

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FEBRUARY 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 in the conference room of the ASCD office located at 12407 Naves Cross Road, Cumberland, MD. Carl Robinette, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Supervisors present were Lee Heavner, Jim Mullan, Amanda Paul (via phone), Carl Robinette and Steve Young. Others present were Wesley Gordon, Associate; Ben Sansom, Associate; Adam Heavner, District Manager; Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

Minutes – Steve moved the minutes be approved as presented. Lee seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Lee gave the January report. On the motion of Lee, seconded by Steve, the report was approved as presented.

Bills – Lee moved to pay the \$500 FSU scholarship payment. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

Permits – There were 10 standard permits approved during January generating \$949 in fees collected by the County. Two grading reviews, one for the City of Cumberland and one in Frostburg, generated \$3,390 in fees for ASCD. A Sediment Erosion Control plan for Allegany County Extension was also approved.

District Conservationist's Report – Chad reported the LWG questions were submitted to the state office for review. Questions were similar to what has been submitted in the past. He announced several new NRCS staff assignments including Suzy Daubert as State Conservationist for Maryland and Washington DC and Kendrick Flowers as Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. March 10th is the screening and ranking deadline for Round 1 General EQIP, AMA, and RCPP.

Other Agency Reports – Jody Parrish from Extension sent an email about a Maryland Farm Well Water Quality Project and Survey.

Lee reported that Allegany County 4H Advisor, Lacy Ashby, is now in that position at Garrett County. Amanda announced that Ashby Ruddle is no longer with Extension so they will be reaching out to ASCD regarding Nutrient Management Plans.

OLD BUSINESS

Introduction of MDA Resource Conservationist Specialists – Adam introduced the two new MDA Conservation Planners, Kara Kyle and Reid Boden. Both gave brief bios.

Local Work Group Meeting "Recap" – Chad has set in on a few meetings and conference calls regarding allocations of funds in rounds 1 and 2. We may be able to transfer funds around in order to cover all the applications rather than funding just one or two projects.

Bobcat Court Stormwater Retrofit Update – There has been no follow-up meeting or discussion with Frostburg City Administrator Elizabeth Stahlman since the 12/20/22 meeting. The City of Frostburg is working on an emergency evacuation plan. Adam will keep the board informed of any updates.

County Vehicle – No input yet as to how to get on the list for a new vehicle. A new contract may be available in the spring. LaVale Sanitary is also waiting to get on the list for new vehicles so Adam may be able to work with them to get on a list.

MASCD Winter Meeting “Recap” –MDA reviewed the allocation of next year’s budget and gave updates on new hires and upcoming recruitments. Of the 30 legislators who RSVP’d, only 3 were in attendance. Delegate Terry Baker, representing Allegany and Washington counties, was there. MDA Secretary, Kevin Atticks attended. Chad reported that discussion about how the Clean Bill Act may impact farmers took place. All were provided “Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Project Summaries – Maryland”, Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities List FY2023, and MASCD’s 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports (all attached). Climate-Smart Agriculture may be a source of additional funds to offset EQIP contract items. Software is set up to allow practices to be funded by multiple sources. Adam reported a resolution mandating the MASCD President and VP must be from different areas of the state (one from eastern shore, one from western area) was discussed. It may be eliminated during the summer meeting.

Lee reported about 800 attended the Taste of MD Agriculture dinner including Gov. Wes Moore, MDA Secretary of Agriculture, Kevin Atticks, and Allegany County Delegate Jason Buckel.

2023 Tree Sale – The flyers will be out by Friday. The pre-order deposit is \$1,800. We are offering 4 varieties of apples, 3 varieties of peaches, 4 varieties of plums and red and white crabapples. Pears, cherry and walnut trees are not available from the nursery.

NEW BUSINESS

2023 MASCD Summer Meeting – Scheduled for August 27 – 29, 2023 at the Hyatt in Cambridge, MD. Adam has been sitting in on bi-weekly meetings to plan topics and schedule speakers. Allegany SCD will head up online registrations for the event.

SSCC Meeting “Recap”/Unfunded Cooperator’s Agreement (UCA) – The meeting was held by teleconference on 1/19/23. In order to comply with Section 1619 in cooperation with NRCS and USDA programs, SCD boards can not discuss PII (Personal Identifiable Information) during the board meetings. Cooperator Agreements and Conservation Plans that need to be approved can be reviewed by board members but not discussed.

MDA Nutrient Management Pilot Program – Adam and other DM’s met with MDA Assistant Secretary, Hans Schmidt and Program Manager of District Operations Byron Petrauskas regarding a pilot program allowing SCD’s to write Nutrient Management Plans. Pros and cons of this suggestion was discussed. The district will not enforce nutrient management compliance or be responsible for collecting soil samples and

sending them away for analysis. Jim moved to file for a business license under Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management to allow ASCD to write Nutrient Management Plans. Lee seconded. Motion passed.

Chad provided Maryland Instruction 180-380 – Conservation Planning Requirements (attached) for the board to see what NRCS requires conservation planners to do when developing conservation plans (page 8, 380.6).

Steve is no longer on the Solid Waste Management Board but reported that at its last meeting they discussed an Ag tire recycling program. Garrett and Washington counties are setting them up during April at their landfills. Allegany County is pending. An engineer will be speaking at an upcoming SWM Board meeting regarding the expansion of the landfill and Adam and Sediment Control Planner Brent Walker will be invited to sit in. Mona will work with Extension on getting an article in their next newsletter about the number of Ag tires there are in Allegany County.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were two Cooperator Agreement Renewals: 1) F 702, T 741 – 49.6 acres; 2) F 942, T 985, 986 – 155.7 acres. Both in Flintstone.

There were no Conservation Farm Plans for approval or cancellations.

Correspondence – 1) Thank you letter from MD FFA Foundation Board for the \$100 contribution (attached); 2) Letter of sponsorship request for MD FFA Region 1 Ag Technology and Mechanics event (attached). Steve moved to make a \$50 sponsorship, seconded by Jim. Motion passed. 3) Email from Elaine Davis, 8th grade science teacher at Mt. Savage Middle School asking for some ideas, materials, or instruction on a hillside planting at the school this spring (attached); 4) W. MD RC & D Council 2022 Annual Report (attached).

Steve moved to donate \$25 to the Northwest Pennsylvania Steam Engine and Old Equipment Association in Portersville, PA. Lee seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
2/15/2023 1:48 PM