

## **ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES JULY 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 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 Amanda Paul, Carl Robinette, Kevin Trezise, and Steve Young. Others present were Wesley Gordon, Associate; Adam Heavner, District Manager; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

Minutes – Steve moved to approve minutes as presented, seconded by Amanda. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Adam reported some specific line items of district funds including a journal entry made by Joe Mullanex, accountant from Allegany Business Consulting (ABC), higher than usual AT&T expense, and Chase Visa charges (MASCD conference registrations and roll of filter fabric). Amanda moved to approve the report as presented seconded by Kevin; so moved. Amanda moved to have ABC perform the annual audit review for FY24. Kevin seconded, motion passed.

Bills – On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Kevin, \$2,700 MASCD dues and \$50 teacher award were approved for payment. Discussion about where this money is spent took place. Take away from discussions at the MASCD summer meeting suggest a large balance in the Envirothon endowment account. Adam submitted an application for \$2,000 from the Endowment Grant for 2024 Envirothon dues. The application will be reviewed by the Endowment Committee. Maryland is scheduled to host the 2027 National Envirothon event at a projected cost of \$395,000. Association dues to MASCD (\$1,100) and NACD (\$700) are paid from MDA's general fund budget. The Envirothon side-by-side and trailer has been sold to St. Mary's SCD for \$1.00 each.

Permits – There were 16 land use permits and 3 major reviews approved during June generating \$1,581 collected by the county and \$250 for the district.

District Conservationist's Report – A report from Chad Bucklew was in everyone's packet (attached). Discussion about funding from IRA and general EQIP programs took place. A question arose about invasive species control in a grazing system.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

MASCD Summer Meeting Recap – Adam reported from the District Manager's meeting. Byron Petrauskas, MDA Program Manager for District Operations, announced the telework policy that went into effect 7/1/2024. Discussion about the shortfalls of the policy took place. Adam, Carl, Amanda, and Steve spoke on what they took from the

meetings and presentations. All agreed the keynote speaker, Brad Gingras from Superior Strategies, was informative and gave a good presentation. Other topics discussed were district outreach, committee seats, small pond approvals, and saltwater intrusion. The NACD NE Region Meeting is scheduled for August 10 – 13, 2024 in Boston, MA. Adam's two-year term on the Envirothon Committee expired and he was asked to accept the "at large" two-year term for that committee. Steve offered his name to sit on the By-Laws Committee. Our auction items didn't sell as much as they have in the past. The Rocky Gap package sold for \$150 and the Tracks & Yaks for \$110. Suggestions for next year's item were made. 2025's meeting, hosted by Central Region, is being planned for the last week of July, first week of August at either Turf Valley in Ellicott City or Ocean City. Room reservations will be made early in order to choose rooms closer to meeting rooms.

State Envirothon Recap – Adam and Carl attended the event held June 11 – 13, 2024 at Mount Saint Mary's College. Harford County took first place, Montgomery County 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Allegany County 3<sup>rd</sup>. Allegany County scored highest in wildlife and lost the tiebreaker for highest in aquatics. Harford will represent Maryland at the National event in New York 7/28 – 8/2/2024.

FY25 Budgets: County, MDA, CBTF – All three were approved as requested. Signed originals were available for review.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Cooperator's Picnic – Tabled from May board meeting. Discussion about attendance and cost of previous picnics took place. It was decided that in lieu of the picnic, a fall tour will be planned and a cooperator of the year awarded at that time.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

After discussion, Amanda moved to allow Adam to donate up to \$750 at the Allegany County Fair & Ag Expo. Steve seconded, motion passed.

There were no Cooperator Agreements or Cancellations for review.

Conservation Farm Plans – On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Steve, the two plans were approved as outlined in the District Manager's report mailed with board packets.

Correspondence – ACM Scholarship Selection for 2024-25 academic year were recommended by Adam as follows: Anna Claire Cullen, 1<sup>st</sup> choice; Christian Lee Beeman, 2<sup>nd</sup> choice; Alexander Michael Kennell, 3<sup>rd</sup> choice.

Wesley asked about naming honorary associates to the board. This item will be on the agenda for August.

On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Steve, Carl adjourned the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,  
ASCD Secretary  
7/18/2024 3:55 PM