County COVID conference calls; Region VII Planning and Development Council; West Virginia Economic Development Council fall meeting. (*information only*)
8. **Approval of 2019 Delinquent Tax List:** Sheriff D.B. Whitt submits the 2019 Delinquent Tax List of for approval. The county land sale will be held November 12, 2020 beginning at 9:00 AM.  
(*action required*)
9. **Consideration of Cancellation of the October 6, 2020 Lewis County Commission Meeting:** The Lewis County Commission will consider cancellation of the October 6, 2020 meeting due to training.  
(*action required*)

#### **ACTIONS, ESTATE SETTLEMENTS, ORDERS AND PAYMENT OF EXPENDITURES:**

10. **Actions of the Clerk:** County Clerk Cynthia S. Rowan presents actions of the clerk in recess of the county commission for approval. Draft copies will be available for review upon request Friday, September 25, 2020. *(action required)*
11. **Approval of Estates:** County Clerk Cynthia S. Rowan presents the estates ready for settlement to the Lewis County Commission for approval. Draft copies will be available for review upon request Friday, September 25, 2020. *(action required)*
12. **Presentation by the County Clerk of the Orders of Prior Meeting(s):** The Lewis County Clerk presents the Orders (minutes) of previous Lewis County Commission meeting(s) for approval. Draft copies will be available for review upon request Friday, September 25, 2020. *(action required)*
13. **Expenses for the Current Period Presented for Consideration of Payment:** Draft copies will be available for review upon request Friday, September 25, 2020. *(action required)*

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

14. **With no further action being required by the Lewis County Commission the meeting will be adjourned.** *(action required)*

#### **LEWIS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MANAGEMENT**

- Regular meeting agendas will be posted and available to the public before closure two (2) business days prior to the meeting date.
- Agenda matters to be reviewed and/or considered during the meeting are at the discretion of the Lewis County Commission.
- Appointments to speak with the county commission must be scheduled before 10 AM three (3) business days prior to the meeting. Appointments will be given a ten (10) minute time allowance.
- Agenda Items may require an executive session.
- Open discussion by Commission unless executive session is motioned per WV Code §6-9A-4.
- Input or recommendation from constitutional officers, staff or public that is not listed by name on the agenda will only be allowed if requested by the commission or required by statute.
- Those not scheduled on the agenda may sign up for public comment at a minimum fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Public comment is limited to five (5) minutes per speaker.
- Motion required for consideration of vote.
- All votes unanimous unless otherwise stated.
- Roberts Rules of Order is utilized as a guide only. The Commission controls meeting management, discussion and input.
- Commissioners may participate and vote via conference call if two(2) commissioners are in attendance.



NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, income levels and sexes;

WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security and humanity, due to the systematic use physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic control or abuse;

WHEREAS, in our country, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends every day;

WHEREAS, children who grow up in violent homes are believed to be abused and neglected at a rate higher than the national average;

WHEREAS, domestic violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police, court costs, foster care, sick leave, absenteeism and non-productivity;

WHEREAS, only a coordinated community effort will put a stop to this heinous crime;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lewis County Commission hereby proclaims the month of October 2020 to be NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH And urges all citizens to participate actively in the scheduled events and programs to eliminate the use of personal and institutional violence against women.

---

Rod Wyman, President

---

Agnes Queen, Commissioner

---

Patrick Boyle, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia S. Rowan, Lewis County Clerk

## Upshur County Commission Meeting Agenda

Agenda packets are available electronically at [http://www.upshurcounty.org/agenda\\_and\\_minutes/index.php](http://www.upshurcounty.org/agenda_and_minutes/index.php) or by request to the Upshur County Commission Office at 304-472-0535

- Location: Upshur County Courthouse Annex  
If you prefer to participate by telephone, dial 1-717-275-8940 or 1-712-832-8330 Access Code: 898 8882 to enter the conference call.
- Date of Meeting: September 21, 2020
- 9:00 a.m. Moment of Silent Meditation --- Pledge of Allegiance  
Approval of Minutes:  
• September 17, 2020
- 9:15 a.m. Robin Oldaker, on behalf of Upshur County Relay for Life– Presentation of Proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October 2020) \*
- 9:30 a.m. Hearing on Recommendation to Remove Fiduciary Commissioner in the Estate of Sarah Downs, deceased \*
- 9:45 a.m. First reading of Ordinance Granting a Renewal Franchise to Suddenlink by Altice, USA, to Operate and Maintain a Cable System in the County of Upshur, West Virginia; and Setting Forth Conditions Accompanying the Grant of Franchise; Superseding All Previous Franchise Ordinances for the County Commission of Upshur County. Upon approval, a public hearing will take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2020. \*
- 1:00 p.m. Supervisor Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. Policy Board Meeting

