

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES DECEMBER 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, December 17, 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 9:00 AM.

Supervisors present were Jim Mullan, Amanda Paul, Carl Robinette, Kevin Trezise, and Steve Young. Others present were Adam Heavner, District Manager; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

Carl read the "Closing Statement" (copy attached). Kevin moved to enter closed session under General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1). Amanda seconded. All supervisors were in favor, none opposed or abstained. Motion passed.

In closed session, Adam went over the policy, procedure, and guidelines to govern associate and honorary supervisors (attached). After discussion, the following additions and amendments were made: 1) To become an honorary supervisor, must have served on the ASCD Board for at least 20 years; 2) Once an individual's appointment term has expired and they do not seek reappointment for either a supervisor or associate position from the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) or District Board of Supervisors, they are then eligible to become an honorary supervisor if they can meet the minimum qualification of 20 years of service for the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board. 3) In order to be named associate, they must have name put on the nomination list to be voted on at the December meeting. Amanda moved to accept policy, procedure, and guidelines as amended. Steve seconded; motion passed. Supervisors discussed the re-appointment of Wesley Gordon as associate supervisor. Jim moved to re-appoint Wesley as associate supervisor for the 2025 calendar year. Amanda seconded. All were in favor and none opposed. The last topic discussed was the nominations for additional associate supervisors. There were 2 nominees: Lee Heavner, prior board member and Whitney Patterson, Allegany County's Stormwater Engineer. After discussion Amanda moved to appoint both nominees as associates for 2025. Jim seconded; all were in favor and none opposed. A letter will be sent to both and a supervisor's handbook to Whitney. Kevin moved to end closed session and return to the open meeting at 9:32 a.m. Amanda seconded; all were in favor and none opposed. The meeting was recessed until 10:00 a.m.

During the recess, discussion about staff development took place. Steve moved to gift county and MDA employees \$50 each from district funds. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

Joining the open meeting at 10:00 a.m. were Wesley Gordon, Associate Supervisor; Ashby Ruddle, Nutrient Management Specialist; Sarah Llewellyn, Extension Educator; and Adam Miller, DNR Forester. Sitting in for District Conservationist Chad Bucklew, was Jacob Metcalf.

Adam Heavner held the election of officers for 2025. On the motion of Kevin, seconded by Jim, Carl Robinette was elected to remain Chairman. On the motion of Steve, seconded by Jim, Amanda Paul was elected to remain as Vice-Chairman. On the motion of Carl, seconded by Kevin, Jim Mullan was elected to remain as Treasurer.

Carl resumed running the meeting.

Minutes – Amanda moved to approve November’s minutes as presented, seconded by Kevin. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report – Jim gave the November treasurer’s report. Amanda moved to approve the report as presented, seconded by Steve. Motion passed. All were provided a list of donations and dues ASCD usually make yearly (attached).

Bills – There were no bills to come before the Board.

Permits – There were 13 land-use permits approved during November generating \$607 for the county and 3 major reviews bringing in \$800 for the district.

District Conservationist’s Report – Jacob reported that one contract is in the termination process in Allegany County. Application deadline for this funding cycle is 12/20/24. Allegany has submitted 4 of 6 high tunnel applications and has about 10 -12 grazing and 6 – 8 forestry/wildlife applications.

Other Agency Reports: Sarah is looking for participants in the middle school ag awareness program scheduled for April 8, 2025. The purpose of the program is to educate both faculty and students about career opportunities available in agriculture. She is hoping to get all middle schools involved. Suggestions of some job types were offered, such as servicing and repairing farm equipment and possibly including careers in forestry. Allegany High School teacher and FFA Advisor Anne Stark is working on field trips as part of introducing agriculture to students. There is a newly hired Nutrient Management Specialist in Washington County. Pesticide re-certification class is being offered on Tuesday, 1/28/25 from 6 – 8 p.m. at the multipurpose building at the Cumberland fairgrounds. The Tri-State Hay & Pasture Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2025 in Grantsville.

Adam Miller asked the board to sponsor a student for 2025’s Camp Hickory. Cost is \$500 per student. The week-long camp is held in Garrett County during the last week of July and offered to students in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades from all over the state. There’s usually 40 – 42 students participating. Last year there were 4 students from Allegany County. Carl suggested having soils as part of the career night agenda. Donations are usually collected in February or March. This discussion is tabled until the March meeting.

Ashby reported a request to spread manure past the deadline of 12/16/24 was denied to a Washington County farmer. Nutrient management is currently hiring positions to help

with food processing residuals and training coordinators. Ashby is gearing up for the Annual Implementation Reporting forms (AIR's) going out in January.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Associate Supervisor Policy & Procedures – Adam gave an overview of what was adopted during the closed session. He read the policy, procedures, and guidelines as they were approved. Associates will be compensated \$20 per meeting, regular and special. ASCD can have up to 4 associates. The board would like to display a plaque in the lobby with past supervisors and their years of service. A list will be provided at the January board meeting.

Tree Sale – A draft order form was in everyone's packets (attached). The flyer should be mailed ASAP as the final count has to be called in to Adam's County Nursery by March 7<sup>th</sup>. Amanda moved to use Printer's Inc. bulk mail permit to get the flyers out. Kevin seconded; motion passed.

MASCD Winter Meeting – Adam Heavner and Amanda will attend the meeting on Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and legislative breakfast on February 4<sup>th</sup> (flyer attached). The third room reserved will be canceled.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Associate Supervisor Recommendations – Wesley Gordon accepted an associate supervisor position for 2025. Lee Heavner and Whitney Patterson will be asked to serve as well.

MDA Resource Conservationist Specialist – MDA is offering the position to it's first choice candidate and then second choice if need be. The position is expected to be filled by the end of January.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Cooperator Agreements – Amanda moved to approve the agreement for Joseph Mullan, 128 acres in LaVale. Steve seconded; motion passed.

Conservation Farm Plans – On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Kevin, the two plans were approved as outlined in the District Manager's report mailed with board packets. Combined acres total 294.9 with 107.2 milestone acres.

Cancellations – None.

Correspondence – Letter of thanks from Jaydon Wilson for FSU scholarship (attached).

Included in everyone's packet: Flyer about FSA's new Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) program (attached). Deadline to apply is January 8, 2025.

On the motion of Jim, seconded by Amanda, Carl adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,  
ASCD Secretary  
12/19/2024 11:15 AM