

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES JUNE 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, June 4, 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 a.m.

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

Vice Chairman Amanda Paul is attending the Ranching for Profit training in Billings, Montana this week.

Minutes – Steve moved to approve minutes as presented, seconded by Jim. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Jim gave the May treasurer's report. Adam asked for clarification on the Program Support Specialist (PSS) supplies on the Visa attachment. Mona explained it was for mailing an "intent to proceed" letter certified mail and is to be the last PSS duty by MDA staff. Adam reported he spoke with Byron Petrauskas, MDA Program Manager of District Operations, about the large CBTF balance in the district checking account and rent carryover balance in the state checking account. The board should not invest those funds as MDA will direct the district when and how to use. Jim moved to approve the report as questioned, Kevin seconded. Motion passed.

Bills – Rather than pass the no-till drill invoice on to family, Steve moved to forgive the \$87.40 debt to Matthew Stahlman who passed away on May 23, 2024. Kevin seconded; motion passed. Kevin moved to purchase a roll of filter fabric for \$790 as quoted by Potomac Valley Industrial Supply. Jim seconded; motion passed. Cost to sell will remain the same.

Permits – There were 20 land use permits approved during May generating \$1,608 in fees collected at the county. Three major reviews were approved generating \$884 in fees for the district.

District Conservationist's Report – Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist is on vacation. Jacob Metcalf, Soil Conservationist, introduced himself to the board and presented his background. Jacob reported on high tunnel's success and life expectancy. Several high tunnels will be funded through Act Now. Funding is also available to both maple and crop producers to make operations more energy efficient. Jacob reported three forestry projects are approved for Allegany County and a grazing project is pre-approved. One or two producers will re-enroll for CREP. He provided a handout (attached) of what is going on in the state of Maryland through FY24. John

Grose is the PSS for Allegany and Garrett counties and will work from the ASCD office one or two days per week.

Other Agency Reports: Sarah announced Extension's new 4H educator will be starting soon. Currently Extension is trying to put an ag introduction course in the county's 7th grade curriculum to boost interest in career choices when students get to high school. Maryland's Secretary of Agriculture, Kevin Atticks is planning a visit to Allegany County later this fall. Sarah is asking for suggestions on a few farms he may visit.

OLD BUSINESS

ASCD Fee Schedule – Adam is still waiting for a meeting to be scheduled.

MASCD Summer Meeting Update: Registration is complete and rooms are reserved for three supervisors and DM. District is responsible for payment for our Teacher of the Year awardee, Anne Stark and her guest to attend the awards banquet and their room for the night. Allegany High School has offered to pay for her mileage reimbursement. Jim moved to pay the cost associated with Anne's attendance, seconded by Kevin. Motion passed. Discussion about where the fees go that each district pays towards the teacher award when they pay their yearly dues took place. This may be a talking point at the upcoming summer meeting.

District Auction Item: We have a coffee giveaway from Basecamp Coffee, a beer certificate from 1812 Brewery, admission for two at the Escape Room in Cumberland and a quad ride from Tracks & Yaks. We are waiting to hear from Rocky Gap and the scenic railroad. Adam suggested we split the items into two packages rather than just one. Items need to be submitted by Friday, June 7, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

MDA's Resource Conservation Statewide Meeting Recap – Adam reported on some administration policies covered including MDA employees' eligibility to telework. Joanne Clending, host of Maryland Farm & Harvest, gave a presentation.

MDA Trust Fund Budget – This budget covers Adam's district manager's portion of his salary. It was submitted with a 3% COLA and step increase for FY25.

Maryland State Envirothon – Mount Saint Mary's: The event is scheduled for June 11th – 13th.

Cooperator's Picnic – After discussion about whether or not to plan this event, it was tabled until July's board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Cooperator Agreements or Cancellations for review.

Conservation Farm Plans – On the motion of Steve, seconded by Jim, the plan emailed to supervisors was approved.

Correspondence – 1) Letter from FSU announcing scholarship recipients – Miranda Teats, double major in Geography and Earth Sciences and Chance Crislip, Geography major; 2) email from Ben Sansom resigning as associate member. Copies of both attached.

Wesley shared his copy of the 100 Years of Allegany County Fairgrounds book that he submitted pictures for. Steve moved to purchase one for the district, seconded by Kevin. Motion passed.

On the motion of Jim the meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
6/4/2024 12:42 PM