

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES December 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at the Allegany Soil Conservation District in the conference room. Carl Robinette, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:59 AM.

Supervisors present were Carl Robinette, Amanda Paul, Jim Mullan, Kevin Trezise, and Steve Young. Others present were Wesley Gordon, Associate, Lee Heavner, Associate, Whitney Patterson, Associate; Sarah Llewellyn, extension; Adam Miller, MD DNR Forestry; and Adam Heavner, District Manager.

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

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

Bills – No Bills were presented this month.

Permits – In January 15 land use permits were approved generating \$1,561 in fees collected by the county.

District Conservationist's Report – NRCS employees were currently at the "Maryland's 2026 All Hands Program Rollout Training", it was scheduled for January 12th-15th in Columbia, Maryland. Training took place at the Holiday Inn, Columbia East-Jessup. No DC report was given.

Other Agency Report- Sarah reported that Brianna is continuing to write Nutrient Management plans and has been working hard to get them returned to customers in a reasonable time frame. UME will be offering a Pesticide update this month to any individuals that need credits for their pesticide recertification and ask individuals to reach out to extension for the time and date. Western Maryland Forage Conference is scheduled for January 21st at the Grantsville Fire Hall; Grantsville, MD. Early Bird registration is \$25 and \$30 at the door. Topics will include "Use and establishment of native warm-season grasses, managing small scale pasture systems, utilizing timothy as an annual forage and tick management". Career day this year for Allegany County's 6th graders will be held at Westmar Middle school, more information to follow later on. Adam Miller from DNR Forestry asked if the District would consider sponsoring a student for \$500, to attend the Natural Resources Careers Camp at Camp Hickory. Last year the Forestry Board was able to send three students and all 42 slots were filled for the camp. Jim made the motion to donate \$500 for a student to attend the camp, seconded by Amanda; motion passed. Adam also stated that MD DNR Forestry will be offering their backyard buffer program this year. Typically, they provide trees to 100 to 150 people every year.

OLD BUSINESS

MASCD Winter Meeting- Meeting will take place on February 9 and 10th. Reservations have been made for Amanda, Carl and Adam. Along with the breakfast tickets for the morning of the 10th. Two key priorities this year to discuss with legislators is “Restore Funding for MACS and Preserve the Trust Fund”. MASCD has an Advocacy Toolkit up on their website to help supervisors. It’s a step by step process with the material they will be provided to make the most out of their visit to Annapolis.

Commercial Crime Insurance Policy- Currently CBIZ is looking into different options for the District of similar coverage and premiums. Hopefully a package will be available for the District Board to discuss at the February Board meeting or March at the latest.

NEW BUSINESS

Admin Salary Compensation- Board discussed the probability of using NRCS’s agreement to hire a Secretary through RC&D. Since the position was eliminated through the State employee buyout program, the PIN for that position no longer exist. The secretary’s position lacks deliverables, which makes it hard to justify funds for an administrative position. Currently all roles of the District’s secretary has been absorbed by the District Manager, taking an additional 6 to 8 hours a week. With current budget constraints, neither the State nor the County have funds available for this position.

NRCS Phone System- Day 1 of the federal shutdown district phones developed problems. Some lines are completely down, while others have limited access. People that call in are unable to leave voicemails; the main line no longer rings out throughout the office. Connie Stemple, FSA put in an IT ticket after returning from the shutdown and unfortunately, nothing has been resolved. Jim made the motion too have Adam work with Chad to put in another ticket to IT. Seconded by Amanda; motion passed.

MDA RC Update- MDA wished farewell to Bonita Sims and Patricia Gitlin on their retirements. MDA continues to respond to the HPAI case in Queen Anne’s County, District Operations is part of the pilot program for the new Workday Performance Evaluation Process. The new version of Conservation Tracker is still in progress; Grant proposals for the Healthy Soils Competitive Fund are currently being accepted until January 9, 2026. Finally, as of January 1st, the MACS Program has reviewed and approved the updated flat rates recently by each region and now can be used on all future BMP project applications.

OTHER BUSINESS

Allegheny County Open Meeting Law- Steve, Carl and Lee attended a mandatory meeting at the County Building for the different boards on which they serve on for the County Government. County's Attorney, Lee Beeman was the moderator with the purpose of educating and training members on the "Open Meeting's Law". Several different guest speakers provided information as well as real life scenarios.

Cooperator Agreements – None

Conservation Farm Plans – Dan Eckard and Brian Ravenscroft, Steve made the motion to approve the two conservation plans, Kevin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Cancellation of Farm Plans- None

Correspondence- A Christmas card from Mona Lee, past MDA Secretary; wishing the staff and supervisor's a Merry Christmas.

On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Jim, Carl adjourned the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Heavner
ASCD District Manager
2/4/2026 9:58 AM