### Items for Discussion / Action / Approval:

1. Approval and signature of the West Virginia SIEEP Grant Program Application for the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Community Corrections Program in the amount of \$277,744. If awarded, the funds will be used to provide psychiatric evaluations and medical assessments for substance use treatment, and co-occurring mental health. \*
2. Consideration of a request from the James W. Curry Advisory Board to request an additional ten percent distribution of the James W. Curry Trust, held by Fulton Financial Advisors, for operations through fiscal year 2025. \*
3. Correspondence from Terry Gould, Hodgesville PSD Manager, requesting the reappointment of Roger Ward to the Hodgesville PSD Board of Directors. Upon approval, Mr. Ward's term will expire on August 5, 2026. The Board voted to recommend Mr. Ward's reappointment during a regular monthly meeting held on August 4, 2020. \*

4. Consider Resignation of Employee \*

*Item may lead to Executive Session per WV Code §6-9A-4*

Under separate cover

5. Approval of advertisement for a full-time Case Manager for the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Community Corrections Program. Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on October 5, 2020. The starting wage will be \$12.50 per hour. \*
6. Approve Invoices for Payment, Purchase Card Invoices for Payment, Budget Revisions / Financial Reports or Information, Correction of Erroneous Assessments, Exonerations/Refunds, Grant Updates / Requests for Reimbursements, Final Settlements, Vacation Orders, Consolidation of Land Tracts, Facility Maintenance Concerns or Updates, Road Name Requests, Project Reports / Updates, Request to Attend Meetings, Request for Day(s) Off.

For Your Information:

(Certain Items May Require Discussion, Action and/or Approval by the Commission)

1. Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) FFY 2020-2025 Program Amendment #3 dated September 15, 2020.
2. Upshur County Mileage Reports – August, 2020
  - Upshur 911
  - Maintenance
  - Emergency Management
  - Sheriff
  - Addressing and Mapping
  - Community Corrections
  - Dog Pound
3. Appointments Needed or Upcoming:
  - Upshur County Fire Board, Inc. (Linn Baxa – 6-30-2020) – Fire Association Representative

*\*\*\*If you are interested in serving on an Upshur County board, please submit your letter of interest to the Commission Office at 91 W. Main St., Suite 101, Buckhannon, WV 26201 or [trperry@upshurcounty.org](mailto:trperry@upshurcounty.org). Upcoming term expirations are listed in this section of the agenda; however, letters of interest can be submitted at any time. Letters of interest for boards that do not currently have a vacancy will be held until a vacancy occurs. Please note that submitting a letter of interest does not guarantee appointment. \*\*\**

Newsletters and/or Event Notifications, Agendas and/or Notices of Meetings, Meeting Minutes and Scheduled Meetings can all be found by visiting: [http://www.upshurcounty.org/agenda\\_and\\_minutes/index.php](http://www.upshurcounty.org/agenda_and_minutes/index.php)

Tabled Items

(Certain Items May Require Discussion, Action and/or Approval by the Commission)

Next Regular Meeting of the Upshur County Commission  
October 1, 2020 --- 9:00 a.m.  
Upshur County Courthouse Annex

**\*\*The Commission Meeting on October 15, 2020 has been CANCELLED\*\***

# Jane Lew Public Service District

70 Park Avenue  
Jane Lew, WV 26378

## Minutes of Regular Meeting July 09, 2020

---

**Present:** Elaine B. Flaxer (Chairman); Oscar R. Mills (Board); Nancy E. Gee (General Manager).

**Guests:**

**Absent:** Thomas E. Bailey (by arrangement)

- I. **Call to Order:** This meeting was conducted in the JLPSD Office Conference Room with all 3 attendees wearing Covid 19 masks and observing social distancing around the conference room table.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Elaine Flaxer at 4:00 p.m. In the absence of Tom Bailey, Oscar Mills assumed the position of Acting Secretary for this meeting.

