

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES APRIL 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 9, 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 10:00 AM.

Supervisors present were Jim Mullan, Amanda Paul, Carl Robinette, Kevin Trezise, and Steve Young. Others present were Wesley Gordon, Associate; Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist; Adam Heavner, District Manager; Sarah Llewellyn, Extension Educator; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

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

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

Bills – On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Kevin, the following bills were approved for payment: 1) 2024 4-H/FFA Livestock Award Sponsorship, \$50; 2) Two 4-H/FFA Exhibitor one-day ride pass at \$15 each; 3) \$1,845 to renew the insurance on the rental equipment.

Permits – There were 20 land use permits approved during March with fees collected at the county office totaling \$1,118 and \$237 paid to the district. Two major reviews were approved.

District Conservationist's Report – Chad is hoping NRCS will move quickly on filling the Soil Con position made vacant when Slater Hafer accepted the Forester position. To-date there is one application obligated for a high tunnel and a few more applications should be obligated soon. Chad reported there is plenty of IRA money to fund projects and applications are being approved first come, first served. Unused funds cannot be returned so now is the time to get conservation practices funded. NRCS is working with Fish and Wildlife regarding when timber can be cut in relation to protecting the endangered bats.

Other Agency Reports: Sarah reported nutrient management plans for Allegany County are back-logged. Currently Andrea Uphold and Jenna Talbot are writing plans for Allegany and Garrett. She discussed the trouble with training dates being announced too close to the date of training for cooperators to register and/or attend. The updated software for farmers to train to write their own plans is several years out. UME is looking to improve the whole process.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Sale – A summary to-date was in everyone’s packet (attached). Adam is picking up the trees tomorrow morning and sorting will begin when he arrives back at the office. Because we didn’t sell enough trees to receive Adams County Nursery’s discount our profit is down. We will realize enough to fund both scholarships and Envirothon prints. Adam suggests in the future to order from only one nursery.

MALPF Program and ASCD Fee Schedule – There is nothing to add to the MALPF program from last month. The updated fee schedule went before the County Commissioners but was not approved. Adam is waiting for a meeting to be scheduled with Jim Squires and Jason Bennett to see what the Commissioners want.

Envirothon Prints – Adam had to go with his third choice of prints from Wild Wings but he is expecting the prints to be delivered in time for the county competition on 4/24/24.

MASCD Teacher of the Year Nomination – The nomination packet is ready to be submitted electronically. The packet has been assembled in a notebook to be given to Anne Stark, nominated teacher.

MASCD Summer Meeting, Endowment Auction – Discussion about using the same adventure package as last years took place. Amanda is going to speak with the owner of Wheelz Up to see if he will donate an adventure package this year.

MDA General Fund Budget – The FY25 budget was approved as submitted by Adam. We should have three copies for signature at the next board meeting. The CBTF budget is the only budget left to request for FY25.

NEW BUSINESS

May’s Board Meeting Date – Due to schedule conflicts, the May board meeting will take place on the first Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

MASCD Board Meeting Recap – Carl attended the zoom meeting and gave highlights from his notes. Highlights included updates on several bills approved during the legislative session, the B.F.F. (Bay Friendly Farming) program, MASCD is seeking agenda topics for the 2024 summer meeting, the crab fest, issues about offices being outside of the 500-year flood plain, partner updates and outreach, MACS cost-shares in the farm bill, individual district meetings with SSCC, NRCS vacancies and shifting positions. Other topics discussed were the NACD meeting in San Diego, UME’s Civil Rights Review, grants for the State Envirothon (which takes place June 12 – 13, 2024 at Mount St. Mary’s), trunks for teaching high school kids about the Envirothon, the National Fly-In, GSF Project letters of support, and the Leadership Assessment Survey.

County FY25 Budget – The request was in everyone’s packets (attached). Adam went over the line items. Adam did submit a request for a new vehicle for district use.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Cooperator Agreements or Cancellations for review.

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

Correspondence – Invite to the Allegany County Farm Bureau’s Spring Fling dinner (attached).

Adam announced that MDA Planner, Kara Neilson, accepted a position with NRCS. Her last day was Friday, 4/5/24.

On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Kevin, Carl adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
5/7/2024 12:02 PM