

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES February 17, 2026**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at the Allegany Soil Conservation District in the conference room. Carl Robinette, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.

Supervisors present were Carl Robinette, Amanda Paul, Jim Mullan, and Kevin Trezise. Associates present were Lee Heavner, Wesley Gordon; Others present were Chad Bucklew District Conservationist; and Adam Heavner, District Manager.

Minutes – Amanda made a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Kevin seconded. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report – Jim gave the January's treasurer's report. Amanda moved to approve the report as presented, seconded by Kevin; motion passed.

Bills – Scholarship pledge for Frostburg State University of \$500 for the spring semester, a donation of \$50 for the Region 1 FFA contest, money will go towards the chapter that wins the Ag Mechanic contest. Amanda moved to pay the two bills, seconded by Kevin: motion passed. Finally, discussion about the upcoming liability policy for the District's rental equipment. Policy expires on April 26th and if the District wishes to renew the policy proper paperwork needs submitted to CBIZ by February 27th. The District Board unanimously agreed to have the District Manager file the necessary paperwork. Bill for renewal will be at the April Board meeting.

Permits –In February 12 land use permits were approved generating \$1,751 in fees collected by the county.

District Conservationist's Report – Chad updated the Board with information about the January 15th deadline for round one applications. Allegany is going to have around forty applications submitted. As far as any deadlines for ranking, no dates have been released. Currently ranking pools and questions are still being developed. Another new update about Conservation Steward Program (CSP) is that it's going to look a lot different this year. In years past they did not use conservation practices, instead practice enhancements was implemented. Typically, management practices were used rather than structural practices like buildings or watering troughs. Currently now all enhancements have been removed and CSP will only use structural practices. Which will open up opportunity for small operations to participate. In years past, it was extremely difficult for small operations with small acreage to meet the minimum \$4,000 payment. A new program was released in December of 2025 called Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP). Funding for this program comes from a 25% reduction of both EQIP and CSP allocations. Program requires whole-farm assessment, use at least one primary regenerative management practice and agree to perform a soil health test in

the first and last year of the contract to establish a base line and to record the resulting changes.

Other Agency Report- No report was given.

OLD BUSINESS

MASCD Winter Meeting- Meeting will held on February 9 at Westin and 10th at Harry Browne's. During the meeting there was an array of presentations given, Jimmy Dick with Environmental Quality Resources about an innovative funding and partnership model for restoration projects. Next was by Scott Raubenstine about Perdue's Corporate Sustainability Initiative and incentives for farmers to adopt cover crops, no-till and precision nutrient management. Other presenters were Liz Warren about Delmarva Chicken Association's Conservation Cost-Share Funding and Kelly Buchanan about Lightstar's agrivoltaics projects. After lunch Jen Nelson gave an update for the Western Shore about MASCD's summer meeting, originally we had a contract with Solomon's Island until they had a recent flood damaging the motel. The motel had to cancel the contract; Western Shore has looked at three different venues. Turf Valley, which is not able to accommodate us for the days that were selected, Rod and Reel in Calvert County and Hyatt in Cambridge, MD. Of the three venue's, Western Shore is looking at going with the Hyatt. Byron Petrauskas MDA, gave an update on the FY2027 budget that everything is staying at the same funding level as the FY26 budget. Districts should have already received payment for the first two quarters of the 2027 General Fund. MDA MACS update as of July 1, 2027 shows all MACS cost share will revert to 87.5% on BMP's that were recently 100% cost share.

Legislative Breakfast- Was held at Harry Browne's, breakfast served buffet style. Legislators could come in, grab some food, and sit down with District representatives to discuss topics about the funds in the Governor's budget. Why it was important to retain those funds while avoiding any cuts to the department.

Commercial Crime Insurance Policy- Currently CBIZ is looking into different options for the District of similar coverage and premiums. They are having a hard time of finding any company that offers that type of coverage for the premium the District was currently paying.

NRCS Phone System- All issues were resolved with the help of Laura Eddy, NRCS. District lines have been reinstated and function as intended.

NEW BUSINESS

MDA General Fund Budget- This year no budget request will be sent out, FY27 GF budget will mirror FY26 GF budget. First two quarters have already been received for FY27. Memorandum of Understanding should come out in the next month or two. Jim made the motion to approve the FY27 GF budget, seconded by Kevin; motion passed.

County FY27 Budget- District has not received any budget material at this time for the departments budget. Discussion was brought up about the shortfall of funds for the Conservation Aide. That is pass through funds to the County for the supervisor's salary through the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund (CBTF). The board has directed the District Manager to use the current salary on the CBTF budget for the Conservation Aide portion when submitting the County Budget. In the event that the budget is denied or reduced the board will amend the budget with District funds.

Wild Wing Prints- Prints are provided to the overall top three winning teams for local environthon teams. Typically the three prints cost around \$360 with shipping. Amanda made a motion to purchase three prints for the envirothon winners. Seconded by Jim. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cooperator Agreements – None

Conservation Farm Plans – Marion Wilson, Amanda made the motion to approve the conservation plan, Kevin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Cancellation of Farm Plans- None

Correspondence- None

On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Kevin, Carl adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Heavner
ASCD District Manager
3/3/2026 1:25 PM