### ~ ROUTINE MONTHLY BUSINESS ~

- II. **Minutes: (06/11/20)**

**MOTION:** (Mills/Flaxer) to approve attached Minutes of 06/11/20 regular meeting. [Carried]

- III. **General Manager's June Reports (Gee)**

A. **WATER:**

1. **Bills** (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Mills/Flaxer) to ratify payment of attached list of water invoices for June 2020. [Carried  
Unanimously]

2. **Treasury Report** (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Flaxer/Mills) to approve attached Water Treasury Report for June 2020. [Carried Unanimously]

3. **Water Adjustments Report** (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Mills/Flaxer) to approve attached Water Adjustments Report for June 2020. [Carried Unanimously]

4. **Water Purchase, Sales & Loss Report** (Attached) – actual unaccounted loss of 10%.

**MOTION:** (Flaxer/Mills) to approve attached Water Purchase, Sales & Loss Report for June 2020.

5. **Water Preventive Maintenance Report** (*averting unplanned breakdowns*)

- a. Lines Visual check when reading meters
- b. Loss Prevention Daily readings recorded
- c. Fire & Flushing Hydrants [57 + 25] Flushing to be done in September

- d. Valves [148] Exercising to be scheduled
  - e. Meters [659]
  - f. Booster Stations [3] Checked
  - g. Tanks [2]
  - h. Office Furnace & A/C Nothing
  - i. Vehicles ['05 Chevy Truck, ½ '19 Ford; ½ crane truck & ½ Buggy] Washed Chevy truck & Ford Truck
  - j. Generator (2 Small Port.) Exercised
  - k. Expensive Equipment [Mower] Nothing
  - l. Critical Inventory Nothing
  - m. Other
6. Water Leak Detection Report (*finding & fixing actual leaks*) Found leak on Flushing Hydrant at 64 South Park, fixed, Found leak on flushing hydrant by Sharon Titus residence, fixed. Bottom blew out of a meter on Beech Street which caused a loss of several thousand gallons of water.
7. Water System Repairs Report (*fixing other unplanned breakdowns*) Worked on VFD and put in a new cooling fan for VFD at Chesapeake Hill / Installed new battery on mower. / Replaced meter that the bottom blew out of on Beech Street.

Water Assignments

- ✓ Gee to seek funding for work on tanks during next fiscal year.
- ✓ Gee to follow up on water rate increase.

**B. WASTEWATER:**

1. Wastewater Bills (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Flaxer/Mills) to ratify payment of listed of Sewer invoices for June 2020. [Carried Unanimously]

2. Wastewater Treasury Report (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Flaxer/Mills) to approve Sewer Treasury Report for June 2020. [Carried Unanimously]

**NOTE:** Lost money to Weston Sanitary Board due to very high rainfall & I&I in May. See attached bill.

3. Wastewater Adjustments Report (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Mills/Flaxer) to approve Sewer Adjustments Report for June 2020. [Carried Unanimously]

4. Wastewater Treatment Purchase, Sales & Loss Report (Attached) -

**MOTION:** (Mills/Flaxer) to approve Sewer Treatment Purchase, Sales & Loss Report for June 2020.

[Carried Unanimously]

5. Wastewater Preventive Maintenance Report (*averting unplanned breakdowns*)

- a. Lines Nothing
- b. I&I Prevention Rainfall 5 inches / I & I was back down for the June Period.
- c. Manholes [594] Opened more manholes looking for leaks / Mowed around manholes on Westfield Loop
- d. Grinder Pumps [Duplex] Amped & Enzymed every Friday / Mowed grass around E-1 Pumps, also put weed killer on some.
- e. Lift Stations [16] Amped & Enzymed every Friday / Mowed / McCarty's pumped out Broad Run Village Station 1 /
- f. Bar Screen [1] Cleaned Bar Screen
- g. Vehicles ['06 GMC Truck; ½ '19 Ford; ½ crane truck; & ½ Buggy] GMC Truck Washed
- h. Generators [3 Station. + 2 Port.] Exercised
- i. Classroom Furnace & A/C Nothing

