

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES AUGUST 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 6, 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 Jim Mullan, Amanda Paul, Carl Robinette, Kevin Trezise, and Steve Young. Others present were District Manager Adam Heavner and recording secretary Mona Lee.

Amanda moved to enter into executive session, seconded by Kevin. All in favor: Carl Robinette, Amanda Paul, Jim Mullan, Steve Young, and Kevin Trezise. None opposed or abstained. Under provision (1) from General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b), Carl Robinette, Presiding Officer, made the following closing statement: "Supervisors voted unanimously to enter into closed session at 8:01 a.m. to discuss the appointment, compensation, and performance evaluation of associate supervisors. We are closing the meeting to discuss these items to establish procedures for associate supervisor's policies approved in November 2023". (Summary Attached) On the motion of Amanda and seconded by Jim, Carl closed the executive session at 8:47 a.m.

Others joining the public session were District Conservationist Chad Bucklew, Associate Supervisor Wesley Gordon, and UME Extension Educator Sarah Llewellyn.

Minutes – Under "Bills" section of July 2024 minutes, Maryland is scheduled to host the 2027 National Envirothon event, not the 2025 event. Amanda moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Kevin. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Jim gave the July treasurer's report. On the motion of Jim, seconded by Amanda, the report was approved as presented.

Bills – Discussion about the MASCD suggested contribution request of \$625 (attached) for sponsorship of Maryland Public Television show Maryland Farm & Harvest took place. Steve moved not to make this contribution this year, seconded by Amanda. Motion passed.

Permits – There were 11 land use permits approved during July with fees for the county totaling \$1,009.00. Three reviews generated \$600 income for the district. Two major reviews were approved.

District Conservationist's Report – Chad reported an additional EQIP IRA application in Allegany County is being funded this year because another applicant that was approved declined to contract. The FY25 rollout schedule will plan to commit contracts in December and January rather than May and June. Both Allegany and Garrett field offices received new hybrid trucks which are not GSA leased.

Other Agency Reports: Sarah Llewellyn attended a meeting with MDA's Secretary Atticks while he was in our area. Topics discussed were conservation services, conservation plans, BMP's and certifications.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Associate and Honorary Policy – Per the executive session held this morning, a list of nominees for one-year terms as associate supervisors, up to 4, will be voted on in December with appointment to begin in January. Compensation will be \$20 per diem and mileage to both regular and special meetings. Mileage will be paid at state rate and verified from a web-based program to determine round-trip mileage. Attendance to special meetings by associates will be at the discretion of the board. Associates must attend at least 5 regular board meetings in a 12-month period. Performance evaluations for associates will be given in December prior to associate elections. Ron Hawk will be named Honorary Associate, with no per diem or mileage paid. Lee Heavner was offered Honorary Associate but declined. Lee will be on the associate supervisor nomination list for December's election. It was suggested to invite Ben Sansom to either the fall tour or Christmas luncheon and present him a certificate of thanks for his past service as an associate.

DM Roundtable Meeting – Adam participated in the meeting on 7/15/24. Most SCD's has elections of board officers on fiscal year schedule rather than calendar year like we do. Area meeting topics were discussed.

Allegany County Ag Expo Recap – The livestock auction was well attended. Prices were high. Adam explained the bidding and buy-back process. His donation on behalf of ASCD went over the agreed upon amount. Amanda moved to reimburse Adam up to the approved donation. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Tour – The board will meet at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 10/23/24 and leave the office at 10:30 a.m. for the fall tour. A tentative agenda will be discussed at the September board meeting.

Drought Disaster Tour with FSA, Farm Bureau, and MDA – Adam joined the group of representatives from other agencies to see how the drought is affecting farms in this area. Farm Service Agency (FSA) is going through training to assist participants to qualify for assistance in the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). An overview of the program and drought map of northeast area under drought conditions were in everyone's board packet (attached). Applicants must file crop reporting with FSA. Currently our area is in D3 stage of drought.

MDA Conservation Planner Position Update – Panelist to conduct interviews are selected and interviews are expected to be scheduled in 3 – 4 weeks with position start date in October or November.

New Coordinator for MD Envirothon – Karen Miller is stepping down 9/1/24 and Diana Burch will assume the role as Coordinator.

Tick Survey – All were provided info (attached) about a survey being conducted by the University of Maryland Department of Animal and Avian Sciences. Amanda said the survey covers all types of ticks that affect humans and animals. Frostburg State University is also doing a study of all ticks.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Cooperator Agreements or Cancellations for review.

Conservation Farm Plans – On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Kevin, one plan was approved as outlined in the District Manager’s report mailed with board packets.

Correspondence – All attached: 1) thank you card from Michael Hall for the ride pass at the fair, 2) a copy of letter to Anna Cullen for recipient of ACM Fall 2024/Spring 2025 ASCD scholarship; 3) letter of thanks from Anna Cullen for the scholarship; 4) invite to Western Maryland RC&D Council’s 2024 Annual Meeting on 9/26/24.

On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Kevin, Carl adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
8/8/2024 1:18 PM