

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FEBRUARY 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 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 8:00 AM.

Supervisors present were Jim Mullan, Carl Robinette, Kevin Trezise, and Steve Young. Others present were Wesley Gordon, Associate; Lee Heavner, Associate, Whitney Patterson, Associate; Sarah Llewellyn, Extension; Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist; Adam Heavner, District Manager; Sara Mack, MDA Resource Conservation Specialist; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

Minutes – Jim moved to approve January minutes, seconded by Kevin. Carl asked to add “stormwater” before “pond” under old business, 3rd paragraph on page 2. Minutes approved as amended.

Treasurer’s Report – Jim gave the January treasurer’s report. Kevin moved to approve the report as presented, seconded by Steve. Motion passed.

Bills – On the motion by Steve, seconded by Kevin, it was approved to pay \$23.99 to renew the annual web page domain.

Permits – There were 6 land-use permits approved during January with fees for the county totaling \$591. Seven major reviews generated \$2,136 for the district.

District Conservationist’s Report – Chad reported how the changes in the new executive branch will affect program funding. Money set aside for IRA contracts is frozen for the time being. This freeze may affect one Allegany County contract. Some practice changes in applications, specifically GWW and forestry practices, are being made to fit with EQIP funds which are still available. The deferred resignation program being offered federal employees may reduce USDA and NRCS workforce. USDA is under a hiring freeze for the foreseeable future. Using regular EQIP funding, a few high tunnel applications for Allegany County have been approved. Other applications are being ranked to be ready to contract if IRA funds become available. Chad reviewed the presentations given at the MASCD winter meeting regarding EPA regulations on pesticides and new planner certification levels. One Allegany County contract has been terminated with no feedback from the cooperator.

Other Agency Reports: Sarah reported the nutrient management position for Allegany County hasn’t been posted yet and plans are being written by someone down state rather than Andrea Uphold in Garrett County. Sarah will keep the office posted on when that position is announced. Sarah gave an update on the Ag Festival being offered to 6th graders in April. About 90 students are expected and will be on a 10-minute rotation by 6 groups of 15. She recommends a brief presentation over an activity. Carl

suggested having a summary sheet with key points be available to people participating in events such as the recent hay and pasture conference and pesticide training.

OLD BUSINESS

MDA Resource Conservation Specialist – Adam introduced Sara Mack who began the position 1/23/25. Sara gave a brief background of herself.

Past Supervisors Plaque – All were provided two samples with quotes from the Sports Shoppe and Wanda's Trophies (attached). After discussion, Jim moved to proceed with sample one as quoted by the Sports Shoppe. Steve seconded. Motion passed.

MASCD Winter Meeting Recap – Adam said that only two representatives attended the legislative breakfast on 2/4/25 and recommends not committing to that next year. He and Amanda were given one packet to be delivered to Jason Buckel and he was in session so his office was closed. A handout of 2025 Legislative Priorities was provided in everyone's packet (attached). It highlighted the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program funding, state support for soil conservation districts, and SCD's role in helping farmers put conservation practices on their land to support Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) goals. MASCD is writing a letter regarding House Bill 140/Senate Bill 0176. Rooms at Rocky Gap for the summer MASCD meeting will be available soon. After discussion, Jim moved to reserve one room to use as a "hospitality room" for ASCD supervisors attending. Steve seconded. So moved. Funding cuts for the upcoming cover crop program was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

MACS Program – Covered under MASCD winter meeting recap above.

Mountain Ridge's Envirothon Team – The science teacher at Mountain Ridge High School, Brittany Chojar, has asked for ASCD help to train herself and her students participating in the county Envirothon event. Adam is going to coordinate assistance. Weather and location may prohibit an actual soils pit for the training.

Wild Wings Prints for the Envirothon: Kevin moved to purchase one large and two medium sized prints as prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams at the county event. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cooperator Agreements: Steve moved to approve both agreements: 1) Emma McConnell, 10.2 acres equine operation on Bunker Hill Lane (off Baltimore Pike) and 2) Tim Woodring, 41 acres equine operation in Flintstone. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

Conservation Farm Plans: There was one summary in the DM report sent with board agendas. That plan has been removed from the table today pending revisions.

Cancellations – None

Correspondence: 1) Thank you letter from Maryland FFA Foundation for the \$50 donation (attached).

Adjournment: On the motion of Kevin, seconded by Steve, Carl adjourned the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
2/11/2025 1:29 PM