

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OCTOBER 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 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 Lee Heavner, Jim Mullan, Amanda Paul, Carl Robinette and Steve Young. Others present were Wesley Gordon, Associate; Ben Sansom, Associate; Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist; Adam Heavner, District Manager; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

Carl announced that retired secretary Barb Butler died Sunday morning at her home in Florida. A memorial service is being planned at Adams Family Funeral Home.

Minutes – Amanda moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Lee. The last paragraph under New Business on page two of the September 2022 minutes should report that Lee and Steve attended a solid waste committee meeting. Minutes approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report - Lee gave the September report. On the motion of Lee, seconded by Steve, the report was approved as presented.

Bills – On the motion of Steve, seconded by Jim, the following bills were approved to be paid: 1) MASCD annual dues and Teacher Awards contribution, \$2,750 and 2) MPT – Maryland Farm & Harvest Sponsorship, \$625. Discussion about continuing increase in dues and contributions took place.

Permits – There were 8 permits approved during September with fees totaling \$500. The report will be upgraded to reflect all permit activity during the month.

District Conservationist's Report – FY23 began October 1st. Chad reported the over payment made while processing an advanced payment is getting taken care of and shouldn't interfere with that cooperators future payments for practices completed. There is no news regarding a Local Work Group meeting. An application deadline for FY23 programs has not been announced yet. Work on the building to renew the lease is complete. A walk through is scheduled for tomorrow morning. The lease will be in effect for 10 years with option to extend for 5 years twice. After 3 years the lease company can request release from the agreement. Rob McAfee is leaving MD NRCS in a few weeks to begin a new position at national headquarters. Brad Michael will be acting state conservationist until the position is filled. The Inflation Reduction Act may provide additional funds to address backlogs on USDA programs.

Other Agency Reports – Jody Parrish from Allegany County's Extension office emailed information about upcoming webinars and workshops (attached).

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Nomination – The announcement appeared in the Cumberland Times on 9/26/22 and posted on ASCD's webpage and Facebook page. Packets for Amanda, Wesley and Glenn Stahlman will be submitted to SSCC for consideration.

Christmas Luncheon – Amanda moved to schedule the event for 12/13/22 at the Cumberland Country Club and use the \$800 deposit paid to Wing and a Prayer caterer for the 2023 picnic. Steve seconded; motion passed.

Annual Review of District Accounts – Advantage Resource Group completed the review with no issues and it was submitted to MDA on 9/29/22.

MDA "Trust Fund Budget FY23" – The budget has been approved and signed for the state portion of the district manager salary to be paid from the CBTF.

MASCD Summer Meeting Location for FY23 – The meeting is being planned to be held at the Hyatt in Cambridge, MD.

NEW BUSINESS

MDA Staffing – Keith Potter has been named the Western Area Coordinator for MDA. Planner Seth Metheny accepted the District Manager position at the Garrett SCD, leaving the MDA Planner position here vacant.

MDA Regional Flat Rates – Western region made up of Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Carroll counties will have one flat rate on MACS payments effective 1/1/2023. This will mean an increase for Allegany and Garrett counties on most practices. Another meeting is scheduled on 10/21 to determine the rates.

WM RC & D Quarterly Council Meeting Report – Lee attended the meeting in Boonsboro on 9/22/22. Council partnerships were discussed and reports on bird breeding and wetland restoration on the eastern shore were presented.

Date for November District Board Meeting – Due to schedule conflicts on the 2nd Tuesday of November, the regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11/15/22 at 10:00 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cooperator Agreements – On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Jim, the agreements for Matt R. Marsh, 32.94 acres on Stoney Run Road, Westernport and William H. Mayer, 18.97 acres on Camp Lane in Mt. Savage, were approved.

Conservation Farm Plans – None.

Cancellations – None.

Correspondence – 1) Thank you email from Rocky Gap Ranger Samantha Dixon for the equipment donated for Flintstone Elementary School to participate in the Monarch Butterfly Tagging Program; 2) An invite to the Allegany County's Farm Bureau's Fall Banquet on 10/25; 3) A flyer about the 2022 Annual Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference scheduled for 10/28/22 in Annapolis. (All attached.)

On the motion of Lee, seconded by Steve, the meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
10/11/2022 1:05 PM