

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES November 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 in the Allegany County Complex room 313 located at 701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, MD. Carl Robinette, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:29 AM.

Supervisors present were Jim Mullan, Amanda Paul, Carl Robinette, Kevin Trezise, and Steve Young. Others present were Wesley Gordon, Associate, Lee Heavner, Associate, Whitney Patterson, Associate and Adam Heavner, District Manager.

Minutes – Carl brought up that under New Business – Meeting Date for November's Board Meeting stated "" the board agreed to move the meeting to November 4, 2025 at 8:00 am." Needed changed to 8:30am. Steve moved to approve the minutes as corrected from the October 2025 meeting. Amanda seconded. Minutes approved as corrected.

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

Bills – Annual Dues for the Maryland Envirothon. Typically, the District supports at the level of \$750. If Districts would consider supporting at the \$1,000 level, for this extra donation they will be listed on the T-shirts, program, and other promotional items. Steve moved to approve \$1,000 level of support for the Maryland Envirothon, seconded by Kevin; motion passed.

Permits –In October, 10 land use permits were approved and 1 major plan review generating \$783 in fees collected by the county. 3 major plans were reviewed, generating \$900 for the District.

District Conservationist's Report – Was unavailable this month due to shutdown of the federal government, as NRCS employees are currently furloughed.

Other Agency Report- Sarah was not able to make the board meeting this month due to teaching horticulture lessons at Allegany High School, she did however want to give update that Brianna was continuing to write Nutrient Management Plans for Allegany County. She also wanted to report that there is an upcoming tick meeting in Garrett County and are looking for two more participants to participate for Allegany County. If anyone that was interested to let her or Willie Lantz know. The meeting will take place on November 6th at 5 pm at Garrett College Northern Outreach Center in Grantsville, MD.

OLD BUSINESS

December Board Meeting- Board of supervisors will meet on December 9th at 10:00 AM for the regularly scheduled board meeting in the conference room at the Allegany Soil Conservation District. Following the board meeting, lunch will be held at the Country Club honoring this year's scholarship recipients along with staff appreciation.

Federal Government Shutdown- The Federal Government official shutdown is still undergoing. A few FSA employee's have returned to offices on a limited basis; FSA has returned to make payments to cooperators for commodity supplement payments. NRCS employee's have not yet returned to the office.

MASCD's Quarterly Meeting Recap- Was held at MDA headquarters in Annapolis, MD on October 28th at 9:30am. MASCD's Executive Director gave a report on the Maryland's Envirothon, Jen Nelson asked the board for approval to increase the Envirothon Coordinator's salary by \$100.00 a month. The Envirothon's Executive Committee had recently completed an end of the year evaluation of the coordinator and felt that it was deserving, for which the efforts that she has put forth. The motion was past by the MASCD board. MASCD has decided to go ahead and condense the five committee's down to three. The three would consist of the Awards committee, Legislative / Policy committee and Budget / Finance committee. The Envirothon Endowment Committee made a recommendation to the MASCD board to change the dates for the grant applications period, creating a shorter window for districts to apply for funding to help pay for the National Envirothon that will be held in 2027. Each District is eligible to receive up to \$1,500 a year to help offset the cost of their yearly contribution. This in theory would speed up allocations of funds and have them distributed in a timely matter. Hans Schmidt, Assistant Secretary gave an update for MDA, and express on how important it was for supervisors to meet with their legislators and let them know what challenges we're facing. Hans had Thomas Bagamsah, MDA give an update on the MACS program. Thomas gave an update on the coordination of legal paperwork following project completion, impacts of repairs on practice lifespan and what the definition is for an "Expansion to Operation". Finally, the 2026 Winter Meeting is going to be held at the Westin in Annapolis, MD on February 9-10, the March Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for March 24th and details are TBD.

District Annual Tree Sale- Currently were waiting for Adam's Nursey to get back with the District, they were still working on their spring catalog. The Board discussed that they would only sell what was pre-ordered, once the inventory is gone that's it. Hoping that this would eliminate the nursery from substituting smaller root stock trees for add-ons to the order.

Farm Bureau Dinner-Conservation Tour Feedback- Farm Bureau was well attended by both the legislative body and members. This year farm of the year went to Shawn Northcraft, he and his family run a cow calf operation in the northeast corner of Allegany County. Carl was able give a brief talk about the impacts of the government shutdown

and what affects it had on the office. He let everyone know that they could still call the office if there was anything that the public may need. Positive feedback was gathered this year for the conservation tour; board members enjoy the site visits and hearing the positive feedback from this year's cooperators of the year.

NEW BUSINESS

State Soil Conservation Committee-Survey and Supervisor appointment process review- Amanda's term is currently set to expire here in November, we were not able to get any other nominees from the public. Currently we need two more nominees for the appointment process before an appointment can be made. Wesley and Lee both volunteered their application as the two other nominees. Loretta Collins, Executive Secretary; for the State Soil Conservation Committee had sent a handout for all of the Supervisors to see what information was gathered from the summer meeting and a broad overview of where boards stand. Also, in that handout there was a flow chart of the process of how supervisors are appointed to the District Boards.

District Managers Round Table-Bryan Peterson- Bryan had presented at the three-day training in Kent Island back this summer. MASCD having a grant through the Campbell Foundation and having funds still available, had Bryan give a webinar to the District Managers of "Successfully Supervising Remote Employee's". Presentation was very informative and educational, and should be useful for manager's going forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cooperator Agreements – None

Conservation Farm Plans – None

Cancellation of Farm Plans- None

Correspondence- Taste of Maryland invitation from the Maryland Agriculture Council, Inc. for February 5, 2026 in Arundel Mills. A letter from Allegany Community College that Olivia Hartman had been selected for the Martin Gordon Memorial scholarship.

On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Jim, Carl adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Heavner
ASCD District Manager
11/17/2025 7:05 AM