

ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES NOVEMBER 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 12, 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 8:03 a.m.

Supervisors present were Jim Mullan, Amanda Paul, Carl Robinette, and Kevin Trezise, Others present were Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist; Adam Heavner, District Manager; Loretta Collins, Executive Secretary for the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC); and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

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

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

Bills – On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Kevin, it was approved to pay the 2024 Maryland Envirothon dues at the bronze level of \$750.

Permits – There were 13 land-use permits approved in October generating \$1,253 in fees for the County. Four major reviews were approved.

District Conservationist's Report – Chad reported staff is busy entering and ranking round 1 applications. The deadline for round 1 is 11/15/24. FY25 AGI forms (Annual Gross Income) are basically same as before and are available for contract obligations. Cooperators with contracts scheduled to expire 12/31/24 are being contacted. One in particular in Allegany County has not responded so it is expected that contract will be terminated by NRCS. The cooperator will have a chance to appeal. Some practices on that contract have been completed. Chad announced an NRCS all employee meeting is scheduled for 12/10 and 12/11/24 in Ocean City. There is no news regarding a new farm bill. Programs are operating on an extended 2018 farm bill.

Other Agency Reports: Loretta Collins, Executive Secretary for MD State Soil Conservation Committee, introduced herself and gave a brief background. She is assisting the current Executive Secretary, Alisha Mulkey. Technical issues associated with attending quarterly meetings virtually are being addressed. She discussed MACS and EQIP funding as reported by Hans Schmidt, MDA Assistant Secretary and Jason Keppler, Program Manager for MDA's Conservation Grants Program, during the fall meeting held 10/22/24. Adam explained Allegany County's preferred funding opportunities used by cooperators. The next SSCC meeting is scheduled as in-person on 12/19/24.

OLD BUSINESS

Associate Supervisor Policy & Procedures – Guidelines for ASCD Honorary Supervisors were added to the Guidelines for ASCD Associate Supervisor and included in everyone's packet (attached). Supervisors will meet in a closed session prior to the open December board meeting to discuss, edit, and adopt the guidelines.

Proposed Fee Schedule – Adam met with Jason Bennett, County Administrator and Jim Squires, Director of Planning and Zoning. They expect to implement a new system that will increase all fees governed by the County Commissioners and expect the fee schedule presented by ASCD in March to be approved.

Tree Sale – The pre-order has been submitted to Adams County Nursery. Once the nursery grades the trees and quote prices, we will pay the downpayment and get to work on the flyer. Our final count has to be called in by the first week of March so we hope to get the flyer mailed in early January.

MASCD Winter Meeting – Scheduled for February 3rd at the Westin in Annapolis with a follow-up legislative day on February 4th, 2025. Room reservations must be made by January 3rd and meeting registration by January 17th. Amanda and Adam plan to attend and Jim will check his schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

December Meeting – Jim moved to hold the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, 12/17 and go into executive session at 9:00 a.m. to perform associate supervisor evaluations and vote on 2025 associate supervisors, and go into open session at 10:00 a.m. The lunch reservation is at 11:30 a.m. at the Cumberland Country Club. Amanda seconded; motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cooperator Agreements – There were no agreements to come before the board.

Conservation Farm Plans – On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Kevin, one plan as outlined in the reported mailed with supervisor's agenda was approved.

Cancellations – None.

Correspondence – (all attached). 1) Request from Catocin Land Judging Team for a donation to help with the cost of sending them to Oklahoma City to compete at the 2025 national event. Jim moved to donate \$50 to the team. Amanda seconded; motion passed. 2) Letter from FSU Foundation Vice President, John Short, announcing that Benjamin Twigg has also been selected to receive our scholarship for the 2024-25 academic year. 3) A thank you letter from Executive Director of the ACM Foundation, David Jones, for the \$500 payment towards that scholarship.

The board asked for a list of donations so they can set a yearly allocations amount.

Jim asked about the Fall Tour that he wasn't able to attend. Adam gave a re-cap of the day.

On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Jim, Carl adjourned the meeting at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
11/13/2024 1:08 PM