- j. Expensive Equipment [Mower]
  - k. Critical Inventory Good
  - l. Other Nothing
6. Wastewater Repairs Report –
- ✓ Pulled pump Lift 5; put in 2<sup>nd</sup> new pump that has the new shaft in it
  - ✓ Anchor bolt broke on bar screen; Jason drilled concrete and put in new bolt
  - ✓ Had Marple H&C work on cooling vac at Station 10
7. New Non-Project Sewer Taps/Bores – Laura Fitzgerald on Broad Run Road
8. Other – Nothing

Wastewater Assignments

- ✓ *Gee to continue follow up on ABS Pump Co. re: chronic Lift 5 issues*

- IV. **Update: Board Review of PSD Policies and Job Descriptions (Gee/Flaxer)** – nothing done on list below. Still working on revision of Personnel Manual 4.2 Holiday Policy.
- A. Private Fire Protection Policy
  - B. Revise Water Job Description to be consistent with a water PURCHASE entity
- V. **Update: Personnel Matters (Gee)** Nothing
- A. Office Staff-
  - B. Sewer Staff -
  - C. Water Staff -
- VI. **Announcements:**
- VII. **Correspondence:** - (attached)
- A. E-Mail to James Kelsh, Bowles- Rice from Nancy Gee (07-08-2020) Re: Water Contract for new users.
  - B. E-Mail from James Kelsh, Bowles-Rice to Nancy Gee (07-08-2020) Re: Water Contract for new users.

~ ~ OLD BUSINESS ~ ~

~ ~ NEW BUSINESS ~ ~

- VIII. **Late-Received Agenda Items (Gee)** – discussion about Kelsh emails
- IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Flaxer at 4:29 p.m.

*Elaine B. Flaxer*

Elaine B. Flaxer, Chairman

*Oscar R. Mills*

Oscar R. Mills for Thomas E. Bailey, Secretary

**Attachments:**

- June '20 Bills Paid (Water/Wastewater)
- June '20 Treasury Reports (Water/Wastewater)
- June '20 Adjustments Reports (Water/Wastewater)
- June '20 Water/Wastewater Treatment Purchase, Sales & Loss Reports
- All Correspondence noted above on Page 3

**E-Copies of Unapproved Minutes Sent to:**

- James V. Kelsh, PSD Attorney (Bowles Rice)
- PSD Office
- Board Members

Assignments

# Jane Lew Public Service District

70 Park Avenue  
Jane Lew, WV 26378

## Minutes of Regular Meeting August 13, 2020

---

**Present:** Elaine B. Flaxer (Chairman); Thomas E. Bailey(Secretary); Oscar R. Mills (Board); Nancy E. Gee (General Manager).

**Guests:**

**Absent:**

- I. **Call to Order:** This meeting was conducted by Teleconference, with Gee initiating the call from the JLPSD Office, Flaxer and Bailey at their respective homes, and Mills in his vehicle in the PSD parking lot.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Flaxer at 4:03 p.m.

### ~ ROUTINE MONTHLY BUSINESS ~

- II. **Minutes:** (07/09/20)

**MOTION:** (Bailey/Mills) to approve attached Minutes of 07/09/20 regular meeting. [Carried Unanimously]

- III. **General Manager's July Reports** (Gee)

A. **WATER:**

1. **Bills** (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Flaxer/Bailey) to ratify payment of attached list of water invoices for July 2020. [Carried Unanimously]

2. **Treasury Report** (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Mills/Bailey) to approve attached Water Treasury Report for July 2020. [Carried Unanimously]

3. **Water Adjustments Report** (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Bailey/Mills) to approve attached Water Adjustments Report for July 2020. [Carried Unanimously]

4. **Water Purchase, Sales & Loss Report** (Attached) – actual unaccounted loss of 12%.

**MOTION:** (Flaxer/Bailey) to approve attached Water Purchase, Sales & Loss Report for July 2020.

5. **Water Preventive Maintenance Report** (*averting unplanned breakdowns*)

- a. **Lines Visual check when reading meters; also walked lines looking for leaks**
- b. **Loss Prevention Daily readings recorded/ no spikes noted**
- c. **Fire & Flushing Hydrants [57 + 25] Flushing to be done in September**

