

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES DECEMBER 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, December 13, 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; Adam Heavner, District Manager; Keith Potter, MDA Western Area Coordinator; Slater Hafer, Soil Conservationist; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

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

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

Bills – On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Steve, the following bills were approved to be paid: 1) MD Farm Bureau 2023 dues - \$75; 2) Cumberland Times News electronic subscription for 6 months - \$117.77.

Permits – There were 6 standard land-use permits and 2 major reviews approved during November generating fees of \$3,195; of which \$2,760 was paid to the Soil Conservation.

District Conservationist's Report – DC Chad Bucklew submitted a written report (attached). Slater gave insight into the Pilot Project, an expansion of the Local Work Group called "Team Allocation". Allegany and Garrett counties will share an allocation of \$450,000.00. Once guidance is received from state office, a joint meeting of both counties LWG's will be planned. It was suggested that prior to a combined meeting, ASCD's team should meet to prioritize Allegany County's needs. Slater announced application breakdowns to-date for ASCD.

Other Agency Reports – Keith gave an update on MDA positions for ASCD. The interview process went well and selections for two planners for Allegany were sent to MDA's Human Resources. Once offers are made and accepted, new hires can start. There is one NRCS computer ready to be used and another has been ordered. Keith reported there was an Avian Influence outbreak on a farm in Washington County. The operator of that farm was very cooperative and the outbreak was contained. MDA is waiting to see how the birds were affected as there was no contact with poultry from another source. AI is not an airborne illness. MDA staff has been instructed to be vigilant of backyard flocks when visiting farms.

OLD BUSINESS

Bobcat Court Stormwater Retrofit Meeting – Adam provided an overview of happenings that transpired during both phases of this project (which was completed in 2015) and afterward. A meeting is scheduled for 12/20/22 at 2:00 p.m. at Frostburg City Hall with Adam, staff of the County Permits Department, City of Frostburg, and current owners of the land where the pond resides. The owners want to fill in the pond to dismiss liability should the dam breach. A parking lot for a dormitory owned by FSU is in direct path should that happen. However, there is a question regarding stormwater for FSU and City of Frostburg. A recap of the 12/20 meeting will be given at the January board meeting.

MASCD Survey – Some have completed the survey. Mona will email the others the link for them to submit prior to the 12/31/22 deadline.

Unfunded Cooperative Agreement (UCA) – The official document (copy attached) outlining what is expected of ASCD to comply with NRCS's rental agreement is awaiting the signature of the Acting State Soil Conservationist.

Christmas Luncheon – Two of the three scholarship recipients, Ethan Hilgeman and Max Summerfield, along with both ACM and FSU Foundation Directors, David Jones and Jonathan Short respectively, will attend the luncheon at the Cumberland Country Club today at 11:30 a.m. The third scholarship recipient, Jackson Hendershot, has a final exam and won't be able to attend. Senator George Edwards will also be attending.

County Vehicle – Adam read emails he received regarding the lease of a new county truck (copies attached). Adam will contact Kiersten O'Donnell, Chief Accountant at the Allegany County Finance Office to see what our next step is to receive the \$40,000 ARP grant funding that will allow the county to order a truck.

Lee announced he will represent ASCD at the annual Taste of MD Agriculture dinner in February. Cost is \$100.

Amanda reported a "washing station" for ag plastic is being considered at Trex's Recycling Center in Winchester, VA through a USDA grant.

The FFA Chapter Chartering event scheduled for tomorrow is being rescheduled to January. The date, time and place will be announced once known.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers – Adam took charge of the meeting to conduct the election of 2023 board officers. Steve nominated Carl Robinette for Chairman and Jim seconded the nomination. Motion passed. Lee nominated Steve Young for Vice Chairman, seconded by Amanda. Motion passed. Amanda nominated Lee Heavner for Treasurer, seconded by Jim. Motion passed. Adam gave the meeting back to Chairman Carl Robinette.

PACE Reception – The event is scheduled for January 19 and 20, 2023 in Annapolis. After discussion, ASCD will not send a representative this year.

2023 Tree Sale – Amanda moved to tentatively move forward with planning a 2023 tree sale by seeing what fruit trees are available from the nursery. Lee seconded. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Cooperator Agreements, Conservation Farm Plans, or Cancellations to be considered.

Correspondence – 1) Donation request from Evergreen Heritage to the EHC Foundation (attached). Steve moved to donate \$50 to sponsor two children. Amanda seconded; so moved. 2) Donation request from Catoclin FFA Land Judging Team to support their travel to the FFA CDE in May 2023 (attached). Lee moved to donate \$100. Jim seconded. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
12/14/2022 9:18 AM