- d. Valves [148] Exercising yet to be scheduled
  - e. Meters [659]
  - f. Booster Stations [3] Checked; put repaired pump back in Snyder pump house
  - g. Tanks [2] Checked power at big tank
  - h. Office Furnace & A/C Nothing
  - i. Vehicles ['05 Chevy Truck, ½ '19 Ford; ½ crane truck & ½ Buggy] Washed Chevy truck & Ford truck; new inspection sticker on Chevy truck
  - j. Generator (2 Small Port.) Exercised
  - k. Expensive Equipment [Mower] Nothing
  - l. Critical Inventory Nothing needed
  - m. Other Installed meter for 4-H property on Jesse Run Rd. (tap had been put in when Jesse Run project went in years ago)
6. Water Leak Detection Report (*finding & fixing actual leaks*) No leaks found
7. Water System Repairs Report (*fixing other unplanned breakdowns*) New brakes installed on '05 Chevy truck

Water Assignments

- ✓ Gee to seek funding for work on tanks during next fiscal year.
- ✓ Gee to follow up on water rate increase.

**B. WASTEWATER:**

1. Wastewater Bills (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Bailey/Flaxer) to ratify payment of listed of Sewer invoices for July 2020. [Carried Unanimously]

2. Wastewater Treasury Report (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Mills/Bailey) to approve Sewer Treasury Report for July 2020. [Carried Unanimously]

3. Wastewater Adjustments Report (Attached)

**MOTION:** (Bailey/Mills) to approve Sewer Adjustments Report for July 2020. [Carried Unanimously]

4. Wastewater Treatment Purchase, Sales & Loss Report (Attached) -

**MOTION:** (Mills/Bailey) to approve Sewer Treatment Purchase, Sales & Loss Report for July 2020.

[Carried Unanimously]

5. Wastewater Preventive Maintenance Report (*averting unplanned breakdowns*)

- a. Lines Flushed line at Broad Run Village
- b. I&I Prevention Rainfall 2.3 inches / I & I was down
- c. Manholes [594] Nothing done
- d. Grinder Pumps [Duplex] Amped & Enzymed every Friday
- e. Lift Stations [16] Amped & Enzymed every Friday / Mowed around
- f. Bar Screen [1] Cleaned Bar Screen
- g. Vehicles ['06 GMC Truck; ½ '19 Ford; ½ crane truck; & ½ Buggy] GMC Truck Washed
- h. Generators [3 Station. + 2 Port.] Exercised
- i. Classroom Furnace & A/C Nothing
- j. Expensive Equipment [Mower] Nothing
- k. Critical Inventory Good
- l. Other Nothing

6. Wastewater Repairs Report -

- ✓ Pulled pump Lift 2; replaced with ABS pump in inventory; sent broken pump for repair estimate

- ✓ Pulled pump at Lift 2 again and cleaned out rags
- ✓ Pulled E-1 pump and replaced at Boggs residence (Sycamore Lick)
- ✓ Reset LC ("brains" of system) at Station 10; replaced controller on AC Unit at Lift 10
- ✓ Filled a sinkhole by a manhole in Westfield Loop

7. New Non-Project Sewer Taps/Bores – none

8. Other – Wastewater system inspection conducted by DEP (first time since Stan Wolfe retired); results pending

Wastewater Assignments

✓ *Gee to continue follow up on ABS Pump Co. re: chronic Lift 5 issues*

IV. **Update: Board Review of PSD Policies and Job Descriptions (Gee/Flaxer)** – See Item VIII in New Business. Nothing done on list below. Still working on revision of Personnel Manual 4.2 Holiday Policy.

- A. Private Fire Protection Policy
- B. Revise Water Job Description to be consistent with a water PURCHASE entity

V. **Update: Personnel Matters (Gee)** Nothing

- A. Office Staff-
- B. Sewer Staff -
- C. Water Staff -

VI. **Announcements:** None

VII. **Correspondence:** - (legal correspondence not attached)

- A.. Emails (08-10 & 11-2020) from Nancy & Elaine to AttyJames Kelsh with replies, RE: New Tap & User Agreement Policy.

~ ~ OLD BUSINESS ~ ~

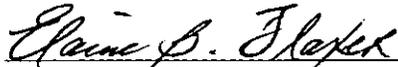
~ ~ NEW BUSINESS ~ ~

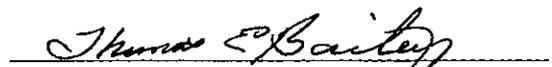
VIII. **New Taps Policy with New User Agreement (Gee)** Discussion about Kelsh emails.

**MOTION:** (Bailey/Mills) to approve attached New Taps Policy with User Agreement. [Carried Unanimously]

IX. **Late-Received Agenda Items (Gee)** – None

X. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Flaxer at 4:39 p.m.

  
Elaine B. Flaxer, Chairman

  
Thomas E. Bailey, Secretary

**Attachments:**

- July '20 Bills Paid (Water/Wastewater)
- July '20 Treasury Reports (Water/Wastewater)
- July '20 Adjustments Reports (Water/Wastewater)
- July '20 Water/Wastewater Treatment Purchase, Sales & Loss Reports
- No legal correspondence attached
- New Taps Policy (Operational Policy) with User Agreement

**E-Copies of Unapproved Minutes Sent to:**

- James V. Kelsh, PSD Attorney (Bowles Rice)
- PSD Office
- Board Members

Assignments

[Print](#) | [Close Window](#)

**Subject:** Mountaineer Trail Network update

**From:** Sara Cottingham <[scottingham@downstreamstrategies.com](mailto:scottingham@downstreamstrategies.com)>

**Date:** Thu, Sep 17, 2020 2:04 pm

**To:** [crichards@stonewallcountry.com](mailto:crichards@stonewallcountry.com), [lwhetsell@lewiscountywv.org](mailto:lwhetsell@lewiscountywv.org), [aqueen4500@aol.com](mailto:aqueen4500@aol.com), [hinchman11@gmail.com](mailto:hinchman11@gmail.com), [jhinchman@lewiscountywv.org](mailto:jhinchman@lewiscountywv.org)

**Cc:** Owen Mulkeen <[owen@cheat.org](mailto:owen@cheat.org)>

Dear Lewis County trail supporters,

Here's an update on the Mountaineer Trail Network. Please feel free to share with folks in the county! Also, if anyone has contact info for Matt Bennett, please let me know! We'd like to follow up with your appointed board members soon!

Thanks,  
Sara Cottingham

--

What a year this has been! Amidst the challenges and uncertainty in our communities caused by the pandemic, there have been some exciting developments for the Mountaineer Trail Network.

- So far **11 representatives** have been appointed to the Mountaineer Trail Network Authority's board this year from seven counties: **Barbour, Lewis, Mineral, Preston, Taylor, Tucker, and Upshur**. We'll soon be scheduling a video conference for the representatives who have been appointed to the Mountaineer Trail Network Authority board for later in the fall.
- This summer Friends of the Cheat and Downstream Strategies released the first pilot plan for the Mountaineer Trail Network: [the Preston County Master Trail Plan](#). This plan truly captures the excitement and promise of the Mountaineer Trail Network. We are really proud to see it already inspiring other counties!

Unfortunately, we have been notified that our implementation grant for the Mountaineer Trail Network was not selected for funding by the POWER program. Feedback from ARC indicated that we scored very well and should try again for the next round.

While this is a big disappointment, we feel the opportunity with the Mountaineer Trail Network is way too big to give up. Our team is looking into other grant opportunities to fund the initial facilitation and planning for the Mountaineer Trail Network Authority. We thank you again for supporting our POWER proposal and will keep you posted as we move forward with other possibilities.

In the meantime, here are a few ways you can stay engaged:

1. **Talk to your county commissioners** and encourage them to appoint your county's two board representatives to the Mountaineer Trail Network Authority, if they haven't already. The Network's landmark landowner liability protections will not be enacted until the Authority's board is appointed and gets to work - so getting board representatives appointed for each county is a critical first step.
2. **Share the plan** widely among your networks. Our goal is to create matching plans for the other counties in the Network using the framework piloted in Preston County, and my colleagues and I at Downstream Strategies are available to discuss how to start similar planning efforts in your county. Counties interested in moving forward with trail plans can contact me for more info.
3. **Keep us posted** of any ideas or breakthroughs in your area, and let us know if you need help talking to officials in your county. Our team has presented to a number of county commissions so far and is happy to help continue this outreach.

Thanks again for your support.

Best,

Sara Cottingham



Sara Cottingham  
Planner, Downstream Strategies  
304-212-5304 (direct)  
[www.downstreamstrategies.com](http://www.downstreamstrategies.com)